

50 year Mason 1969 - 2019

Presented to:

Bro.

Initiated 1969



Commemorating 1969



Beautification of America - Cities and Parks

In 1969 four stamps were publicized by First Lady Ladybird Johnson's personal program for the Beautification of America by planting flowers and trees in our cities and parks, and along our streets and highways. Two stamps are of interest in this set, the *Beautification of Our Cities* and *Our Parks*. The *Beautification of Our Cities* stamp depicts Washington, D.C. with the U.S. Capitol building in the background. The U.S. Capitol is rich with Masonic symbolism beginning with the laying of the cornerstone. It was laid with Masonic Honors on September 18, 1793 under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Maryland. Bro. George Washington presided over the ceremony and was assisted by R.W. Bro. Joseph Clarke, Grand Master pro tempore of Maryland, Wor. Valentine Reintzel, Master of Lodge No. 9 of Maryland (now Potomac Lodge No. 5 of the District of Columbia), and Wor. Elisha C. Dick, Master of Alexandria Lodge No. 22 where Bro. Washington affiliated as a member in 1784. Alexandria Lodge originally was chartered in 1783 as Lodge No. 39 under the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania that later became Alexandria Lodge No. 22 of Virginia in 1788 with Bro. Washington having served as its charter Master. The Lodge at Fredericksburgh was his mother lodge where he was initiated in 1752 however, it is one of the few "time immemorial Lodges" where the Lodge cannot trace its operating authority to a charter from any Grand Lodge. It later became Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 when a warrant was issued in 1787 by the Grand Lodge of Virginia. Therefore, for a few years Bro. Washington was considered a Pennsylvania Freemason. The cornerstone ceremony was the greatest public Masonic occasion in American history.

The work on the Capitol was completed by Bro. Benjamin Latrobe who was known as the "father of architecture in America." Latrobe was initiated in the Lodge of Antiquity No. 2, in London 1788. In America he affiliated with Jerusalem Lodge No. 54, in Richmond, Virginia. He designed the south wing of the Capitol, made alterations in the White House, remodeled the patent office, and drew plans for the Marine Hospital among several other projects throughout his life. After the destruction of the Capitol by the British in 1814, Latrobe was once again engaged to rebuild it (1815-1817). Finally, during the U.S. Capitol extension of 1851-1865 the architect selected was Bro. Thomas U. Walter (1804-1887), who was a member of Colombia Lodge No. 91, in Philadelphia, PA.

The second beautification postage stamp addresses our parks and displays the Washington Monument in the background, another building full of Masonic symbolism. Robert Mills, who designed it, was a Freemason and 22 stones were donated from Masonic lodges throughout the country in its erection. The height of the monument is 555.5 feet tall which coincidentally is 6,666 inches and relates to Freemasonry's passion for arithmetic. The Washington Monument towers above the city that bears his name, serving as an awe-inspiring reminder of George Washington's greatness. The monument, like the man, stands in no one's shadow. At the top of the monument is an aluminum cap with the East facing side that first sees the rising sun each day, inscribed with the Latin words "Laus Deo," which translates to, "Praise be to God."

Apollo 8 Mission

Apollo 8 was launched on December 21, 1968 in which astronauts Bill Anders, Jim Lovell, and Frank Borman recited the passage of Genesis 1:1-10 over a national television broadcast. The stamp was issued in 1969 to commemorate Apollo 8's mission and contains a view of the earth from the moon's perspective with the message from Genesis 1:1 upon it, "In the beginning, God..." The message cannot be a more fitting stamp to a Freemason, for in his Entered Apprentice Mason's degree receives this well-known passage of scripture as he is brought from darkness (ignorance) to true Masonic light (truth).

Airmail - First Man on the Moon

In 1969, man landed on the moon by way of the Apollo 11 mission. The stamp with an astronaut taking his first steps upon the moon was the first jumbo-sized commemorative stamp issued. It celebrated "moon mail." The engraved master die to this stamp accompanied the astronauts all the way to the moon's surface. Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, was the first Freemason to walk upon the moon. Aldrin was Initiated at Oak Park Lodge No. 864, in Montgomery, Alabama, on February 17, 1955, and Raised at Lawrence N. Greenleaf Lodge, No. 169 in Denver, Colorado, on February 21, 1956. Aldrin under special deputation of the Grand Master of Texas, J. Guy Smith, was given authority to open a Representation of the Grand Lodge of Texas on the Moon and establish Masonic Territorial Jurisdiction. The deputation was carried to the moon by Aldrin on Apollo 11 on July 20, 1969.

William M. Hartnett

William M. Hartnett was an American artist and the stamp that commemorates him depicts a painting of his which includes a bugle and violin among other items. This painting reminds a Mason of the liberal arts (music being one of them) that he is earnestly recommended to engage in the study of.

Brother, may you enjoy this gift for many years to come. **Ephrata Lodge No. 665
Ephrata, Pennsylvania**
Bro. M. Todd Hoak, Worshipful Master — 2019