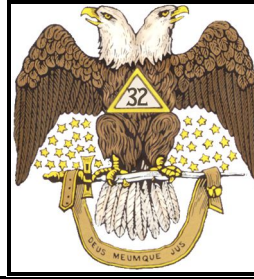


Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry

James G. Hamlin, 33°
Personal Representative
Of the Deputy for the
Supreme Council
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Orient of Washington - Valley of Everett

Volume 35

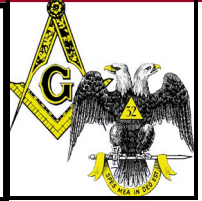
JULY-AUGUST 2026

Issue 07/08

THE RITE BULLETIN



*From The Personal Representative
Ill. James G. Hamlin, 33°*



More Than Just a Portrait

From the moment we first enter a Lodge room as candidates for the degrees of Freemasonry, we are surrounded by symbols. Some are explained to us directly, while others are left for us to discover, reflect upon, and interpret for ourselves.

This past weekend, Freemasons from across Washington gathered for our annual communication. Along with legislation and committee reports, we elected the officers who will govern the Fraternity for the coming year. That, of course, means a new Grand Master—and a new official portrait. A Brother mentioned to me that he had zoomed in on the formal photograph of our immediate Past Grand Master. Beside him on a pedestal were a few books, and one title in particular caught his attention: the *Scottish Rite Ritual, Monitor and Guide*.

That got me thinking: do our Grand Masters use this opportunity to say something about their Masonic or personal philosophy, or do they simply pull a few books off a shelf to fill out the photograph? Perhaps it is a little of both. I have no intention of asking them, because it is far more enjoyable to make my own interpretations.

The Grand Lodge website includes a photo archive with folders of Grand Lodge officers organized by year. I spent some time going through many of the final official portraits of Past Grand Masters to see whether books were displayed, and if so, which ones. In most of the portraits, the Grand Master appears in front of a bookcase, seated or

standing beside a pedestal with a few books on it, and holding a gavel.

At every Blue Lodge installation, we are told that the gavel is a symbol of authority, so it is easy enough to understand why a Grand Master would be holding one. The books, however, make you look a little closer. By zooming in, many of the titles can be read—and they are not all the same. Oh, and by the way, I suspect the bookcase may be photoshopped, but I sincerely hope the books are not, because that would ruin my entire theory.

The Holy Bible is perhaps the most common book displayed, reminding us that our Volume of Sacred Law contains the lessons and wisdom needed to be a Mason. But there has also been a wide range of other books represented. Pike's *Morals and Dogma* appears often. The AASR-SJ publication *A Bridge to Light* shows up more than

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once, and, as already mentioned, so does the *Scottish Rite Ritual, Monitor and Guide*. Next to the Bible, books associated with the Scottish Rite seem to be the most common choices.

Then there are a few outliers—notably Victor Hugo’s *Les Miserables* and *Schulz and Peanuts*.

The symbolism of books should serve as a reminder to each of us that knowledge comes first, and wisdom must follow.

That idea has been on my mind lately as the Valley of Everett has been reading, examining, and discussing the Degrees of the Lodge of Perfection. What an experience it has been to hear so many interpretations and perceived meanings of the 4th through the 14th Degrees. Each participant came away with a much deeper understanding than he likely received as a candidate simply going through the Degrees.

One way to look at the Degrees of the Lodge of Perfection is this: first we acquire knowledge, then we learn how to judge and apply it rightly, then knowledge be-

comes wisdom, and finally wisdom must be used responsibly.

It all begins with knowledge. For me, books have always been one of the first sources of knowledge, but it is only through listening to others and engaging in discussion that deeper meaning can really be understood.

Knowledge, combined with experience, becomes wisdom. Listening and discussion allow us to share in the experience of others, so that we do not have to learn every lesson in life entirely on our own.

As we continue through the remaining Degrees, I hope we keep growing in both knowledge and wisdom. And to our future Grand Masters, I hope you keep using those stacks of books to give us some hint of where you have found meaning in Masonry. Every now and then, though, it is alright to leave one there that makes the rest of us stop and ask, “What exactly was he trying to say with that?”

Fraternally,

Jim Hamlin 33°

Personnel Representative to the Valley of Everett

From the Desk of the General Secretary Submitted by Terry Grove, 33°

Take Me Out to the Ballgame !

Everett AquaSox (Seattle Mariners) vs **Eugene Emeralds** (San Francisco Giants) - Saturday, July 25th, 2026 at 7:05 PM first pitch – followed by free post-game Fireworks somewhere around 10 PM.

At Funko Field (*Everett Memorial Stadium - 3802 Broadway*) - An evening of Family Fun, Fellowship, Friendship and Fraternalism (*A Good Time to be had by All*) – FREE PARKING!

Your Cost is only **\$15.00 per person** to join us in our **group (30) seating tickets**, situated on 3rd base side of field – located at Isle “K” (*between 3rd base & pitchers-mound*) – Row’s 10-11-12-13 14, Seats 7-8-9-10-11-12. First come – first served. We’re now at 29 sold, don’t wait until the last minute or you’ll miss it. That leaves us at one (1) tickets remaining. Get your reservations in soon.

