

Vision for the Future

Part 2: The Character of Washington

By George D. Seghers

“To inspire humanity through education to emulate and promote the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our Country.”

This vision statement of The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association is idealistic, noble and achievable. As the only National Masonic Memorial dedicated to George Washington, it is our duty to inform, educate and inspire our Members, and indeed all of humanity about the character of this truly great man.

Undoubtedly, one of the most severe tests of Washington’s character was the winter encampment of 1777-78 at Valley Forge. The Revolutionary Army was deeply demoralized and had lost every major battle against the British, including losing the American Capitol at Philadelphia. Food, clothing and equipment were scarce. Every day, 10 to 12 soldiers died or deserted.



George Washington’s strength of character inspires his beleaguered troops at Valley Forge. Engraving by John McGoffin, courtesy of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association.

Washington strongly urged Congress to send food or money. Instead, Congress advised Washington to steal food from nearby farmers. Commandeering food would have partially solved the immediate problem, but it would certainly alienate the citizens. Washington

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Greetings From The President



Michael D. Brumback

What’s in a name? For nearly 100 years, the Masons of the United States have supported a monumental endeavor to honor our Brother George Washington, and promote the virtues, character and vision of both the man and the fraternity of Freemasons to which he belonged. For all those years our brothers have struggled with a long and cumbersome title: *The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association.*

We are now going to follow the example of countless corporations that use shortened versions of their names to help the public remember them. Examples are Coke, Chevy, and Mount Vernon. The first two examples are familiar to you, but did you know that the official name of Mount Vernon is George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens. *With these examples in mind, we will now refer to our memorial as the George Washington Masonic Memorial. This better exemplifies our mission to educate the world about George Washington and about the principles of Masonry which guided him in forming this great nation.*

The George Washington Masonic Memorial is a miracle of financial commitment from the Masons across this country. The Memorial was built entirely from voluntary contributions. To this day, all Masonic contributions are voluntarily offered by Grand

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Maryland Passes \$1 Per Member Resolution

The George Washington Masonic Memorial is pleased to announce that the Grand Lodge of Maryland passed a resolution at its Annual Communication in November to increase its per member contribution to the Memorial from \$.50 to \$1. This outstanding show of support brings the number of Grand Lodges participating in the Memorial’s *\$1 Per Member Campaign* to six. The others are: Virginia, District of Columbia, North Dakota, Michigan and Alaska.

The Memorial wishes to extend its appreciation to Ronald G. Belanger, immediate PGM and all the brethren of Maryland for their support of the resolution. The Memorial encourages other Grand Lodges to participate in the campaign. Every increase to \$1 per member brings the Memorial closer to its goal of financial security. The Memorial hopes that by the Association’s 100th Anniversary in 2010, that there will be 100% participation.

Greetings From The President, *continued from page 1*

Lodges, Appendant Bodies, and individual Masons. However, even though commitments are still strong, the dollars have gradually dropped due to declining membership. More significant is the fact that the buying power of those dollars is dramatically reduced. When the building was opened in 1932, nearly 100% of the operating budget came from Masonic contributions. Today 65% of our operating budget comes from sources other than Masonic contributions.

Your Board of Directors and the Executive Director have done a great job of keeping expenses in check, and recruiting additional sources of income. However, the fact remains that we are resting on the laurels of our ancestors. We have not kept pace with inflation in our voluntary giving. The Memorial is preparing for the 100th Anniversary of its inception, and there are many things to be done. It's time we all take a step back and honestly ask ourselves, "Are we doing our fair share to support this tribute to Masonry and George Washington?"

An honest answer, for most, will be that we are not. Our Grandfathers built this Memorial for us to enjoy and experience pride in the role that Freemasonry played in forming this country under the leadership of George Washington. Don't we have an obligation to ensure that our grandchildren will have that same opportunity?

