

50 YEAR MASON

1971 - 2021

Presented to:

Bro. xxxxxxxxxxxx

Initiated xxx, xxx, 1971



Commemorating 1971



Space Achievements

In 1971 the USPS commemorated a decade of space achievements as well as the Apollo 15 moon exploration mission by issuing two space themed stamps. One stamp contains a view of the earth from the Moon with the sun in the background. Apollo 15 was the 9th crewed mission in the United States' Apollo program and the fourth to land on the Moon. It had a longer stay on the Moon with a greater focus on science than earlier missions. Apollo 15 had the first use of the Lunar Roving Vehicle (LRV) which is depicted in the second stamp with two astronauts on the LRV. The astronauts of the Apollo 15 mission were Col. James Irwin, David Scott, and Alfred Worden. Col. "Jim" Irwin (a native of Pittsburgh, PA) served as the Lunar Module Pilot for Apollo 15, the 4th human lunar landing. He was the 8th person to walk on the Moon. As the Apollo 15 Lunar Module pilot Irwin logged 295 hours and 11 minutes in space and 18 hours and 35 minutes of the mission time on the Moon's surface. Irwin's mission to the Moon made one of the most important discoveries of the Apollo era, the Genesis Rock, an anorthosite rock that formed in the early stages of the solar system – about 4.15 billion years ago. Irwin belonged to Tajon Lodge, No. 104, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was called from labor on August 8, 1991.

Decatur House - Washington, D.C.

When Commodore Stephen Decatur, Jr., and his wife, Susan, moved to the new federal city in 1816, they purchased land on the northwest corner of the President's Park (today's Lafayette Square) with the prize money Decatur was awarded for his naval conquests in the War of 1812. The Decatur's commissioned Benjamin Henry Latrobe, America's first professional architect and engineer, to design a home "fit for entertaining." Latrobe was known as the "father of architecture in America," and was initiated in the Lodge of Antiquity No. 2, in London 1788. In Washington, Bro. Latrobe also designed St. John's Episcopal Church (better known as the President's Parish) and parts of the White House. Built in 1818, Decatur's home was the first private residence in the White House neighborhood. Thereafter known as the Decatur House, it was a nearly square three-story town house constructed with red brick in the austere Federal fashion of the day. In 1819, the Decatur's moved in with high expectations for the Capitol as well as their own social position. Already a celebrity from his conquests in the Barbary Wars and the War of 1812, Stephen Decatur became one of Washington's most celebrated figures, and the couple advanced their position by throwing a number of lavish parties in their new house. Unfortunately, the couple only occupied the house for a mere 14 months as Decatur was mortally wounded in a duel against Commodore James Barron on March 22, 1820.

Statue of Liberty

The Statue of Liberty was used as the topic for the air mail postage stamp issued in 1971. The Statue of Liberty in New York harbor was presented in 1884 as a gift from the French Grand Orient Temple Masons to the Masons of America to commemorate the centennial of the Declaration of Independence as well as to celebrate the close relationship between France and America. She is holding the Masonic "Torch of Enlightenment", also referred to back in the 1700's as the "Flaming Torch of Reason". The Torch represents the sun in the sky which is referenced in Masonic ritual to rule the day. The Statue of Liberty's official title is, "Liberty Enlightening the World". Lady Liberty was designed by French sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi and built by French engineer, Gustave Eiffel, both known Freemasons. As part of a 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the statue, a plaque at the base of the statue reads: At this site on August 5, 1884, the cornerstone of the pedestal of the statue of "liberty enlightening the world" was laid with ceremony by William A. Bodie, Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York. Grand Lodge members, representatives of the United States and French governments, Army and Navy officers, members of foreign legations, and distinguished citizens were present. This plaque is dedicated by the Masons of New York in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of that historic event.

Bro. Douglas MacArthur

Brother Douglas MacArthur was born on January 26, 1880 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Raised in a military family, MacArthur graduated valedictorian, at the West Texas Military Academy. He later graduated from West Point's United States Military Academy in 1903 at the top of his class as First Captain. During WWI, MacArthur was raised to the rank of brigadier general, and by 1944, became a "5 star" General of the Army. Among his awards and decorations (many of which were awarded multiple times) are the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, both the Army and Navy's Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Silver Star. General MacArthur was made a Mason on January 17, 1936 under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, and performed by Most Worshipful Samuel Hawthorne, and Past Grand Masters Frederick Stevens and Francisco Delgado, and witnessed by over 600 Master Masons. He later affiliated with Manila Lodge No. 1, and joined the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in 1937 where he was later coroneted Inspector General 33rd Degree, and was also a life member of Nile Shrine Temple in Seattle, Washington. Bro. MacArthur was called from labor on April 5, 1964 and is laid at the Douglas MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, Virginia.

Giving Blood Saves Lives

Many masons can relate to the Giving Blood Saves Lives slogan as was commemorated in the 6¢ face value stamp issued in 1971. The stamp is designed to salute blood donors and spur an increase in participation in blood donations. The stamp easily reminds one to participate in the numerous Masonic Blood Drives held each year. In doing so, three lives can be saved and one becomes a life member of the Masonic Blood & Organ donor Program in Pennsylvania in which he will never have to pay for blood if ever needed. Blood is only available through human donations and cannot be reproduced in any other manner.

Brother, may you enjoy this gift for many years to come!

Bro. John S. Mertz,
Worshipful Master 2021

Ephrata Lodge No. 665
Ephrata, Pennsylvania