Contact: Terry Grove 425-610-4561 or email him at terrygrove50@yahoo.com

Granite Falls Open Air Degree

Summertime is once again upon us. That means many of our Lodges are Dark. But that does not end the search for Light due to a lack of Masonic events to attend. Where can you find that Light over the summer with Brothers from around Western Washington? Simply put, the Open-Air Third-Degree event at the Masonic Family Park in Granite Falls.

On August 1, 2026 at the Masonic Park in Granite Falls, Washington, we will be conferring the Master Mason Degree at the Masonic Family Park. The Lodge will open at 10:00 AM, so please allow enough time to be parked and to sign in the Tyler’s Register. The cost of entry for the Park is \$7.50 at the gate.

Prior to the Open-Air Degree, Damascus 199 hosts their annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser at their Lodge building in Granite Falls, Washington.

Lunch will be served at a cost of \$25.00 per person for all in attendance and can be purchased afterward, so please bring your appetite and plan on a delicious lunch.

Break out a lawn chair and come out to enjoy a summer day with your Masonic Brothers.

Committee on Americanism - 2026

By Lee Schuirman, 32°, KCCH, Americanism Committee Chairman

The Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Valley of Everett was honored to make JROTC awards presentations to six high schools this year. Approved by the Assistant Secretary of Defense, the award consists of a medal, ribbon and certificate. The medal depicts the heraldic logo of the Scottish rite of Freemasonry, and the words “JROTC Education and Americanism” calls attention to two of the major focal points of Scottish Rite.



This award recognizes two outstanding cadets in the second or second to last year of their commitment to a unit for demonstrating outstanding leadership, academic excellence and Americanism by participation in extracurricular activities or community projects. This award is given to one female and one male cadet from each JROTC unit.

This year’s Scottish Rite awards went to the following cadets for their outstanding contributions;

Marysville Pilchuck NJROTC May 7, 2026

Male: C/PO 1 Shaloom

Female: C/CPO Haley Voyles

Oak Harbor High NJROTC School May 28, 2026

Male: Cadet Cesar Rodriiguez

Female: Cadet Charlotte Hull-Walton

Everett High School NJROTC May 11, 2026

Male: C/SCPO Kaden Lee

Female: C/LCDR Bailey O’Brien

Snohomish High MCJROTC May 14, 2026

Male: Cadet Aiden Fox

Female: Cadet Embry Ciaravella

Arlington High School AFJROTC May 29, 2026

Male: Cadet Elijah Garcia-Carbajal

Female: Cadet Cozett Vallrtie

It is always a privilege to see the excitement the Cadets display upon receiving this award. With this award, we gain a major benefit, with very little investment, by encouraging these young men and women to exhibit qualities of dependability, good character, self-discipline, good citizenship and patriotism; for in their hands our future resides.

Also this year we had the honor of presenting awards to cadets for the Leonard Martin POW/MIA award. This award was originated by the Evergreen POW/MIA Chapter and we are proud to see it continue. This award is presented at five high schools.

This year’s awards went to the following cadets for their outstanding contributions;

Marysville Pilchuck NJROTC May 7, 2026

Cadet C/PO1 Erskine McGriff

Oak Harbor High School NJROTC May 14, 2026

Cadet Madison Davies

Everett High School NJROTC May 11, 2026

Cadet C/SN Case DeLeon

Snohomish High School MCJROTC May 28, 2026

Cadet Daniel Yuldashev

Arlington High School AFJROTC May 29, 2026

Cadet Cecelia Shelton



Masonic Signers of the Declaration of Independence

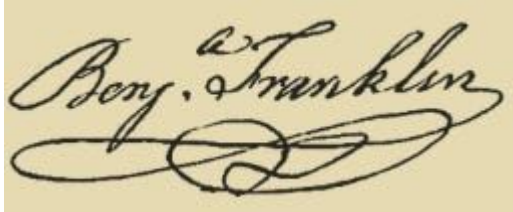
A History of the Frat, 32rnl Patriots Who Helped Forge a Nation

By Micheal Dulaney, 32°

When the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence in July 1776, fifty-six men stepped forward to sign their names to a document that would forever alter the course of human history. Among these patriots were nine confirmed Freemasons—Brothers whose fraternal bonds, Enlightenment ideals, and moral convictions helped shape the philosophical and political foundations of the new republic.

Their stories reveal a tapestry of courage, sacrifice, diplomacy, scholarship, and resilience.

Benjamin Franklin - *St. John's Lodge, Philadelphia*



Benjamin Franklin stands as the most influential Mason among the signers. Initiated in 1731 at St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia, he quickly became a central figure in American Freemasonry. By 1734 he was Grand Master of Pennsylvania, and that same year he printed *The Constitutions of the Freemasons*, the first Masonic book published in America—an act that helped standardize and spread Masonic thought throughout the colonies.

