INTRODUCTION
This ceremony is written for the purpose of honoring Bro.: George Washington, and is suitable for performance—with adjustments as needed—in a tiled lodge of any degree. Washington’s Birthday is a Federal holiday in the United States, celebrated on the third Monday of February. His actual date of birth is February 22, 1732. Washington was our first and greatest president and his birthday is properly celebrated on February 22.

PREPARATION
If the lodge room includes a painting or bust of Washington, it is appropriate for it to be highlighted in some way prior to the opening of the lodge. For example, a wreath could be added to it for the occasion, or a table placed before it to display flowers, a candelabra or an electric lamp. Contact the George Washington Masonic National Memorial gift store to obtain an appropriate image of Washington for lodge display, if needed.

Note: Regulations vary. This ceremony is a template, which should be adapted to the procedures of your jurisdiction prior to any performance. Please contact your appropriate Grand Lodge representative with questions.
CEREMONY

The Worshipful Master may begin by having the lodge called from labor to refreshment according to ritual specified by his jurisdiction.

WM (rising): Brethren, the time has come for us to honor the memory of Worshipful Brother George Washington, the first President of the United States. As we reverently celebrate the anniversary of his birth, I call upon each brother present to mark well his many virtues as a man and a Mason.

WM: Bro. Secretary.

Sec. (rising): Worshipful Master.

WM: You will read the Masonic roll of George Washington:

Sec.: Born, February 22, 1732.
Entered, Fredericksburg Lodge, at Fredericksburg, Virginia, November 4, 1752.
Passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft, March 3, 1753.
Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, August 4, 1753.
Elected to serve as Charter Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22, December 27, 1788.
Called to the Celestial Grand Lodge, December 14, 1799, Age 67, and for 47 years a brother of the Craft.

(Secretary is seated.)

WM: Brother Senior Warden.

SW (rising): Worshipful Master.

WM: You will rehearse Bro. Washington’s record of achievement.

SW: Appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, 1775.
With final victory of the War of Independence, resigned his commission, 1783.
President of the Constitutional Convention, 1786.
Unanimously elected first President of the United States, 1788.
Unanimously reelected to his second term as President of the United States, 1792.
Retired from the Presidency and returned to Mt. Vernon, 1797.

(Senior Warden is seated.)

wm: Bro.: Junior Warden.

JW (rising): Worshipful Master.

wm: It is my will and pleasure that you speak to Bro.: Washington’s undying legacy.

JW: Our illustrious Brother Washington was a man of unparalleled character, as exemplary in private as he was in the public eye. In the language of Freemasonry, he was a just and upright Mason, ever walking and acting according to the noblest principles of our Craft. It is only natural that many have regarded his life as a “perfect ashlar,” a true exemplification of all of the moral attributes of a sincere and authentic Master Mason.

As one of our forebears in the Craft so fittingly expressed: Washington “was indeed a paragon in Freemasonry, an exemplar of its virtues and its graces. There is no degree of moral improvement suggested by Masonic teachings to which he did not aspire, and few to which he had not attained.”

Bro.: Washington was indeed, as we all aspire to be, a “living stone,” and to the glory of the Great Architect of the Universe, he remains the cornerstone of the American civilization . . . and not only so for our society, but also for those of other nations who have followed us into the manifold blessings of freedom, liberty and equality.

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So is he now and so shall he ever remain American Freemasonry’s “grand exemplar,” whom countless Freemasons seek to emulate in their own lodges and their own communities. In the mystic tie, his exalted merits live on, met with our inalienable regard! So we honor Bro. Washington, exalt his memory and with heart and tongue celebrate his inestimable legacy to all humanity.

(Junior Warden is seated.)

WM: General Henry Lee’s eulogy to George Washington, the friend of Masonry, of his Country and of Man:

“First in war—first in peace—and first in the hearts of his countrymen, he was second to none in the humble and enduring scenes of private life; pious, just, humane, temperate, and sincere; uniform, dignified, and commanding, his example was as edifying to all around him as were the effects of that example lasting. To his equals he was condescending, to his inferiors kind, and to the dear object of his affections exemplarily tender; correct throughout, vice shuddered in his presence, and virtue always felt his fostering hand; the purity of his private character gave effulgence to his public virtues.”

As we culminate our celebration of the birth of our Bro. George Washington, let us ever bear in mind his great works, and above all give thanks to the Supreme Architect of the Universe for his life.

• • • (all rise)

Bro.: Chaplain.

Chaplain: Worshipful Master.

WM: Let us pray.
Chaplain: Most holy and glorious Lord God, thou Great Architect of heaven and earth, we ask Thy blessing and we give our thanks for your servant George Washington. We are thankful for all that he did as a man, as a Freemason and as the father of our nation. May we always be worthy and grateful for his legacy, and may we remain free to celebrate the birth of such a good man. Amen.

Resp. So mote it be.

WM: To Solomon, the luminary of the East,
and to Washington, the glory of the West—
May the rays of their virtues strike light
to the soul of every Freemason.”

* These words are a traditional toast to Washington and King Solomon, and may be omitted here to be performed later at the festive board as an actual toast at the lodge’s discretion.

* (all are seated)

If the brethren are at refreshment, the Worshipful Master now restores the lodge to labor according to normal procedure.

ABOUT THIS CEREMONY
This ceremoniial template is provided by the George Washington Masonic National Memorial for the use and adaptation of lodges around the world that wish to join us in our work to inspire humanity by promoting the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the man, the Mason and the father of our country.

This ceremony may be updated from time to time. To request the latest version, contact W.:Bro.: Shawn Eyer, Director of Communications, at shawneyer@gwmemorial.org.
ABOUT THE GWMM
The George Washington Masonic National Memorial is a memorial and museum built and funded by the Freemasons of the United States. Situated in Alexandria, Virginia, the 333-foot neoclassical structure stands foremost as a memorial to the life and character of George Washington. The Memorial is also an active Masonic temple, research library, cultural space, community and performing arts center, and tourist attraction. Facilities are available for visiting Craft lodges and other Masonic bodies to hold meetings, including out-of-state groups. Guided tours are available daily, excluding major holidays. For more information, visit http://gwmemorial.org.

WASHINGTON CANVAS PRINT
NOW AVAILABLE
The GWMM is pleased to offer a high-quality reproduction of artist Chris Erney’s original painting, “George Washington as Master of the Lodge.” This work of art depicts Brother Washington standing in his personal study at Mount Vernon, wearing his Masonic apron. Suitable for display in any lodge, our 20×30 inch reproduction is printed on canvas using archival quality inks. Available unframed at $250 and framed at $500. To order, call 703-549-9234, or visit our website at http://gwmemorial.org.