

70 year Mason

1948 - 2018

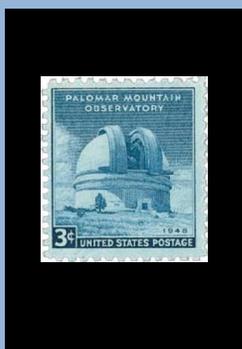
Presented to:

Bro.

Initiated xx/xx/1948



Commemorating 1948



Gettysburg Address



This stamp commemorates the 85th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. President Lincoln petitioned Tyrian Lodge No. 333 in Springfield Illinois but was assassinated before he received his degrees. The Gettysburg Address is considered one of the greatest speeches in U.S. history. In 1863, local Gettysburg attorney David Willis was the driving force behind establishing a nationally funded cemetery to bury the soldiers who died in the battle. To honor the occasion, Willis invited Edward Everett, a famous public speaker, to give the oration. Over a month later, Willis sent an invitation to the White House to ask President Lincoln to "formerly set aside these grounds to their sacred use by a few appropriate remarks." Lincoln agreed. Everett spoke first, delivering a two-hour speech that contained 13,607 words. In contrast, Lincoln's speech was just 10 sentences – 271 words. He spoke for a little over two minutes. It was enough time to earn a permanent place in American lore. The following day, Everett congratulated Lincoln, saying, "I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes." Lincoln replied in a letter, "I am pleased to know that, in your judgment, the little I did say was not entirely a failure."



The Gettysburg Address - November 19, 1863



"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate – we can not consecrate – we can not hallow – this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us – that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave **the last full measure of devotion** – that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." The words, "the last full measure of devotion" are emphasized in the speech as that is the title of a retired degree found in the Scottish Rite.



Saluting America's Youth



Former assistant postmaster general Gael Sullivan, who was at that time Executive Director of the Theater Owners of America, first requested the issue of this stamp. This organization was created to end juvenile delinquency. According to then-Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson, "The Post Office Department is proud to play a part in the observance of Youth Month. America looks to its youth of today, because the future destiny of this country depends in large measure on the younger generation. Only by continuing to recognize the importance of the men and women of tomorrow can America maintain the strong bulwark of freedom that is today." President and Brother, Harry S Truman hosted the first day ceremony for this stamp at the White House. This stamp reminds us Masons to always be supportive of our youth and youth organizations, especially the Masonic groups of DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.



The Palomar Observatory



Located atop Palomar Mountain in southwestern California, the Palomar Observatory houses the Hale telescope, one of the world's largest optical telescopes. Named after the astronomer who planned its construction, the Hale telescope has a 200-inch mirror. Efforts to create the observatory began in the 1920s, and Palomar was selected as the site for the observatory in 1934. However, the Hale telescope was not made operational until November 18, 1947. Quasars, extremely bright objects located at the center of other galaxies, were first detected using the Hale telescope in 1963. The energy from quasars takes billions of years to reach the Earth. Because of this, information about quasars helps scientists learn more about the nature of our universe. This stamp is a great addition to the collection as it reminds us of Astronomy which is one of the liberal arts mentioned in the Fellow Craft Mason's degree.



Bro. Will Rogers (1879 - 1935)



Bro. Will Rogers was born on a large ranch near Oologah in Indian Territory, which became Oklahoma, although he usually claimed Claremore as his birthplace "because nobody but an Indian can pronounce 'Oologah.'" Rogers, who was of partial Cherokee Indian ancestry, was taught to rope by a freed slave. He became skilled at roping, and performed at "Wild West" shows and in vaudeville. Rogers began telling stories and jokes to enhance his act, and soon his keen wit and observations became a bigger attraction than his roping skills. From this humble start, Rogers became an author, lecturer, motion picture actor, and radio commentator. Roger's down-to-earth philosophy, folksy humor, and use of simple words were the keys to success. On his grave is proudly displayed the Cross of his faith and his 33rd Degree Masonic emblem.



Kenneth S. Van Fleet W.M. — 2018

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