Franklin's Masonic life was international in scope. He attended the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in 1754, and in 1760 he was elected Provincial Grand Master under the Grand Lodge of England. His diplomatic mission to France during the Revolution was deeply intertwined with Masonic activity. In Paris he joined the prestigious *Loge des Neuf Sœurs*, assisted in Voltaire's initiation, and forged connections with influential European Freemasons, including Prussian nobles who helped link George Washington with King Frederick the Great—an early supporter of the American cause.

Franklin later joined the Lodge de Saint Jean de Jerusalem and was elected Venerable d'Honneur. He also became an honorary member of Lodge des Bons Amis in Rouen. His Masonic career reflects the breadth of his intellectual and diplomatic influence. Franklin died on April 17, 1790, at age 84, leaving behind a legacy unmatched in American civic and fraternal history.

John Hancock - *Merchant's Lodge No. 1, Quebec; St. Andrew's Lodge, Boston*



John Hancock's Masonic journey began in Quebec in 1762, where he was initiated in Merchant's Lodge No. 277. Upon returning to Boston, he became an active member of St. Andrew's Lodge, a hub of revolutionary sentiment.

Hancock's political career was equally dramatic. As President of the Second Continental Congress, he famously signed the Declaration with a bold flourish, reportedly declaring that King George III should be able to read it without spectacles. His flamboyant signature became a symbol of defiance and patriotism.

After the war, Hancock became the first Governor of Massachusetts, championing the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. Despite chronic health problems, he served two terms before dying in office in 1793. His funeral was one of the largest in Boston's early history.

William Ellery - *First Lodge of Boston*



Initiated in 1748, William Ellery was a passionate advocate for colonial self-governance. He believed that local bodies were fully capable of managing their own affairs without interference from a distant monarchy. His fiery rhetoric helped galvanize resistance to the Stamp Act and the Intolerable Acts. After the battles of Lexington and Concord, Ellery urged his fellow patriots to action, declaring, "Blow, then, a blast that will shake this country."

Ellery's patriotism came at great personal cost. During the British occupation of Newport in 1778, his home was burned and his property destroyed. Yet he continued to serve, signing the Articles of Confederation and working in federal service under eight administrations and five presidents.

Ellery fathered seventeen children, outlived two wives, and remained intellectually active into old age. At 92, one of the oldest signers, he died peacefully while reading *De Officiis*—a fitting end for a man devoted to classical virtue.

Joseph Hewes - *Unanimity Lodge No. 7, North Carolina*



Born a Quaker in New Jersey, Joseph Hewes struggled with the tension between his pacifist upbringing and the realities of revolution. After attending Princeton and becoming a merchant, he moved to North Carolina, where his integrity and business acumen earned him widespread respect.

Elected to the Continental Congress in 1774, Hewes initially opposed independence. But when letters from North Carolinians overwhelmingly demanded separation from Britain, he changed his vote—an act that helped tip the balance.

As Secretary of Naval Affairs, Hewes became a founding architect of the U.S. Navy. When no warships were available, he offered his own vessels, outfitted them for combat, and appointed captains—including John Paul Jones. John Adams later wrote that Hewes "laid the foundation, the cornerstone of the American Navy."

Hewes died in 1779 after years of declining health. His funeral, conducted with Masonic honors, was attended by the entire Continental Congress.

Continued on Page 5

Masonic Signer of the Declaration of Independence
Continued from Page 4

William Hooper - *Hanover Lodge, North Carolina*



William Hooper earned the title “Prophet of Independence” for his remarkably early prediction in 1774 that the colonies would “stride fast to independence” and build a new empire upon the ruins of Great Britain.

Despite his foresight, Hooper grew weary of political life. He resigned from Congress in 1777, citing exhaustion and personal obligations. His later years were marked by hardship. During the British invasion of Wilmington, his home was burned, and his ailing wife and children were forced to flee. Hooper himself, weakened by malaria and injury, became a fugitive, moving from house to house to evade capture.

He died in 1790 at age 48 and was buried in his garden in Hillsborough.

Robert Treat Paine - *Massachusetts Grand Lodge*

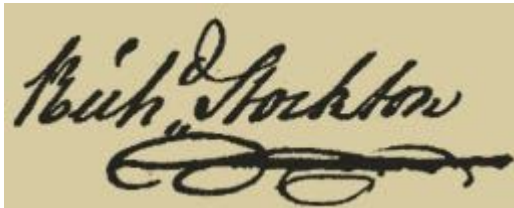


A descendant of Mayflower passenger Stephen Hopkins, Robert Treat Paine was a lawyer of formidable skill. He served as prosecutor in the Boston Massacre trials, facing off against John Adams in one of the most famous legal battles of the colonial era.

Paine later became Massachusetts’ first Attorney General, serving from 1777 to 1790. In 1783 he prosecuted *Commonwealth v. Jennison*, the case that effectively abolished slavery in Massachusetts—the first state to do so.

A man of science and imagination, Paine helped found the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1780. He enjoyed a peaceful retirement and died in 1814, buried near his birthplace in Boston.

