



Wyoming Supplement

Jack C. Cook, Grand Commander

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Sir Knights,

Happy Fourth of July!! The time we celebrate the birth of our nation. For on this date in 1776 representatives of the thirteen colonies gathered and, after much discussion adopted a document that asserted their political independence from British rule.

Over the years many well-meaning Masons have tried to put forth the idea that “most “of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Masons. These claims were made to place the idea that the Masons were behind the revolutionary war and that the formation of the republic was following some masonic plan. This is false! There were only eight of the fifty-six signers that research can find proof of masonic membership. They are Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Joseph Hewes, William Hooper, Robert Treat Payne, Robert Stockton, George Walton and William Whipple.

As Masons we have heard over time that General George Washington was a Mason. I would guess that most, if not all American Lodges have a picture of him in the Lodge. The myth of his time in war was that all his generals were masons, there again it just was not the truth. Some of his Generals were masons and many were not.

These things being said it must be understood that the Masonic Fraternity did not take part in the Revolution because of the masonic tradition of taking no official stance. The memberships of the lodges at the time had many loyalists, so any discussion of the politics of the day would have disrupted the peace and harmony of the Lodges. Colonial masonry suffered from the disruptions of war and the division of the various loyalties of the membership. It seems that every century, generation and decade

we again must relearn the reason politics as well as wealth or judgement about station in life must be left outside the door of our Lodges, Chapter, Councils and Asylums.

As we continue to come out of the sequestration of the pandemic and start meeting again, we are fast approaching the time of sunnier, summer pastimes. I too look forward to camping and fishing, evenings out on the deck, barbeques, gathering again with friends and family. Last month we installed new officer lines in our Lodges, Chapters, Councils, and Commanderies, and we wish them a great year ahead. This is also the time of year we need to be thinking of and planning for getting room reservations for Grand Lodge and Grand sessions.

Your registrations for Grand lodge are to be mailed to the Grand Secretary's office by the 25th of July, and you should already have your room reservation for the Ramkota Hotel in Casper. While you are in the process of registering and booking rooms for Grand Lodge, please give a thought to getting your room reservations for the York Rite Grand Sessions in Cheyenne at the Red Lion Inn. Phone number 307-260-6000. You can find the session registration form on the Grand York Rite web sites or contact our Grand Secretary and Grand Recorders for a copy.

Yours in Faith
Jack C Cook REGC

Editor's Note: I want to express how much I have appreciated working with Grand Commander Jack this year on the Wyoming Supplements! His submissions have been timely and the thoughts and words he brought forward have been well ordered, concise and timely as well. Thanks to Illustrious Grand Master Jim Sturdevant and Eminent Grand High Priest Tim Forbis for their articles in January and February! I am looking forward to working with DGC Richard Lewis in the next year!

Fraternally
-T. Mark Mickelson
Editor