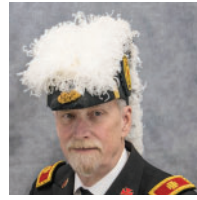




## New Mexico Supplement



H. C. Sky Olsen  
Grand Commander

Sir Knights,

As of this writing I am hopeful that the COVID-19 pandemic is under control and we are back to normal functions.

My Lady Denise and I would like to wish all the Sir Knights and their families a Happy 4th of July. Here are some facts from various sources surrounding the signing of the Declaration of Independence. These are a few excerpts from Military.com.

“Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence, which was edited by John Adams and Benjamin Franklin.

“2 July 1776 is the day that the Continental Congress voted for independence. John Adams, in his writings, even noted that 2 July 1776 would be remembered the annals of American history and would be marked with fireworks and celebration.

“John Hancock signed first as he was the President of the Continental Congress.

“It is believed that Thomas McKean of Delaware was the last person to have signed the Declaration of Independence.”

How many Masons signed the Declaration of Independence? As per the Masonic Trowel there were proven that eight were members of the Fraternity.

“There were 56 signers of the document and there is satisfactory evidence to prove that eight were Masons.”

This next bit of information comes from [apsparoll.com](http://apsparoll.com)

“None of the men who signed the Declaration of Independence were Americans though most of these men were born in the colonies. They

were all technically British citizens at the time of the signing. The last person to have signed the document was Matthew Thorton on 4 November 1776. When the Lee resolution was brought again before the Continental Congress on 2 July, 1776 twelve colonies adopted it, with NY abstaining. On 4 July, 1776 only nine colonies voted in favor of adopting the Declaration of Independence. Pennsylvania and South Carolina voted no. Delaware was undecided and NY abstained.”

Sir Knights, I hope you have enjoyed these little excerpts from our past. In these troubling times we need to remember that it was no easy task to start this great country. As there was a lot of controversy that went on back then for our freedom, we cannot sway from the task of keeping our freedom. We, as Americans, need to be vigilant in maintaining our right to be free and uphold our right to be free from tyranny.

From the Grand Commandery of New Mexico we wish you all a Happy 4th of July.

Courteously,

D.W. Winchester, PGC

### Above and Beyond

Our Grand Sessions this year was plainly different than we all would have wanted and than we had planned! Thanks to the GREAT leadership of the Grand Encampment and General Grand Bodies, and a lot of hard work done at the Grand Lodge and by your elected officers as well as Sir Knights Len Roughgarden, James Overfelt and Harry Jenkins, we were able to navigate the situation with the poise and stature befitting Knights of the Temple. We hope you were able to be in attendance. If not, we look forward to seeing you next year when we are hopefully not constrained by external circumstance.

Thank you again to all for the extra hours and dedication to our Craft while we took care of the business this year!

*Photo by Michele Balke*

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Please send article drafts and comments/suggestions to the email above.