Richard Stockton - *St. John’s Lodge, New Jersey*



Richard Stockton suffered more for the cause of independence than nearly any other signer. In November 1776, Loyalists captured him at night, dragged him from bed, and marched him through freezing weather wearing only a nightshirt. He was imprisoned in New York’s notorious Provost prison, where he was starved, shackled, and exposed to the cold.

Congress protested his “shocking and inhuman treatment,” but Stockton emerged broken in health. His home, “Morven,” had been plundered by British forces, his library burned, and his estate ruined. Bound by parole not to rejoin the war effort, he resigned from Congress and attempted to resume his law

practice, but illness overtook him. He died in 1781, never seeing the victory he helped secure.

George Walton - *Solomon’s Lodge No. 1, Georgia*



George Walton played a crucial role in rallying Georgia—initially hesitant—to the patriot cause. His efforts helped secure Georgia’s participation in the Second Continental Congress.

Walton later served as a militia colonel and fought in the defense of Savannah, where he was wounded, thrown from his horse, and captured. After his exchange, he became Governor of Georgia, then a member of Congress, and later a U.S. Senator.

He died in 1804 and was reinterred beneath the Georgia Signers Monument in Augusta.

William Whipple - *St. John’s Lodge, New Hampshire*



William Whipple, a former sea captain, brought a practical, disciplined perspective to the Continental Congress. He signed the Declaration with a deep sense of moral conviction, later freeing his enslaved servant, Prince Whipple, declaring that no man could fight for liberty while holding another in bondage.

As a brigadier general, Whipple commanded New Hampshire troops at Saratoga and helped negotiate the terms of General Burgoyne’s surrender—one of the war’s decisive turning points.

After the Revolution, he served as a justice of the Superior Court until his death in 1785, collapsing from his horse while riding the court circuit.

Signers with Unverified or Disputed Masonic Affiliation

Several other signers have been associated with Freemasonry in various writings, though their lodge memberships remain unconfirmed. These include Roger Sherman, Josiah Bartlett, Philip Livingston, Thomas McKean, John Penn, Lyman Hall, William Ellery (in some accounts), and Thomas Nelson Jr. Evidence ranges from aprons to visitor records, but no definitive lodge documentation survives.

Conclusion

The Masonic signers of the Declaration of Independence embodied the principles of the Craft—liberty, equality, moral improvement, and the pursuit of knowledge. Their lives reveal a fraternity deeply woven into the intellectual and civic fabric of the Revolution. Through diplomacy, military service, legal reform, and personal sacrifice, these Brothers helped lay the foundation of a nation built on freedom and human dignity.

Their stories remind us that the American experiment was shaped not only by political visionaries, but by men bound together in fraternal fellowship—men who believed that building a just society was both a civic duty and a moral calling.

★ CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY ★

JOIN THE MASONIC FAMILY IN THE

EVERETT JULY 4TH PARADE!



Make history with us!

Peninsular Lodge has officially reserved our spot in the iconic *Everett 4th of July Parade*.

We are inviting all Masonic groups to march together in a grand display of unity and community pride.



EVENT DETAILS

- **DATE:** July 4th
- **STEP-OFF:** 11:00 AM
- **ASSEMBLY:** 10:00AM at the Everett Scottish Rite



WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

- ◆ Freemasons & Order of the Eastern Star
- ◆ Order of the Amaranth
- ◆ York Rite & Scottish Rite
- ◆ Youth Groups: Rainbow for Girls,
- ◆ Job's Daughters, and DeMolay

WHY JOIN US?

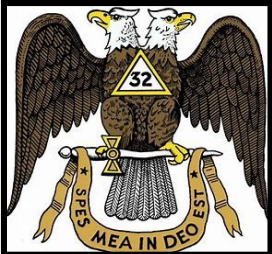
- **Celebrate the 250th:** Be part of a once-in-a-generation milestone for our nation.
- **Show Unity:** Demonstrate the strength and diversity of our fraternal organizations to the Everett community

FREEMASONS of WASHINGTON



Lunch will be served at the Valley of Everett.

The Members of the
Valley of Everett
extend to all the Brethren
with Birthdays in the Month
of July/August a Very
Happy Birthday



**Grand Lodge of
Washington Annual
Communication 2026**

On June 11th through June 14th, 2026, the Grand Lodge of Washington held its Annual Communications at the Wenatchee Convention Center in Wenatchee, Washington. The Members of the Valley of Everett Scottish Rite are honored to take this time to congratulate MWB Roger Nelson, PGWM and his team of officers on a very successful Grand Lodge of Washington Annual Communications.

The Valley of Everett would also like to take this time to congratulate our new Grand Line for the Grand Lodge of Washington, Free & Accepted Masons.