If we would all encourage our Masonic leadership to set a goal of annually contributing \$1 per member from their jurisdictions, we could again grow our Endowment Fund. If we could double our Endowment in the next decade, we would be well on the way to guaranteeing the future of the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

George Washington said, "*Happiness and moral duty are inseparably connected.*" I believe it is our moral duty to preserve the memory of our Brother, George Washington. From the smile on George's face on the \$1 bill, I believe he would appreciate your support as well.

Vision for the Future, *continued from page 1*

believed the new nation would only endure and succeed if the government earned the respect of the citizens. Washington issued orders that any soldier caught stealing from the citizenry would be hanged. This action outraged Congress, but Washington believed that what was morally right was most likely to be politically valuable in the long run. Washington's strength of character, honesty and integrity strongly impressed his Army and they trained hard that cold winter. Although the Army that emerged from Valley Forge was small, it was a tougher and more loyal fighting unit that went on to defeat the British at the Battle of Monmouth. This was a moral as well as a military victory.

Washington's character was tested during his Presidency. Washington knew that the young nation's credibility, abroad

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Semi - Annual Board Meeting

As part of the Semi-Annual Board meeting in August, the Board of Directors participated in the second workshop held at the Memorial this year. Under the leadership of President Brumback and under the guidance and direction of special guest facilitator Robert P. Conley, Director of Renewal for the Grand Lodge of Michigan, the function of the Board of Directors has been refined and restructured. The Board of Directors represents the ownership of the Association and governs on behalf of the Freemasons of North America.

The Board has identified the purpose for which the Memorial Association exists and has clarified and stated this purpose in a new vision statement for the Association. The Board has committed to establish long-range plans that will be reviewed and adjusted annually with measurable goals and budgets. The Board has committed to safeguard the Association's assets and to ensure the availability of resources needed to implement the approved plans. The Board has committed to monitor and evaluate its own performance and to provide for continuity and accountability to the membership. The efforts, commitment and dedication of the Board of Directors will result in a stronger, more viable

and healthy future for the Memorial. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held at the Conference of Grand Masters in Portland, Oregon in February.



The Board of Directors met at the Memorial in August for the Association's Semi-Annual Board Meeting. They are pictured here in the George Washington Museum.

Message From Alexandria



George D. Seghers

The Board of Directors held another two-day workshop in August at the Memorial. Attendance was outstanding. Of the 21 Board Members, only three were not able to attend. Our new vision statement was refined and slightly changed to: *“To inspire humanity through education to emulate and promote the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our Country.”* The vision statement is large in scope and grand in scale and is perfectly appropriate for our magnificent Temple and the truly great, good and remarkable man that we honor, George Washington.

The Board of Directors is committed to this vision and to securing and expanding the position of the Memorial in the Masonic and public worlds. The decisions of the Board meeting in August and the Executive Committee meeting in November will result in many improvements and changes being made in anticipation of the 100th Anniversary of the Memorial Association in 2010. Part of the original mission for the formation of the Memorial Association was accomplished with the completion of the Memorial Temple. It is a magnificent, awe-inspiring symbol of the veneration that the Freemasons of the United States hold for Washington. Although the focus of the organization will be on Washington, we will continue to maintain the Memorial Temple and grounds in a manner that reflects honor and dignity on Brother Washington and on the Fraternity.

George Washington represents integrity, humility, courage and strict moral conviction. He was unique, not

only in the history of the founding of our nation, but in the history of the world. He was our first President and our first Commander in Chief and he was a war hero before the War of Independence. His character was such that he was the same man in private that he was in public. Following the death of Washington in 1799, Alexander Hamilton said, *“If virtues can secure happiness in another world, he is happy.”*

We need a national holiday to honor George Washington alone. Today most American schoolchildren don't know what century Washington lived in, what war he fought in, nor what state he was from. They may know that he was our first President, but they don't know what his accomplishments were, what sacrifices he made, what great risks and great efforts he made for our nation. We diminish his stature, his accomplishment and his character when we commemorate his birthday as “Presidents Day.” He is the one man in American history that deserves our unconditional honor, reverence, praise and remembrance. He was truly a great and a good man. In his lifetime, the entire world, not just America, recognized and knew what he had accomplished, not just for America, but for humanity. In America he was known as the “Father of His Country,” but in Europe he was known as the “Father of Freedom.” His courage and moral conviction resulted in the creation of the first truly free society in the form of a government, as Abraham Lincoln said, *“of the people, by the people and for people.”*

George D. Seghers is the Executive Director of the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

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and at home, depended on honoring its war debts. Some in Congress wanted to renege on some or all debts owed, to both the American Patriots and to the French, who had invested heavily in the American Revolution. Washington persuaded Congress to pass a revenue tariff to pay off all the young nation's debts and to establish its credit and reputation abroad.

