

# 60 YEAR MASON

1961 - 2021

Presented to:

Bro. xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Initiated xxx, xxx, 1961



## Commemorating 1961



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### Dr. James Naismith

**D**r. James Naismith, November 6, 1861 - November 28, 1939 was born in Ontario, Canada. Dr. Naismith invented the game of basketball in a YMCA gymnasium in 1891 in Springfield, Mass., and developed basketball's original 13 rules. Some people wanted to call the sport "Naismith Ball," but he insisted it be called "Basket Ball." Author of numerous articles and books, he was a physical educator and Presbyterian minister with degrees in philosophy, religion, physical education and medicine. He was posthumously elected to the American Academy of Physical Education in 1941. The Basketball Hall of Fame is named after him. Dr. Naismith was initiated as Mason 1894 in Roswell Lee Lodge in Springfield Massachusetts and served as Worshipful Master from 1927 to 1928 of Lawrence Lodge No. 6 in Kansas.

### Bro. George W. Norris

**G**eorge William Norris (July 11, 1861 – September 2, 1944) was a politician from the state of Nebraska. He served five terms in the United States House of Representatives as a Republican, from 1903 until 1913, and five terms in the United States Senate, from 1913 until 1943. He served four terms as a Republican and his final term as an independent and died just one and a half years later.

Norris was a leader of progressive and liberal causes in Congress. He is best known for his sponsorship of the Tennessee Valley Authority in 1933 during the Great Depression. It became a major development agency in the Upper South that constructed dams for flood control and electricity generation for a wide rural area. In addition, Norris was known for his intense crusades against what he characterized as "wrong and evil", his liberalism, his insurgency against party leaders, his non-interventionist foreign policy, and his support for labor unions.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt called him "the very perfect, gentle knight of American progressive ideals", and this has been the theme of all his biographers. A 1957 advisory panel of 160 scholars recommended that Norris was the top choice for the five best Senators in U.S. history. The stamp commemorates the 100th anniversary of the birth of Senator Norris. Next to the portrait of Norris is the Norris Dam, located north of Knoxville, Tennessee. The dam was named in his honor for the role he played in establishing the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933. The quote in the lower left corner is the quote by President Franklin D. Roosevelt calling Norris a "gentle knight...". Norris was a member of Beaver City Lodge No. 93 in Beaver City, Nebraska.

### Airmail - Liberty Bell

**T**he 13¢ airmail stamp was issued in 1961 to conform to the new international airmail rates for airmail. The Liberty Bell was commissioned in 1751 by the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly to hang in the new State House (renamed Independence Hall) in Philadelphia. It was cast in London by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, purchased for about £100, and delivered in August 1752. It was cracked by a stroke of the clapper while being tested and was twice recast in Philadelphia before being hung in the State House steeple in June 1753. It weighs about 2,080 pounds, is 12 feet in circumference around the lip, and measures 3 feet from lip to crown. It bears the motto, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus 25:10). Andrew McNair, a Philadelphia Mason, rang the Liberty Bell in Independence Hall on July 8, 1776 to call the people together to hear the reading of the Declaration of Independence. The bell developed a crack when it was rung for the death of Chief Justice John Marshall, a Past Grand Master of Virginia on July 6, 1835.

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

**Bro. John S. Mertz,  
Worshipful Master 2021**

**Ephrata Lodge No. 665  
Ephrata, Pennsylvania**