2026-2027:

**MWB Chris Haynes
Grand Master**

**RWB William Hubbard
Deputy Grand Master**

**RWB Jeremy Yielding
Senior Grand Warden**

**RWB Clinton Brown, Jr.
Junior Grand Warden**

**RWB Matthew Appel
Grand Secretary**

July Birthdays

- Percy M Aga
- Theodore Christensen
- Paul D Coover
- Andre J DeWald
- Donald B Forbis
- Grant M Jay
- John J Mathers
- Jovan McClay
- David A. McCuistion
- Walt M Moody Jr
- Howard C Schoen

August Birthdays

- Duane L Bly
- Carl E Brattain
- Kyle J Chapman
- Steve Coleman
- George W Foster
- Terry A Grove
- Donald D Harris
- Donald G Munks
- Max Premesler
- Walter T Smith
- Paul F Steinsiek
- Joseph Towns, III
- David J Trader



Americas 250th Birthday Winning Essay

By Payton Clarke, Everett Assembly#9, I.O.R.G

Did you know that America got its name from none other than the man who first mapped its coasts, Amerigo Vespucci, who was an explorer from Italy? Some of the first people living on our continent were Native American, and those who came later were majority French and English. Many people consider America as the “land of the free” and “home of opportunity”. However I look at America and see not only its residents, but how every single culture group has in some way impacted the growth and legacy that our great nation will one day leave behind for future generations.

Unlike many other countries, America was founded and built on immigrants from all around the world. We believe that those who can adhere to our ideals, have the right to citizenship, rather than relying on cultural bloodlines. The ideals that Americans abide by are actually based off of the components of our American Flag. The flag itself was originally crafted in 1775 as a jab at the British. Unofficially stating that we had declared independence from our previous captors. The flag’s design has evolved through over 27 different configurations, each one signifying a new chapter in the evolution of America. From Betsy Ross’s circular layout of the stars, to President Taft’s executive order, proportioning all stars into six proportional rows of eight. The official meaning of the elements of our sacred flag, as defined by the Secretary of Continental Congress, Charles Thomson, are as follows: red, which signifies hardiness and valor. White, portrayed as purity and innocence. And finally blue, which denotes vigilance, perseverance, and justice. These values are the backbone of the United States, and are what granted us our freedom from Great Britain in the first place, these are the values that brought us into the 21st century.

Another aspect that makes our country so diverse is that we have no singular cultural background or religion that our country is founded on, over 400 different languages and 300 religions are actively practiced in the U.S today. Many people came together to found and create America, however, it’s important to remember that many who helped to build up our economy and industry, especially during the 1700s and 1800s, did not come to the Americas of their own will and volition. Many of those people who helped America to thrive were slaves, indentured servants, or poorly paid workers, all of whom risked their lives (unwillingly) for our country. However grave this period was, it did bring a wave of culture to our country. Nowadays, you can't drive two miles without stumbling across a Mexican or Thai restaurant. All over the radio you can hear Jazz and Hip-Hop which are both heavily influenced by black and Caribbean culture. In fact, “Cowboy Culture”, which is seen as a predominantly white, southern area of expertise, was actually heavily influenced by Mexican vaqueros. Everything from lassoing to cowboy hats were adopted by the American settlers in the 19th century from Mexico.

Today, many people in and outside of America question how culturally diverse the U.S actually is, they stereotype our food as bland, and describe the majority of its occupants as white, southern rednecks. However, I would have to disagree with this viewpoint. I’ve lived around and experienced much of what the United States has to offer, and I am not disappointed, nor am I ashamed that I am an American Citizen. I would argue that my country is one of the most culturally diverse in the world. Now, some of that culture has come at the cost of war and hardship, but overall, I don’t think that there's anywhere else in the world where you can find a Mexican grill, Den Thai Fung, McDonalds, and a Gyro stand, all within a 10 mile radius of each other. I walk into school and there are so many different personalities and backgrounds from all around the world. And we all coexist within our own bubble of the Earth peacefully, because we all know that together, we are the next generation bringing America to its 300th birthday.

What Does The 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the United States Means To Me

By Noelle Taylor, I.O.R.G. Parent

When I think about what America means to me, my mind conjures thoughts of young men, women, and children who braved the journey over the tumultuous seas from the homeland to come to America – a land of freedom and opportunity. The Statue of Liberty beckons to those entering New York Harbor and bears in part the following quote: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...” as a welcoming message to immigrants coming to America as if to say, you are accepted here. You belong. I imagine how scared each person was to venture to a new place, a new language, for a better life. I imagine how those families adapted to their new surroundings, working hard to provide for their families, all along weaving their individual culture and cuisine into our beautiful American blanket. We are a country of immigrants with hopes, ambitions, and strength to persist in the face of hardship and despair. America brought together countless different homelands to create a wonderfully diverse land of people.

Our forefathers were deeply dedicated to creating a land of freedoms and gave their lives to that cause with each battle that they endured. Let us not forget that these soldiers were all from different backgrounds and cultures – their sole purpose to become free from England’s rule and establish a new “government of the people, by the people, for the people...” where all men and women are created equal. In America, we have the right to believe what we want, say what we want, be what we want without repercussions – freedoms other countries do not have. It is important that we support every effort to maintain these freedoms and remember that it is our responsibility to continually strive to become a “more perfect union,” knowing our country is a work-in-progress.

