

Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22

December 1979

FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

I have so much I would like to say in this, my last Bulletin, to those who have been so faithful, loyal, encouraging and helpful in making this an outstanding year for our lodge, but so little space in which to express my gratitude, thanks and feelings, that I know not what to do except say, THANK GOD for such an outstanding corps of officers, wonderful committees, a most loyal and faithful membership, the cooperation and support of not only the masonic lodges and brethren in this area, but the Eastern Star, Amaranth and all appendant bodies as well as a host of visitors across this nation and many countries throughout the world.

The position as master has not been an easy one, but most demanding of time and patience, yet it has been most gratifying, rewarding, and a wonderful experience serving this historical lodge. I shall always be most grateful to you, my beloved Brethren and Officers for the honor you have bestowed upon me, not only this year for selecting me as Worshipful Master, but also for accepting me some time ago as a member of this historical lodge, the lodge that George Washington served as Master while he was president of his country.

December is the month we honor Washington by laying a wreath at his tomb at Mount Vernon on the 14th. In Brockett's History of The Lodge of Washington we find "Washington died at Mount Vernon, at twenty minutes past ten o'clock P.M., on Saturday, December 14, 1799, in the sixty-eighth year of his age and was buried on the following Wednesday."

"On arriving at the grave, the services of the Episcopal Church were performed by Rev. Thomas Davis, Rector of Christ Church, Alexandria, and the ceremonies of the masonic fraternity by Dr. Elisha Cullen Dick, Worshipful Master of Alexandria Lodge, No. 22 and by Rev. James Muir, D.D., Chaplain of the Lodge".

FUNERAL HONORS

In 1788 Dr. Dick retired from the East to enable WASHINGTON to assume the office of Worshipful Master, and on his retirement, on St. John's Day, December 27, 1789, Dr. Dick again became the Master. He was succeeded by Col. Deneale, who was installed December 27, 1799; but before investing him with the emblems of that office, Dr. Dick delivered an address, an extract from which is here given: "But, on the present occasion, my brethren, a cloud of SORROW surrounds our prospect. A recent and heavy calamity has obstructed every avenue to mirth. Our great and good Master is no more! He who hath so often united in our annual celebrations is gone, to return not again! He whose presence was wont to inspire surrounding multitudes with reverence and admiration; he who was but lately the boast of his own country and the wonder of the world, now lies cold and prostrate in his tomb! Thus, my brethren, is lost from the treasure of the universal lodge its brightest jewel! Feeble is the language of eulogium when applied to a character of such uncommon worth. Statues of marble will prove the love and gratitude of his survivors; but his own virtues and his services have already implanted a monument far more durable than these in the bosoms of his countrymen. May it be particularly nurtured by the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons to the end of time! So mote it be!"

The installation of the officers having been concluded, the Lodge, accompanied by Brooke Lodge, No. 47, was escorted by the military to the Presbyterian Church (Dr. Muir's), where a

FUNERAL SERMON

was delivered by Rev. William Matfit. Similar services were held at the same church on Sunday, December 29, 1799. In the forenoon a sermon was delivered by Rev. Thomas Davis. and on the following Sunday, January 5, 1800, the Rev. Mr. Tallison delivered a discourse on the DEATH OF WASHINGTON.

The 22d of February, 1800, was observed throughout the country in accordance with a recommendation of Congress. At ten o'clock that day the Lodge assembled, and having received Brooke Lodge, No. 47, formed in procession, and under a military escort, commanded by Col. Deneale, W.M., officer of the day, marched to the Presbyterian Church. where an oration on the "Day and Decease of WASHINGTON" was delivered by Past Master Dr. Elisha C. Dick, which concluded as follows:

"Modest and unassuming, yet dignified in his manners; accessible and communicative, yet superior to familiarity, he inspired and preserved the love and respect of all who knew him. For the promotion of all public and useful undertakings, he was singularly munificent. The indigent and distressed were at all times subjects of his sympathy and concern. His charity flowed in quiet but constant streams from a fountain that was at no time suffered to sustain the smallest diminution. No pursuit or avocation, however momentous, was permitted to interrupt his systematic attention to the children of want. His anxious solicitude on this score is pathetically exemplified in a letter, written in 1775, at a time when the unorganized state of the army might have demanded his exclusive concern. Addressing himself to the late Lund Washington, he writes:

"Let the hospitality of the house be kept with respect to the poor. Let no one go away hungry. If any of this kind of people should be in want of corn, supply their necessities, provided it does not encourage them in idleness. I have no objection to your giving my money in charity, when you think it will be well bestowed. I mean that is my desire that it should be done. You are to consider that neither myself nor my wife are now in the way to do these good offices."

