

THE GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MAY 2025 NEWS SK Elijah Mills, Grand Commander; SK Carter L. Diggs Jr., Editor

During the American Revolutionary War, Freemasons, including Royal Arch Masons and Masonic Knights Templar, played a significant role by providing a network of communication and shared ideals among prominent leaders like George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Paul Revere, helping to unify the revolutionary movement and facilitate collaboration across different colonies despite their political differences, while maintaining a politically neutral stance as an organization.

Key points about their involvement:

Leadership and Unity:

Many key figures in the American Revolution were Freemasons, allowing them to leverage their shared membership to build alliances and coordinate efforts during the war. Many prominent Freemasons served in leadership positions within the Continental Army, including General George Washington, who also used his Freemasonry connections to secure the laying of the cornerstone of the United States Capitol.

Shared Values:

The principles of Freemasonry, such as liberty, equality, and fraternity, aligned with the ideals of the American Revolution, contributing to the revolutionary cause.

Communication Network:

Masonic Lodges served as a discreet network for communication and information sharing among revolutionaries.

Political Neutrality:

While individual Freemasons actively participated in the revolution, the Masonic institution itself maintained a neutral stance on politics.

Specific examples:

Marquis de Lafayette:

A prominent French military leader who supported the American Revolution, was also a Freemason and used his connections to build relationships with key American figures.

Benjamin Franklin:

A prominent Founding Father and Freemason who played a crucial role in promoting the American Revolution through his political and diplomatic efforts.

During the American Revolution, Freemasons played a significant role, both directly and indirectly, in supporting the cause for independence. Many prominent figures, including George Washington, Paul Revere, and John Hancock, were members of Masonic Lodges. Freemasons provided financial support, recruited individuals for the Continental Army, and used their network to disseminate information and spread the revolutionary cause.

Here's a more detailed look at their efforts:

Financial Support:

Brother Levi Hale, for example, a prominent Jewish merchant and Mason, provided substantial financial aid to the Continental Army, including loans and supplies, for which he never received reimbursement.

Recruitment:

Masonic lodges served as recruitment centers, with members encouraging their brothers to join the Continental Army.

Propaganda and Information Dissemination:

Freemasons, like Paul Revere, used their skills to create and distribute propaganda, such as engravings of the Boston Massacre, to raise awareness and galvanize support for the revolution.

Networked Support:

The Masonic network facilitated communication and coordination among revolutionaries, including those in France, where Benjamin Franklin, used his position within a French lodge to secure aid for the American cause.

Indirect Support:

Freemasonry's principles of brotherhood, equality, and liberty resonated with the ideals of the American Revolution, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose among those who supported the cause.