I think it is imperative to remember especially during these polarizing times that America is seen as a land where opportunity and freedom bounds. A place of refuge from other countries where persecution and violence are a daily threat. People want to become American citizens because of our freedom and because we are an accepting blend of every culture. It is vital to remember our history – that America was built by hard-working immigrants creating the country that we now have – that is America. It is important to remember that those wanting to become American citizens do so because they want a better life and want to work hard to make their dreams come true. It is important to let people show you who they are and not have preconceived notions about a person based on where they were born.

One of the most powerful traits that I love about America is our resilience and ability to go forward in the face of violence and tragedy. I am reminded of the quote from Fred Rogers who said: “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, Look for the Helpers. You will always find people who are helping”. There is so much heart-break in our world due to natural disasters and violence and I am continually heartened by scenes on the news of neighbors helping neighbors; people caring about the feelings and needs of others. People creating food trains, people gathering supplies, people cooking and distributing food to those in need, people reaching out to help those that are struggling, no matter the color or the background. I think that willingness to help is the spirit and legacy of America.

Discussion on the 15th Degree – Knight of the East

“Faith in the promises of God gives strength to endure trials.”



Monday, July 20, 2026 • 6:30 PM
Valley of Everett Scottish Rite

- No dinner will be served
- No RSVP required
- Open to all Scottish Rite Masons

Freedom & Restoration • Loyalty & Integrity • Moral Courage • Hope & Renewal

Discussion on the 16th Degree – Prince of Jerusalem

“Justice and truth shall prevail over tyranny and deceit.”



Monday, August 17, 2026 • 6:30 PM
Valley of Everett Scottish Rite

- No dinner will be served
- No RSVP required
- Open to all Scottish Rite Masons

Justice & Equity • Faithful Service • Restoration & Renewal • Truth & Light

Independence Day!

Independence day is celebrated annually in the United States to recognize the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The document was meant to explain the reasons why the thirteen (13) British colonies of the Americas chose to separate from England. Some scholars believe the document was not signed until August 2nd, 1776. Although writings from Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Hancock all say they signed the Declaration on July 4th, 1776.

Independence day, in fact the American Revolution itself holds a special place for American Freemasons. We tend to hold up the fact George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and various members of the Sons of Liberty were leaders in the Revolution. Although it is true nine (9) Freemasons (out of 56), signed the Declaration of Independence, including its most famous signer, John Hancock. It is not so much the men who made the impact on the Revolution. It is the principals of Freemasonry which helped to form the United States of America.

Some scholars point to the publication Anderson's Constitutions as a source for those ideals. Some of the ideals and codes of conduct which we find in Anderson's Constitutions later appear in the United States Constitution. A common example is the prohibition on Religion as a topic of conversation in a lodge room where business is discussed. It is seen as a source of division within the lodge. Similarly, it can be equally said, Religion in Government causes the same division in our ruling bodies, not allowing Government to properly govern for all of its people.

For the Declaration of Independence and the events which lead to it, those who know the

lessons our ritual inculcates, it is obvious to see where the men who helped form the early United States believed in those principals, mason or not. As an example, Freemason's believe we all meet upon the level, the Declaration of Independence states "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal".

In the end Washington, Franklin, Hancock and the list of other notable and not so notable members of the American Revolution who were Freemasons, put themselves in harms way for their belief in a better future. It becomes less about those men and more about the ideals and principals, many of which are put forth by Freemasonry in the United States and around the World. Those same ideals are stated in our ritual over and over again, not to make them common place, but to remind us of the importance of those words which inspired revolutions, in the United States and beyond.

As we celebrate the birth of the United States we should remember it was those Freemasons involved in the Revolution who had the courage to risk their lives for an ideal. It was in a Freemason lodge where they heard those ideals put forth and where they were reminded of them to the point they became a part of their lives. A gift which is now ours to cherish and pass on in our Freemason Lodges and in our communities.

To my American brethren Happy Fourth of July! May it be safe and filled with family and friends!

To our brethren around the world, may the ideals of Justice, Freedom and Equality be ever present in your lodges and communities.

The History of Freemasons For the Month of July/August

July 19—In 1799, the Rosetta Stone was discovered near the Nile River. Made out of black basalt, the odd-shaped stone led to the interpretation and understanding of hieroglyphic writing. The ancient Egyptians believed that it was important to record and communicate information about religion and government. Thus, they invented written scripts that could be used to record this information. The most famous of all ancient Egyptian scripts is hieroglyphic. However, throughout three thousand years of ancient Egyptian civilization, at least three other scripts were used for different purposes. Using these scripts, scribes were able to preserve the beliefs, history and ideas of ancient Egypt in temple and tomb walls and on papyrus scrolls.

July 20—In 1944, President and Bro. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was nominated for an unprecedented fourth term at the Democratic convention. He was a member of New York's Holland Lodge No. 8. Nominated to be his running mate as Vice President was the feisty Bro. Harry S Truman, former Grand Master of Masons in Missouri. Bro. Roosevelt was to run against - and beat - former New York Governor Bro. Thomas E. Dewey, a member of New York City's Karie Lodge No. 454.