The strength of Washington's character was proved by his willingness to walk away from power. When King George III, the official enemy of Washington during the Revolution, asked the painter Jonathan Trumbull, who had just returned from America, what Washington would do after the war, Trumbull answered, “Go back to his farm.” The King stated, *“If he does that, he would be the greatest man in the world.”* That is exactly what he did. He returned the power and future of the young nation to its citizens. Washington's example provides lessons not only for our national leaders, but for all Americans, as we remember him as our First and Greatest President.

George D. Seghers is the Executive Director of the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

WISH LIST - 2006

The following maintenance and improvement projects have been deferred due to a lack of funding. If you, your Lodge, Grand Lodge or Masonic Organization would like to contribute to any of these projects, please contact George Seghers at 703-683-2007 or gseghe@gwmemorial.org

Structural Survey of the Memorial	\$45,000
Install Air Conditioning and Glass Windows/Doors in Assembly Hall	\$250,000
Upgrade Elevators to Self-Service	\$200,000
Replace Wooden Disability Ramp at North Entrance	\$90,000
Replace Roof on Second Level	\$250,000
Install Emergency Generators	\$125,000
Repoint/Reseal Stonework on the Front Portico	\$25,000
Install Second Phase of Surveillance System	\$35,000
Remove and Reset the Front Steps	\$350,000

Appendant Body Month Program

The final Appendant Body Month recognition this year is for the Provincial Grand Lodge, U.S.A. Royal Order of Scotland. The Provincial Grand Lodge, U.S.A. Royal Order of Scotland has developed and installed an outstanding exhibit in Assembly Hall. The exhibit includes an authentic 12th century Scottish Claymore, the banner of the Order; aprons; jewels; photographs of Albert Pike, the first Provincial Grand Master; Edward H. Fowler, Jr., the current Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial Grand Lodge Officers. The exhibit will remain on display through the end of the year. The Appendant Body Month Program recognizes and honors the members of the Masonic Family that support and sustain the Memorial.



An impressive exhibit provided by the Provincial Grand Lodge, U.S.A. Royal Order of Scotland is on display in the Memorial through December.



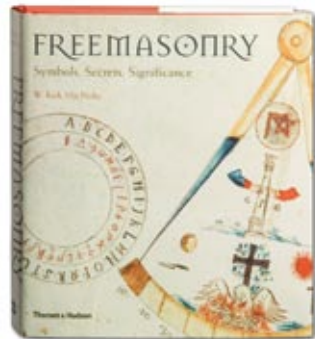
Memorial Tree Program

Over the years, the Memorial has lost many beautiful, older trees. Your participation in the Tree Program will help to restore the grounds to their original splendor, while giving you an opportunity to pay a special tribute. For a donation of \$500, a tree will be planted on the Memorial grounds in honor or memory of an individual or organization. A granite marker will be installed near each tree to identify the donor and honoree.

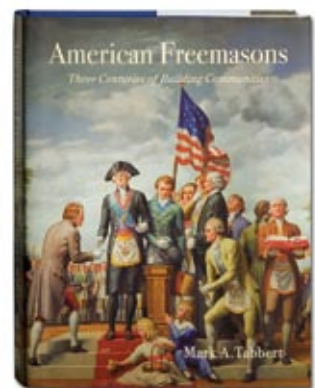
For information or to participate in this program, please contact George Seghers at 703-683-2007 or gseghers@gwmemorial.org. As always, your generous contribution to this and other Memorial programs will be received with the deepest appreciation.