"Such, my fellow-citizens, was the man whose memory we have assembled to honor. It has been your peculiar felicity often to have seen him on the footing of social intimacy. That the inhabitants of Alexandria held a distinguished place in his affection you have had repeated testimony. You have seen his sensibility awakened on occasions calculated to call forth a display of his partiality. The last time we met to offer our salutations and express our inviolable attachment to the venerable sage, on his retiring from the Chief Magistracy of the Union, you may remember that, in telling you how peculiarly grateful were your expressions, the visible emotions of his great soul had almost deprived him of the power of utterance.

"But Heaven has reclaimed its treasure, and America has lost its first of patriots and best of men; its shield in war, in peace its brightest ornament; the avenger of its wrongs, the oracle of its wisdom, and the mirror of its perfection. His fair fame, secure in its immortality, shall shine through countless ages with undiminished lustre. It shall be the statesman's polar-star, the hero's destiny, the boast of age, the companion of maturity, and the goal of youth. It shall be the last national office of hoary dotage to teach the infant that hangs on his trembling knee to lisp the name of WASHINGTON."

May we never forget the history of this lodge and those who through their knowledge, wisdom and sacrifices made it possible for us to be a part of this great fraternity even though it be only for a small space in time.

When all is said and done we bid you farewell and wish for those who follow us a most prosperous, happy and productive year in 1980, and now may we end this year's activities with the closing lines of a great news commentator during World War II, who signed off by saying:

"The moving finger writes; and having writ, Moves on! Nor all your piety nor wit Shall lure it back to cancel half a line, Nor all your tears wash out a word of it."

The following ammendment to RESOLUTION NO. 7 was read at our stated meeting on November 8, 1979:
That RESOLUTION NO. 7 - Past Master's Jewel is hereby declared NULL and VOID for the year 1979.
Submitted by: Jason W. Snyder
Worshipful Master
This ammendment will be put to a vote of the lodge for approval on December 13, 1979.

WE, THE OFFICERS, WISH FOR YOU: A MERRY CHRISTMAS - A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND A HEALTHY, HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Jason W. Snyder
Worshipful Master

ALEXANDRIA-WASHINGTON LODGE No. 22
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
The George Washington Masonic National Memorial
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Alexandria, Virginia 22303-0330
Memorial Phone: (703) 683-2007 -- Lodge Phone: (703) 299-6122

DECEMBER 1979 - TRESTLEBOARD

Day	Time	Activity
Thu 12/13/1979	7:30 pm	STATED MEETING - Business - Memorial Service
Fri 12/14/1979	9:00 am	LAY WREATH at Washington's Tomb, Mount Vernon
Thu 12/27/1979	7:30 pm	STATED MEETING - Business - Birthdays - ANNUAL REPORTS - Election of Officers
Fri 12/28/1979	7:30 pm	REHEARSAL for Open Installation
Sat 12/29/1979	7:30 pm	OPEN INSTALLATION of Officers for 1980

STATED COMMUNICATIONS: Second and Fourth Thursdays of each month except Thanksgiving, Observance of George Washington's Birthday and December 27th

We meet at 7:30 unless otherwise stated.
GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL

AREA INSTALLATIONS

Day	Time	Activity
Sat 12/08/1979	Open - 7:30 pm	Elmer Timberman No. 54
Sat 12/15/1979	Open - 7:30 pm	Macon Ware No. 192
Sat 12/15/1979	Open - 7:30 pm	Springfield No. 217
Tue 12/18/1979	Open - 10:00 am	Skidmore Daylight No. 237
Tue 12/18/1979	Closed - 7:30 pm	Henry Knox Field No. 349
Tue 12/18/1979	Closed - 7:00 pm	Mount Vernon No. 219 (Reception Open)
Wed 12/19/1979	Closed - 7:30 pm	Columbia No. 285
Thu 12/20/1979	Closed - 7:30 pm	Andrew Jackson No. 120
Thu 12/20/1979	Closed - 7:30 pm	Cherrydale No. 42
Fri 12/21/1979	Open - 7:30 pm	John Blair No. 187
Fri 12/21/1979	Open - 8:00 pm	Concord No. 307
Fri 12/21/1979	Open - 8:00 pm	Kemper No. 64
Thu 12/27/1979	Closed - 7:30 pm	Arlington Centennial No. 81
Fri 12/28/1979	Open - 7:30 pm	Sharon No. 327
Sat 12/29/1979	Open - 7:30 pm	Alexandria-Washington No. 22
Sat 12/29/1979	Open - 7:30 pm	Archer Bailey Gay No. 275e
Sat 12/29/1979	Open - 7:30 pm	Glebe No. 181
Fri 01/04/1979	Open - 7:30 pm	Occoquan No. 310
Sat 01/05/1979	Open - 7:30 pm	John A. Lejeune No. 350