Board of Directors Assemble at the Memorial for Semi-Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors of The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association met at the Memorial for a Semi-Annual Meeting on August 16–17, 2017. The Board received updates from the Memorial’s staff concerning numerous projects, programs, and exhibitions at the Memorial.

The Board received a report from the Memorial’s investment managers, along with a report on the operating budget of the Memorial.

The Board affirmed its commitment to the restoration, upgrading, and continuing maintenance of the Memorial. The Tower Exterior Restoration project has made outstanding progress, with the Pyramid, Observation Level, and the Chapel Level finalized, while the Library level was nearing completion. (Please see pages 5 to 7 for a complete update on the restoration projects.) The Memorial staff also updated the Board of Directors on the progress of the Landmark Century Campaign. The Board set up committees to discuss various activities, such as the Memorial’s revitalized Ambassador program.

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association’s Board of Directors in Grand Masonic Hall.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
A Time to Reflect
by Robert P. Conley

As the holidays are upon us, it is such a pleasure to take comfort in family and friends...to slow down a bit and savor those things that matter most. Home and hearth call to us. The holiday traditions beckon us also to contemplate the year, and to reflect upon all for which we are grateful.

It is our freedoms that allow us to celebrate the holidays we honor, each in our own way. Every American should be grateful for those essential freedoms, and that is why I believe that we should always be thankful for the opportunities we have received, and aware of the debt we owe to one man in particular for securing those freedoms for us.

George Washington was the right man at the right time. His personal integrity, tremendous fortitude, and profound faith guided him through one of history’s most crucial moments. He did not bring about the United States on his own...but our great nation would not be here without him.

This is why the George Washington Masonic National Memorial is such an important aspect of our work in this Fraternity. The CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
President’s Message, Continued

Memorial was created to remind the world of the lasting impact of Washington’s great character, and to demonstrate how proud we as Freemasons are that we can count him as a Brother. Washington was a shining light for his contemporaries as he still is for us, and we must keep him as our example of what a citizen and a Freemason can and should be. The character, virtues and vision of Washington must be preserved and transmitted to this and future generations.

The Memorial’s mission is: “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.” As President of the Memorial Association, I have seen firsthand how effective the Memorial is at accomplishing those goals. And now, we are readying the Memorial to do so even more effectively, by engaging in the first complete restoration of the building since its original construction.

It is a truly inspiring experience to witness the Memorial’s ongoing restoration. The Board of Directors and the Memorial’s staff are fully committed to our mission, both in the restoration and preservation of the physical Memorial and in the education and inspiration of humanity through our programs and our presence in the Masonic and public realms.

As this year quickly draws to a close, we are moving steadily toward our goal: to see the restoration completed by 2023, the 100th anniversary of the laying of the Memorial Cornerstone. It is and will be a beautiful way to give thanks to our First Citizen, our First President, and surely our Foremost Freemason, Brother George Washington.

The Association Welcomes New Board Members

At the Memorial Association’s Annual Meeting held in Omaha, Nebraska, on February 14, six new Board Members were elected, and one Officer — Kenneth G. Nagel of California — was re-elected. These Brethren will serve until February 22, 2020.

The Memorial gratefully acknowledges the generous support of Sir James E. Winzenreid, Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland, USA, for sponsoring this issue of LIGHT and for his continuing support of the Memorial. The Royal Order of Scotland is an invitational Masonic Order that preserves and confers two beautiful degrees. To learn more, visit their website at http://www.yorkrite.com/roos/.

The Royal Order of Scotland

Thank You to the Royal Order of Scotland

Robert L. Darling
Past Grand Master
Minnesota

Gale H. Kenney
Past Grand Master
Washington

Kenneth G. Nagel
Past Grand Master
California

Stephen J. Ponzillo
Past Grand Master
Maryland

Barry A. Rickman
Past Grand Master
South Carolina

Robert C. Rill, Jr.
Past Grand Master
Ohio

Donald F. Stapleton
Past Grand Master
Oregon
MESSAGE FROM ALEXANDRIA

From Many, One: Washington’s Call for American Unity

by George D. Seghers

As the restoration of the Memorial continues, I can’t help but think of the original construction, and how exciting it must have been to see the Memorial rise here on top of Shuter’s hill. We are experiencing something very similar now. As the dirt, the stains, and the accretions are removed, the bright, beautiful, shining Memorial is being revealed. The Memorial rose in splendor from the ground up. Now its beauty and majesty are being revealed from the top down.