New Books on Freemasonry Available through Memorial

The just-released book, *Freemasonry: Symbols, Secrets, Significance* by Masonic author and scholar W. Kirk MacNulty, is now available through the Memorial. Drawing upon some of the world's greatest collections of Masonic material, this richly illustrated book examines the origins and history of the order, the philosophy behind the Degree rituals, the relationship between Freemasonry and wider society and offers a survey of the most prominent Brothers throughout history. An active Freemason for over 40 years, W. Kirk MacNulty is a member of Lodges in Virginia, the District of Columbia, and England. His previous books include *The Way of the Craftsman* and *Freemasonry: A Journey through Ritual and Symbol*. Both are available from the Memorial.



American Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building Communities, by Mark A. Tabbert, the Memorial's Director of Collections, was published in 2005 and made available through the Memorial this year. This critically acclaimed work explores the fascinating journey of American Freemasonry from its origins in 18th century London to its evolution into society today and its impact on the lives and communities of millions of Americans. Beautifully bound and illustrated, the book also reveals why three centuries of American men – from George Washington to Benjamin Franklin to Harry Truman and Thurgood Marshall – have been drawn to Freemasonry's symbols, rituals and precepts.



To order, visit the Memorial's Website at www.gwmemorial.org or call 703-549-9234.

Dates to Remember

- December 14
207th Anniversary of Washington's Passing
- February 17-20
Conference of Grand Masters of
North America – Portland, Oregon
- February 22
Washington's 275th Birthday

Memorial Plans Special Event for Washington's Birthday

This February will mark the 275th birthday of America's Foremost Freemason, George Washington. To commemorate this significant milestone, the Memorial is expanding the traditional wreath-laying ceremony to also include a presentation on Washington by a distinguished author, musical entertainment, and the presentation of the first George Washington Memorial Award.

This is the final event in the annual month-long celebration of George Washington's birthday sponsored by the City of Alexandria. It will be held at the Memorial on February 25 and will be open to the public. The Mayor of Alexandria, distinguished Masonic guests, and other civic and community leaders will also be invited. Prior to this, the Memorial will once again host the annual George Washington Symposium on February 10, also part of the City's celebration. The day-long event will feature prominent historians, authors, vignettes performed by costumed re-enactors, themed entertainment, historic displays, and tours of the Memorial.

2006 Holiday Ornament Collector's Edition

Crown of Youth – The DeMolay Insignia

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association is proud to present the 2006 Commemorative Holiday Ornament, the DeMolay Crown of Youth. This is the first Holiday Ornament that honors and recognizes a Masonic youth organization.

The symbolic components reinforce the lessons of DeMolay. The Crown constantly reminds a DeMolay of his obligations and the seven precepts of his Order: Filial Love, Reverence for Sacred Things, Courtesy, Comradeship, Fidelity, Cleanliness and Patriotism. The Helmet is emblematic of chivalry. The Crescent reminds a DeMolay never to betray the confidence of a friend. The Stars surrounding the crescent are symbolic of hope. The five-armed White Cross is symbolic of the motto of the Order, "No DeMolay shall fail as a citizen, as a leader and as a man." The Crossed Swords denote justice, fortitude and mercy.



To order, contact the Memorial Gift Shop at 703-549-9234 or visit the Memorial's Website at www.gwmemorial.org.

Crafted in America. Historical booklet included.

A Lifetime of Giving

Most of us want to do all we can for the persons and institutions that mean the most to us. We all hope that the impact of our lives will be felt even after we are gone.

Some people have discovered the unique way of using charitable deferred gift annuities to achieve those goals. The deferred gift annuity is among the most versatile charitable vehicles. Deferred annuities can be used to create a lifetime reminder of care and affection to a loved one with an annual payment to that person on a special occasion—perhaps a birthday or an anniversary. In this way, your gift truly will last a lifetime. In addition, it will be an important expression of your commitment to this wonderful Masonic Memorial.