July 21—In 1961, Bro. Virgil (Gus) Grissom, 35, became the second American to rocket into a suborbital pattern around Earth. Navy Commander Alan B. Shepherd, 37, was the first on May 5. Bro. Grissom's capsule sank after splashdown and the astronaut nearly drowned. Bro. Grissom, was tragically killed in a launch pad explosion in 1967.

August 14—In 1826 William Morgan obtained his copyright for his "Illustrations of Masonry, By One of the Fraternity Who Has Devoted Thirty Years to the Subject". Although the publication led to his disappearance, it was hardly the first of its kind. Morgan's disappearance led to the anti-Masonic times, which nearly caused Freemasonry to become extinct.

August 21—In 1993 the "Friend to Friend Monument" was dedicated in the cemetery at Gettysburg, PA, by the Grand Lodge of Pa. This monument commemorates friendship between masons on opposite sides of the American Civil War.

August 24— In 1814 the British sack Washington, DC and burn the White House. The cornerstone for the White House was laid by Washington on October 13th, 1792 (485 years to the day of the arrest of the Templars in France.). The trowel is in the replica room at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, VA.

Liberty

By Dewey Wollstein

Liberty- Perhaps no single definition can be given which will convey all that is embodied in this precious word. For our purpose here, let us define it as "the normal balance between desire and restraint." This would be a proper Masonic definition. The words "normal restraint" must mean the understanding and application of Spiritual Laws, by which a perfect and permanent freedom is assured. The enjoyment of Liberty, or the extent of this enjoyment, is based upon the intellect of the individual. A privilege, therefore Liberty, is the possession of the man who feels a responsibility to give something in return for that which he receives and appreciates; to suppress a base desire for a nobler one; to sacrifice a temporary selfish desire for one that means the most lasting values to the welfare of all people.

Parents dare not indiscriminately grant every wish of their children. By doing so, an abnormal condition is set up. Desire is increased by reducing restraint. The virtue of freedom is turned into the vice of over-indulgence, a violation of a law of Nature, a trespass against a Spiritual Law.

In the state, frequent violations of these laws, by those governed or by those who govern, leave only a vestige of Liberty- the form but not the fact- the marble-like lips but not the voice. In like manner, the balance is lost when government exercises restraint without reason, depriving the people of privileges with which Spiritual Laws endow them. Those who govern them become the destroyers of Liberty, instead of the interpreters.

The propagandist, who, ignoring the welfare of the people, spreads malicious falsehoods; the newspaper that acts in the interest of a few; the religious leader who thrives by denouncing those who do not conform to his creed; all craftily deceive, by their cowardly claims to unlimited freedom of speech, of press and of conscience, when they use that which is sacred as a shield to hide their iniquity. They cry out "We demand our rights," when they mean "protect us in our evil intentions."

Freemasonry, is the great expounder of Liberty. It teaches Equality, Tolerance and Justice, without which Liberty cannot exist.

GRAND LODGE OF WASHINGTON DISTRICT 8 ***July/August 2026***

July 04 —Peninsular Lodge #95 Fourth of July Parade

July 25 — Karl E. Warren #259 -The Oreo Cookies Conspiracy

**August 01—District 8 SLOC Meeting hosted by Damascus
Lodge #199 8:00 AM Breakfast—9:00 AM Meeting**

**August 15— Railroad Degree—Skykomish Lodge 259 -
12:00 PM Lunch**



Valley of Everett
Scottish Rite



Take Me Out to the Ball Game

**Everett Aquasox Vs Eugene Emeralds
Saturday, July 25th, 2026**

At The
Funko Field (Everett Memorial Stadium)
An Afternoon of Fun, Fellowship and a
Good Time For All

Your Ticket Cost is \$15.00 per Person
With a Game Time Start at 7:05 PM

For Tickets, Contact Terry Grove 425-610-4561 or email
him at terrygrove50@yahoo.com



Frank and Webbly say "Come on out to the Ball Park.
Join us for a great evening of Baseball, Fun and Fireworks."

DISTRICT'S BLUE LODGE MONTHLY SCHEDULE

DISTRICT TWO MASONIC HAPPENINGS

July /August 2026

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Lodge</i>	<i>Event</i>
July 16	Thursday	6:0PM	Ashler 121	Stated Meeting—6:00 PM Dinner
Aug 20	Thursday	6:0PM	Ashler 121	Stated Meeting—6:00 PM Dinner