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial is an inspiring contribution to the betterment of mankind. It must be restored and preserved, for we need the example set by Washington today more than ever. Our nation is divided and unsettled. We seem to have lost the ability to treat each other with civility and respect. The strength of our country has been inclusiveness, but we now seem to be focused on divisions rather than unity. E Pluribus Unum is Latin for “out of many, one” — and it refers to the fact that the United States was formed as a cohesive single nation as the result of the thirteen colonies joining together. This motto was first proposed by the Continental Congress in 1782 for use on the Great Seal of the United States. The person most directly responsible for establishing our national unity was George Washington. His courage, his integrity, his perseverance and his belief in Divine Providence were the deciding factors in the success of the American Revolution and the founding of our nation. George Washington was the great unifier — without him we would not be blessed to live in this remarkable country. We must not allow his name, his legacy and his memory to fade away.

On February 22, 1842, Abraham Lincoln wrote, “Washington is the mightiest name of earth — long since mightiest in the cause of civil liberty, still mightiest in moral reformation. On that name no eulogy is expected. It cannot be. To add brightness to the sun or glory to the name of Washington is alike impossible. Let none attempt it. In solemn awe pronounce the name, and in its naked deathless splendor leave it shining on.”

The generosity of our contributors is truly inspiring, and the work we are doing could not have been done without them. The greatest gift George Washington gave us was our freedom, and the Memorial was built by our Masonic Forefathers to acknowledge not only that gift, but all that he gave and all that he did for us. Now it is our turn to do our part for the eternal perpetuation of the memory and legacy of George Washington.

Our annual Washington’s Birthday Gala is always a memorable event. In this photo from the 2017 Gala, Claire V. Tusch (far right), Second Vice President of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, offers a toast to Freemasonry as the Officers and their ladies join in the honor.

Washington’s Birthday Celebration

Each year, Freemasons, their friends, and families gather at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial to honor the life of Brother Washington on the anniversary of his birth. Our next celebration will be held Saturday, February 24, 2018.

- **George Washington Symposium** — North Lodge Room, 1:00 p.m.
- **Reception** — Memorial Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- **Concert** — Memorial Theater, 6:45 p.m.
- **Banquet** — Grand Masonic Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- **Presentation of the George Washington Memorial Award** — Grand Masonic Hall, 9:00 p.m.

This year, the Washington Family Bible will be on display in Memorial Hall as a special exhibit during the reception. Published in New York in 1792, it was inscribed on the title page by George Washington himself. The entertainment will be provided by the Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia.

Limited seating is available. Tickets for the Saturday evening white-tie optional events are $150, and may be purchased on our website, [http://gwmemorial.org](http://gwmemorial.org). Information about our group rate at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town is also available on the website.

2018 Symposium Announced

The theme of next year’s George Washington Symposium is *President Washington’s Journeys Through the United States of America*. Three speakers will present papers exploring George Washington’s life and legacy. One of the speakers for 2018 will be Professor Timothy Breen, Ph.D., the William Smith Mason Professor of American History Emeritus at Northwestern University and a James Marsh Professor at Large at the University of Vermont. Dr. Breen is a specialist on the American Revolution, with a special interest in political thought, material culture, and cultural anthropology. He is the author of several books on the subject of American history, including *The Marketplace of Revolution: How Consumer Politics Shaped American Independence* (Oxford University Press, 2005), *American Insurgents, American Patriots: The Revolution of the People* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2010) and *George Washington’s Journey: The President Forges a New Nation* (Simon & Schuster, 2015).

The Symposium will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2018, from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free, and members of the general public are encouraged to attend. Please pre-register at [http://gwmemorial.org](http://gwmemorial.org).
A transformation is taking place at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Thanks to the generous support we receive from individuals and organizations, several large-scale projects are underway. During 2017, these have included work on both the exterior and the interior of the Memorial.

A Tower Restored
The restoration of the exterior masonry of the Memorial has been an ongoing project. Starting with the Pyramid level in 2014, and progressing to the Observation Level in 2015, the eighth floor Chapel Level in 2016, and the sixth floor Library Level in 2017, this project’s goal is to completely repoint the building’s mortar joins, repair any underlying issues, and restore the stonework to its original condition. Now that this work is completed from the fifth floor up to the top of the building, it is possible to see a dramatic improvement in the condition of the building. A photograph of the Memorial’s Tower (right) demonstrates this clearly. Above the line of completion, the Memorial’s façade has been restored to a pristine condition not seen since the 1930s. This renewed condition means that, as we begin our first century as a National Historic Landmark, the Memorial will be prepared to honor the life and memory of George Washington in a way that will continue to impress and inspire all who visit.