- Please send me Planned Giving information
- I have already included the Memorial in my estate plans via
 - my will a trust other arrangements
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Name

Address

City/State/Zip

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To respond, please fill in your information, cut along dotted line and mail to:

GWMNMA
Planned Giving Program
101 Callahan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22301
Or Fax to 703-519-9270

For additional giving opportunities, please see reverse side

Join the GWMNMA Today!

Yes! Count on me to support our Memorial.

Enclosed is my membership contribution of:

- \$100 - Silver Craftsman:** You will receive a Membership Certificate and a Memorial lapel pin.
- \$250 - Gold Master:** You will receive a Membership Certificate and a Memorial lapel pin.
- \$500 - Platinum Presidential:** You will receive a Membership Certificate and a Memorial lapel pin.
- \$1000 - 21st Century:** You will receive a Membership Certificate, a Memorial lapel pin and your name will be cast in bronze and displayed in the main entrance to Memorial Hall.

PATRONS

- \$5,000 - Millennium Architect**
- \$10,000 - Millennium Master Architect**
- \$25,000 - Millennium Builder**
- \$50,000 - Millennium Master Builder**
- \$100,000 - Millennium Grand Master Builder**

In addition to the above benefits, all Millennium Members will receive a Membership Plaque and your name will be permanently displayed on a Millennium Wall of Honor recognizing major benefactors prominently located in the Memorial.

Already a Supporter? Great! Since Membership is cumulative, an additional contribution may upgrade your status to the next category.

- Other Amount \$ _____
- Check enclosed made payable to *GWMNMA*
Please charge my: American Express Discover
 Master Card VISA

Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____

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Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. All Memberships are gratefully acknowledged, published in The Messenger and permanently displayed in the Memorial.

Name _____

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City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

To respond, please fill in your information, cut along dotted line and mail to:

GWMNMA, Membership
101 Callahan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22301
Or Fax to 703-519-9270

For additional giving opportunities, please see reverse side

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		* In Memory of	** In Honor of



Happy Holidays
from all
of us at
The Memorial

Memorial Plans New Exhibit on Freemasonry and Two Digital Projects

By Mark A. Tabbert

Created and governed by 52 American Grand Lodges, the Memorial is dedicated to George Washington, but it is also dedicated as the “National Masonic Memorial.” Inherent in this dual mission is to preserve the memory of not just Brother Washington, but every American who joined the Craft. To fulfill this mission, the Memorial will initiate three major projects in 2007. The first is a new permanent exhibition on American Freemasonry. The second and third will be presented through the Internet.

Although the Memorial contains displays on numerous Masonic organizations, it has always lacked one on Blue Lodge Freemasonry. To rectify this omission, next year the Memorial will open a new exhibition. Located on the first floor, it will explain Freemasonry’s history, organization and activities. The exhibition’s script will be completed in the next two months and by February the Memorial will begin contacting Grand Lodges and local Lodges hoping to borrow or receive important Masonic artifacts. The exhibition will also have computer interactives that encourage visitors to learn more about state and local Masonic activities, locations of Lodges and other Masonic libraries and museums.

The two digital Masonic history projects will be directed to the larger world through the Internet. Through them, the Memorial believes it will meet the needs of present and future Brothers, and also answer the growing number of research questions from scholars, genealogists and especially, men interested in joining the fraternity. The first project is an online database of every duly constituted U.S. Grand Lodge and local Lodge ever chartered. The second is the digitization of every Grand Lodge annual proceeding.

On September 8, 2006, the Memorial held a meeting to discuss the viability of these projects. Those attending included several Grand Lodge Secretaries, Masonic Librarians, and Grand Lodge and non-Mason information technology experts. The meeting resulted in an agreement that the Memorial is well-situated to recommend uniform technological and informational specifications. Because it is governed by the Grand Lodges, it can act as the “neutral hub” to coordinate the information owned by each Grand Lodge. If Grand Lodges accept the Memorial’s uniform specifications and support these digital projects, then online users could research every Grand Lodge’s records within one website.

