

# 60 Year Mason

## 1963 - 2023

**Presented to:**  
**Bro. Peter W. Null**  
**Initiated September 9, 1963**



# Commemorating 1963



### 50-Star Flag with White House

This stamp was the first stamp to meet the increased 5¢ domestic letter rate. Featuring the American Flag, it is also the only U.S. definitive or commemorative stamp not to have any lettering at all on it, although it does show the denomination that went into effect two days before it was issued.

This stamp is one of the few U.S. stamps that doesn't note the country that issued it, although the image of the flag makes it clear. The stamp contains the White House which was planned by architect and Freemason, James Hoban. Brother Hoban was also the first Master of Federal Lodge No. 1 in the District of Columbia, and was also recognized on a stamp in 1981 featuring him and the White House. Identical 18¢ and 20¢ denominated stamps were issued by the Post Office in anticipation of the rate increase. This is an extremely rare occurrence to see in the philatelic community.

### Civil War Centennial - Battle of Gettysburg

The USPS issued a stamp in 1963 to honor the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. The climax of the battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War took place on July 3, 1863. After a quiet morning, in early afternoon General Lee ordered the most massive cannon attack ever on the North American continent. Then, he ordered about 12,000 men to attack the center of the Union position, across about a mile of open country. Both the Southerners and Northerners generally showed great courage in facing each other, realizing that this might be the event that would decide the war and the fate of our country. Among the leaders of this event, known as Pickett's Charge, was Confederate Brigadier General, and Brother, Lewis Armistead. The leader of the Union force being attacked was the Union Major General, and Brother, Winfield Scott Hancock.

Armistead and Hancock were both career soldiers, and before the Civil War they were friends when both were U.S. Army officers in California. Both were also Freemasons.

When the Confederate attack reached the Union line at Gettysburg, there was fierce fighting. General Armistead was shot twice, and as he went down he gave a Masonic sign asking for assistance. A fellow Mason, a Union officer named Henry H. Bingham, then a Captain, later a higher officer and then a very influential Congressman, came to Armistead's assistance and offered to help. Armistead reportedly asked to see and talk with his friend General Hancock, but he was told that Hancock had been very badly wounded just a few minutes earlier. Union Brother Bingham then helped Confederate Brother Armistead off the field and to a hospital, but Armistead died two days later. General Hancock, to the surprise of many, later recovered and resumed his command.

This incident, of a Freemason who was a Union officer helping a Freemason who was a wounded Confederate officer, is one of the greatest examples of the ideals of Freemasonry in action. In 1993, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania completed and dedicated a monument on the Gettysburg National Cemetery, with the cooperation and support of the United States government that shows Brother Bingham, a Union officer, assisting Brother Armistead. This statue is extremely dramatic, and it is called the "Masonic Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial."

### Bro. Andrew Jackson, US President

Bro. Andrew Jackson's (1767 – 1845) military success earned him widespread popularity as a candidate for the U.S. presidency. In the 1824 Presidential election, Jackson won the popular vote but lost the election in the House of Representatives, which voted by states. Four years later, in 1828, Jackson won a landslide victory, and a second term in the 1832 election. Bro. Jackson was a member of St. Tammany (later Harmony) Lodge No. 1, Nashville, Tennessee and became Grand Master of Tennessee on October 7, 1822.

### The Sciences

The Sciences stamp was issued in 1973 to honor the 100th anniversary of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). The Academy was founded by an Act of Congress and signed by President Abraham Lincoln, in 1863. Abraham Lincoln petitioned a lodge but decided to wait until his presidential term was complete before receiving his first degree. Sadly that never happened. The NAS' purpose is to "investigate, examine, experiment, and report upon any subject of science or art" needed by any department of the government. The first president of the NAS was Alexander Dallas Bache, great-grandson of Benjamin Franklin, a well-known Freemason who served as Pennsylvania's fourth Grand Master in 1734 and again in 1749. Since its founding, the NAS has grown to nearly 2,500 members, with membership considered a great honor. It meets once a year in Washington, D.C., and publishes a scholarly journal. In Freemasonry, it is said that a Mason should be a lover of the Arts and Sciences. This stamp acts as a simple reminder to all Freemasons who are encouraged to study and love the sciences.

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

**Bro. Jason A. Martin - Columbia Lodge No. 286**  
**Worshipful Master 2023 - Columbia, Pennsylvania**