The only remaining work to be done on the fifth floor and above is to install the new, LED-based exterior lighting. Like the new lighting for the Pyramid and Portico levels, these will allow the Memorial to be lit in different colors at night. This work is being done as you read this, and will result in a much improved experience of the Memorial in the evening hours.

The Cornerstone Mural: An Update
Our building’s primary feature is surely Memorial Hall, where stands the colossal statue of George Washington in Masonic regalia pensively facing the East. Along the north and south walls of this contemplative space are equally impressive murals depicting scenes from Washington’s Masonic life. The painting featured on the south wall depicts George Washington laying the cornerstone of the United States Capitol. Completed in 1955, it is an irreplaceable masterpiece of the great American painter Allyn Cox. Moreover, it serves as a focal point on our tours, allowing us to visually communicate the connections between Masonry and American values. Unfortunately, during 2016 it was discovered that
significant problems were developing for this mural. The surface behind the painting began to bulge gradually outward, as the terra cotta and plaster beneath the canvas cracked and shifted. This, in turn, caused the canvas itself to stretch and tear in some places. Paint began to flake off of the surface of the painting along a more than thirty foot wide line of stress (shown in the upper left photo on this page). We realized that it was necessary to begin conservation work on the Cornerstone Mural immediately in order to save the painting from developing major damage.

The Memorial Association contracted with Olin Conservation, Inc., of Great Falls, Virginia, to completely restore this important work of art. The mural was carefully removed from the Memorial in March and April of 2017, and transported to Olin’s facility for repairs, which are ongoing (see upper right photo). “Since the mural arrived at our studio,” said Chief Conservator David L. Olin, “we have systematically completed each treatment phase — overcoming with great success the tendency of the paint to ‘want’ to shear off. We also observed that the canvas was very fragile: more so than we had anticipated. As such, we had to add an inner leaf (new fabric onto the reverse of the canvas). The results are exemplary. Currently, we are completing the final stages of the in-studio treatment: cleaning, varnishing and inpainting.”

Meanwhile, the interior of Memorial Hall has undergone preparation. The terra cotta substrate was rebuilt and re-anchored to the south wall, eliminating the bulge that had damaged the mural. Then, new plaster was spread to create the large, smooth surface upon which the mural — which measures 47 feet wide by 16 feet high — will be reinstalled (see photos, lower left and right).

Incidentally, despite being off display, this mural has continued its educational impact: digital images of it were dramatically used during the United Grand Lodge of England’s 300th anniversary celebration in London. (See the story on page 9 for details.)

Houdon Statue of Washington Restored

Earlier this year, a beautiful statue of George Washington was transported back to the Memorial. It is a twentieth-century bronze casting of the original marble statue of Washington on display at the Virginia State House in Richmond. The Gorham
Foundry produced twenty-two of them directly from molds of the original. Other copies went to the Virginia Military Institute, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, Trafalgar Square in London, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Huntington Library in California.

The original statue upon which it is based was completed by the famous artist Jean-Antoine Houdon around 1791. Houdon was a Freemason who belonged, like Benjamin Franklin, to the famous Lodge of the Nine Sisters in Paris. Houdon visited George Washington at Mount Vernon in order to produce his work of art.

On April 17, 2017, this statue was returned permanently to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. It had been purchased in 1968 by Rock Creek Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. It was placed on long-term permanent loan to the Memorial in 1969, and after being briefly displayed here, it was relocated to the Masonic section of Mount Comfort Cemetery.

Unfortunately, after being exposed to the elements for forty-six years, the statue was in serious need of cleaning and repair. The Memorial contracted with Conservation Solutions, Inc., to perform this work, and the results are magnificent. “We removed the bronze from its base and cleaned the corrosion,” said Mark Rabinowitz, CSI’s Senior Conservator. “Then we developed an historically accurate patina using a sequence of more than six different chemical formulas and surface treatments. The bronze was then waxed in preparation for installation in its new place of honor.”

Soon, this impressive statue — which Washington declared a “verisimilitude” of himself — will be installed in its original position in Grand Masonic Hall on a new granite plinth that has been selected to match the pillars in Memorial Hall.