The first digital project is the “National Masonic Research Database.” This registry would contain records of every regular and recognized American Grand Lodge since 1733. This would include the “Modern” and “Ancient” Grand Lodges of early America, as well as Grand Lodges that divided, such as the Grand Lodge of Dakota, which split into North and South in 1889. From this table, records of every chartered Lodge would be added. Each individual record would include charter date, location and if a Lodge moved, merged, divided, went dark or

was re-chartered in a new Grand Lodge along with its present contact information and website. In short, the registry would be a genealogical record of every American Lodge.

The second digital project is “The Digitization of American Masonic Proceedings.” This project’s mission is to bring the facts and figures, statistics, reports and activities of every U.S. Grand Lodge out of dusty old books and into every Internet computer in the world. Through this project, every page, word and image in every proceeding since 1733 would be searchable by online keywords. Like the first digital project, the Memorial can only recommend technological and informational specifications to Grand Lodges for them to adopt. Each Grand Lodge will always be free to participate at the speed they wish to convert their proceedings to digital format. To coordinate this project, the Memorial will recommend Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) as the preferred vendor. OCLC is a non-profit world leader in both digitization and library cataloging. Because OCLC’s core customers are libraries, through the digitization process, every Masonic library in America could enter into a consortium that would allow one universal catalog of Masonic books. What’s more, this catalog would be linked to OCLC’s other 53,500 public, private and academic libraries worldwide.

All three of these projects represent the Memorial Association’s renewed commitment to its founding mission. 2010 marks the Association’s 100th Anniversary, and just as it took many years to construct the physical Memorial, so it may take many years to construct a digital “National Masonic Memorial” to serve the fraternity and honor every Freemason.

To receive the specifications and project schedules, please contact Mark A. Tabbert, the Memorial’s Director of Collections at mabbert@gwmemorial.org or call 703- 683-2007.

The George Washington Masonic Memorial

is a proud member of
**THE MASONIC LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
ASSOCIATION**

Founded in 1995, the MLMA mission is to collect, preserve and manage Masonic heritage. Representing over 100 Masonic libraries, museums, and individual Masonic collectors, MLMA provides technical and historical research support to anyone working to preserve Masonic history. For more information, please visit the MLMA website: www.mlmassn.org or contact Glenys A. Waldman, MLMA Secretary, Masonic Library of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2520 or at gawaldman@pagrandlodge.org

Memorial Attends Gala Event for Mount Vernon's New Education Centers

President Michael D. Brumback and Executive Director George D. Seghers, together with their wives, were special guests at a gala celebration at Mount Vernon in October to commemorate the opening of the estate's new education facilities. The



Executive Director George D. Seghers and President Michael D. Brumback stand next to a giant hologram of Washington outside the entrance to the new Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center at Mount Vernon. As you move past the hologram, the eyes of Washington "follow" you inside.

spectacular fireworks display over the Potomac River, a sumptuous banquet, keynote speaker David McCullough and closing remarks by Executive Director James Rees.

Replica Lodge Room Renovated Thanks to Society of Washington Lodges

Through the generosity of the Society of Washington Lodges, the Replica Lodge Room, located on the first floor of the Memorial, has been completely renovated. The renovation included refinishing the floors, repairing and painting the entire Lodge Room and Ante Room and installing a new security system. In the near future, new exhibits will be installed that will not only feature George Washington, but also the history of Alexandria-Washington Lodge, its connection to Washington and the Alexandria community. Currently, the Society has nine members. Membership is restricted to those Lodges named after Washington or Mount Vernon or having a historical or symbolic connection to George Washington. For more information, please contact George Seghers at 703-683-2007 or gseghers@gwmemorial.org.



Association Officers

Elected February 19, 2006

Michael D. Brumback	President
Anthony P. Wordlow	First Vice President
Roger A. Simmons	Second Vice President
Donald G. Hicks, Jr.	Third Vice President
George D. Seghers	Executive Director
Donald M. Robey	Exec. Sec.-Treas. Emeritus

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*Members of Executive Committee

Term expires February 22, 2007

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Michael D. Brumback*	Indiana
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Term expires February 22, 2009

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The Messenger

The George Washington Masonic Memorial
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