

Masonic America – Yesterday and Today



The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio Committee on Education and Information

Preparation:

Read the lesson in its entirety and familiarize yourself with the terminology used to avoid the need to read it word for word. **Please note that this lesson is not meant to be a partisan political or a religious discussion, but rather an opportunity for the Brethren to contemplate and discuss, in a positive manner, what they consider to be Masonic about our nation.**

Instruction:

Read the following quote to the Brethren: (they should realize that it is from the Declaration of Independence)

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. --That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, ...”

From time to time, Masons proudly declare that Freemasonry, Freemasons or at least Masonic principles helped to found the American republic. Freemasons were, in fact, included, with a number of other people, among those who signed the Declaration of Independence (9 to be exact), fought in Washington’s revolutionary army, and served at the Constitutional Convention (with 13 signers of the Constitution).

Demonstration:

Ask the Brothers to reflect on the following questions:

1. What are some of the Masonic principles that were used in the founding of our country?

2. Do you suppose those principles have helped to shape our culture?
How so?
3. What aspects of our government still parallel our Masonic Philosophy or teachings? Remember, we're not looking for ways it does not reflect our teachings, ways that it does!
4. What can we do as Masons to help keep our Masonic principles a part of American life?

Assessment:

The Brethren should come to the realization that Masonry has always been a part of America. We as Masons have the ability and the opportunity to ensure that our way of life, our principles, philosophy, and teachings will always be a part of our culture and government.