**How You Can Help**

All of this work is made possible only by the generous support of individuals, Masonic groups, and other supporters. Won’t you be a part of this important moment in American Masonic history? The restoration of our beautiful Memorial to Brother Washington is a sacred duty, and you can be a part of reaching our $6.5 million goal. All funds given as part of the Landmark Century Campaign are dedicated to the ongoing restoration and improvement work.

Many of our existing donor programs are now part of the Campaign. Donations from the Friends of the Memorial and Patrons now directly support the restoration. And today, it is easier than ever to participate in these valuable programs. Using our new website, donors may make monthly pledges in amounts to fit any budget (see the story on page 8). All donations to the Landmark Century Campaign are cumulative. That means that a monthly pledge of $25 or more will accumulate over time, passing through the levels of recognition that are noted in our publications and on our website (see pages 10–13 for a list of recent contributors by level).

Because the Memorial is a 501(c)(3) educational foundation, these donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Please visit our website today. Whether via a monthly pledge of $25 or more, a single donation, or a bequest, you can be a part of this inspiring and important work.

To make a donation to the Landmark Century Campaign by mail, there is a form on page 13. Simply select your chosen amount and whether it is a one-time gift or monthly pledge.

For more information about how you or your organization can be a part of this worthy endeavor, please contact me at seyer@gwmemorial.org, or call 703-683-2007, ext. 2013. I am happy to discuss the restoration work and how you can become part of it.
Monthly Giving Option Makes Supporting the Campaign Convenient

The Memorial’s recently-updated website makes it easier than ever to participate in the Landmark Century Campaign. One of the most important new features of the site is the ability to make an automatic monthly contribution.

Simply visit the site and select “Support the Memorial” in order to see various options. To make a monthly gift, choose either “Take the Patron Pledge” (for gifts of $25 and up) or “Take a Friend of the Memorial Pledge” (for gifts of $100 or more per month).

Convenient monthly payments allow you to support the Memorial’s restoration at your own pace. It is easy to make one-time donations on the site as well. For more information or assistance, please contact Shawn Eyer, Director of Communications and Development, at seyer@gwmemorial.org, or call 703-683-2007, ext. 2013.

William and Patricia Simms: A Profile of Support

It was on the Memorial’s steps that William Simms, an enthusiastic young member of the Order of DeMolay, met his eventual bride. Patricia was a Job’s Daughter, and they were both at the Memorial for an installation meeting. Married now for sixty-six years, the Simms family have stayed in Alexandria. Through all that time, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial has been part of their lives. Bro. Simms has been a dedicated member of Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 120, and he and Patricia have attended countless events in and around the Memorial.

In fact, Bro. Simms was present at a very memorable event: the February 22, 1950, dedication of the statue of George Washington in Memorial Hall by President Harry S. Truman. He attended as one of the boys representing the Order of DeMolay, who had paid for the statue. “The day of the dedication, the hall was packed,” he recalls. “One of things I remember is that one of the photographers was having problems. Truman picked up on it, but it was time to start the ceremony. Truman went to the microphone and said, ‘Pardon me, we are going to wait just a minute or so. One of my buddies is having a problem.’ So when the guy got all set with his equipment, Truman started. But I thought that was pretty classy.”

Together, William and Patricia Simms made the decision to support the Landmark Century Campaign at its highest level. It is their way of giving back to an institution that has been such a major part of their lives. “We stress the youth programs,” Bro. Simms explained. “If you go into DeMolay, if that doesn’t turn you on to Masonry then perhaps nothing’s going to. What my point is, I believe, and I think Pat believes, is that DeMolay hits you at the right age. I can remember being at one of her installations, and I was set back, I couldn’t help but think I love this. I mean, we were really immersed with Job’s Daughters and DeMolay.”

One of the most important aspects of Freemasonry, according to Bro. Simms, is its long connection with the highest ideals of humanity. Reading from the Scottish Rite Creed, Bro. Simms emphasized: “The cause of human progress is our cause, the enfranchisement of human thought our supreme wish, the freedom of human conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all peoples everywhere, the end of our contention. We haven’t gotten there yet, but that’s the goal.”