DISTRICT EIGHT MASONIC HAPPENINGS

July /August 2026

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Lodge</i>	<i>Event</i>
Jul 04	Friday	10:30 AM	Peninsular 95	Fourth of July Parade
Jul 21	Tuesday	6:00PM	Sultan Monroe 160	Stated Meeting—6:00 PM Dinner
Jul 22	Wednesday	6:30PM	Alpha 212	Stated Meeting—6:30 PM Dinner
Jul 25	Saturday	12:00 PM	Karl E. Warren 259	Stated Meeting— 12:00 PM Lunch
Aug 01	Saturday	8:00AM	SLOC	Damascus Lodge 199 Host
	Saturday	10:00AM	Masonic Park	Open Air Degree (Master Masons Only)
Aug 15	Saturday	12:00 PM	Karl E. Warren 259	Stated Meeting— 12:00 PM Lunch 1:00 - Old Timer Picnic
Aug 19	Wednesday	6:30 PM	West Gate 128	Stated Meeting—6:30 PM Dinner
Aug 21	Tuesday	6:00PM	Sultan Monroe 160	Stated Meeting—6:00 PM Dinner
Aug 22	Wednesday	6:30PM	Alpha 212	Stated Meeting—6:30 PM Dinner

DISTRICT NINE MASONIC HAPPENINGS

July /August 2026

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Lodge</i>	<i>Event</i>
Jul 07	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Skagit Valley 36	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
Jul 08	Wednesday	6:30 PM	San Juan #175	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
Jul 14	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Fidalgo 77	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
Jul 21	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Whidbey 15	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
Jul 22	Wednesday	7:30 PM	District 9	LAO Fidalgo Host Reg. Meeting
Jul 28	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Langley 218	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
Aug 04	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Skagit Valley 36	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
Aug 05	Wednesday	6:30 PM	San Juan #175	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
Aug 11	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Fidalgo 77	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
Aug 18	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Whidbey 15	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
Aug 25	Tuesday	6:30 PM	Langley 218	6:30 P M Dinner—Stated Meeting
Aug 26	Wednesday	7:30 PM	District 9	LAO Fidalgo Host Reg. Meeting

Note: To the Valley of Everett Brethren please take the time on your Mondays to enjoy a good meal and great fellowship with your Valley of Everett Brethren. Dinner is served at 6:30 PM. Meeting at 7:30 PM. We look forward to meeting and greeting each and everyone of you.

VALLEY OF EVERETT

COMING EVENTS

Feast of Tishri

Monday, October 19th, 2026
6:30 PM Punch Bowl Social 7:00 PM Dinner
At the
Everett Scottish Rite Temple
2431 Rucker Ave
Everett, Washington

Fare \$25.00 Per Person

Scottish Rite Members, Ladies and Guest
Are cordially invited to attend

RSVP Required to Terry Grove at 425-610-4561
Or email him at Terrygrove50@yahoo.com

Deadline for RSVP—October 15, 2026

Valley of Everett – Orient of Washington

July 2026 through October 2026 Calendar of Events

July 2026

07-20--26 Monday - Lodge of Perfection—Stated Meeting— 6:30 PM Meeting—No Meal
07-27-26 Monday Combined Board of Trustee's and ExCom meeting— Hybrid/Zoom at 7:00 PM

August 2026

08-17-26 Monday - Lodge of Perfection—Stated Meeting— 6:30 PM Meeting—No Meal

September 2026

09-07-26 Monday—Labor Day—Dark
09-21-26 Monday - Lodge of Perfection—Stated Meeting— 6:30 PM buffet/7:30 PM Meeting
09-28-26 Monday Combined Board of Trustee's and ExCom meeting— Hybrid/Zoom at 7:00 PM

October 2026

10-05-26 Monday - Lodge of Perfection—Stated Meeting— 6:30 PM Buffet/7:30 PM Meeting
10-19-26 Monday - Feast of Tishri - 6:30 PM Punch Bowl/7:00 PM Buffet Dinner
10-26-26 Monday - Combined Board of Trustee's and ExCom meeting— Hybrid/Zoom at 7:00 PM

VALLEY OF EVERETT SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE MONTHLY RENTAL SCHEDULE

July 2026

July 08, 2026	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rainbow Assembly #9
July 22, 2026	Wednesday	7:00 PM	Rainbow Assembly #9
July 25, 2026	Saturday	2:00 PM	Amaranth Perlas Court #90

August 2026

Aug 08, 2026	Saturday	10:00 AM	Prince Hall - Evergreen #9
Aug 08, 2026	Saturday	1:00 PM	Prince Hall—York Rite

Notice to all Valley of Everett Members

The Valley of Everett structure for membership dues are as follows:

Annual Yearly Dues for 2026.....	\$187 Per Year
Life Membership Up to age 65	Annual Dues time 15 Years
Life Membership Age 65 to 75 Years Old.....	Annual Dues time 10 Years



From the Almoner's desk

John Mathers, 32°, KCCH

If you know of anyone who is ill, in a nursing home or hospital please contact me as soon as possible so I can send them a card or pay them a visit. May God bless each and every one of you. I can be reached either by phone at 425-788-3772 (home Phone) or email me at: j.mathers@comcast.net

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**SCOTTISH RITE
 WEB SITES**
 Everett Valley-Scottish Rite
 Orient of Washington
everettvalleysr.org
scottishritewa.org



The Grand Lodge of Washington Monthly Messenger is currently available to all Masons at the following website
<https://freemason-wa.org/grand-lodge-newsletter/>