By becoming a Landmark Century Architect, Bro. William Simms is leaving an enduring legacy of support to insure that the Memorial continues to be a beacon of inspiration for generations to come. We thank Mr. and Mrs. Simms for all of their generous and heartfelt support of the Memorial’s work.
We are informed by the records of the Craft that over three hundred years ago, London Freemen from four lodges — predominantly or wholly of the non-operative type — gathered at the Apple Tree Tavern at Covent-Garden. At this meeting, they resolved to form a Grand Lodge pro tempore and restore what they called the Annual Assembly. Later, on June 24, 1717, which is the Feast Day of Saint John the Baptist, they gathered at the Goose and Gridiron Tavern near St. Paul’s Cathedral and established what is known as the premier Grand Lodge. The first formal Grand Lodge of Freemasonry was born.

Because of this event, in 2017 Freemasons around the world celebrated the tricentennial of the Grand Lodge era. Numerous events, great and small, marked this great milestone, but the most magnificent one was, of course, held in London.

On the evening of Tuesday, October 31, 2017, the United Grand Lodge of England hosted a spectacular celebration in London’s Royal Albert Hall. Thousands were present for the two-hour extravaganza which included an extremely impressive dimensional set piece: a golden Masonic compass over fifty feet tall, with a radiant Eye of Providence at its apex.

The history of Freemasonry was told through lighthearted skits and musical interludes performed between the points of the compass, with the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra providing the accompaniment.

An important part of the evening was a sketch devoted to Brothers Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, where the two characters engaged in witty banter while describing the seminal role that Freemasonry played in the emergence of the American republic. “You know,” said the character of Franklin, “I think it would be a good idea if we wore our Masonic regalia while we’re putting in place the foundation stone for the Capitol building. It would be wonderfully symbolic, don’t you think?” Soon, on screens suspended above their heads, images of the Memorial’s beloved Cornerstone Mural were displayed. Painted in 1955 by Allyn Cox, this 47-foot-wide masterpiece depicts George Washington laying the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol building on September 18, 1793. (This painting is currently being conserved. See the story on pages 5–7 for an update.)

At the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, we are delighted that Washington’s legacy and the American Masonic heritage were recognized as part of the United Grand Lodge of England’s tercentenary celebration.
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The Estate of Ernest Earman VA

The Hanisch Family Trust CA

Carroll H. Harris Revocable Trust VA

Estate of Robert Anthony VA

McCrocklin CT

Jesse G. & Irma T. Owen VA

Charitable Fund

*In Memory of **In Honor of
Alexandrians Gather at the Memorial to Witness Solar Eclipse

This summer, millions of Americans were able to witness a total eclipse of the sun. Although in Alexandria the eclipse was only at 81 percent, it still produced an extremely dramatic effect on Monday, August 21.

In the afternoon, the moon passed between the earth and the sun, darkening the sky. Using special glasses with safety filters, viewers were able to clearly see the passage of the moon over the sun. Many photographers also came to the Memorial for a great view of the astronomical wonder. The photos shown here at by Jason ParaISO (below) and the Shawn Eyer (right).
George Washington’s many virtues have, for centuries, led Masons to regard him as a true exemplar of the dignity and morality that our Craft espouses. He was twenty years old when he was initiated into Freemasonry and became exposed to the beautiful values taught in our degrees. But we know that Washington was already thinking about values and decorum about four years prior to that. Francis Hawkins’ 1661 book, Youth’s Behavior, Or, Decency in Conversation Among Men, was a popular volume used in the education of young people in Washington’s day. At some point during Washington’s ado-

lescence, he had occasion to make a copy of a section of this book. While nobody knows the exact context or reason why, one theory is that he was practicing his penmanship. Or, perhaps he may have simply found the section valuable and desired a full copy.

The section is titled, “The Rules of Civility and Decent Behaviour in Company and Conversation,” and Washington’s manuscript of it still survives in the Library of Congress. The Rules of Civility is a manual of behavior comprising 170 guidelines for maintaining friendly and respectful relations among people. They show young Washington’s concern for civil behavior in public, in private, in business, and in all other realms of life.

While some of the rules seem antiquated to us now, most are as useful today as they ever were. They provide important reminders for civil discourse and offer a fascinating window into the values that shaped George Washington from his youth.

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association has republished George Washington’s Rules of Civility as a 36-page booklet, and we are proud to make it available to you free of charge (North America only). Those who register will also be added to the mailing list for LIGHT.

To request your free George Washington’s Rules of Civility booklet, visit http://gwmemorial.org/civility/ and follow the directions.

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