



THE MASONIC DEGREES

The candidate receives three Masonic Degrees, concluding with the Third (or Master Mason's) Degree. The Degrees are solemn, enlightening and an enjoyable experience with no uncomfortable or embarrassing moments. It is here where the principles of Freemasonry are taught and where the new member learns that his family and his own necessary vocations are to be considered above Freemasonry. Every Master Mason is welcomed as a "Brother" in any of the thousands of Regular Masonic Lodges throughout the world.

About the Cover

The cover of this brochure depicts King Solomon and some of the most famous Freemasons of all time: President and Brother George Washington, Brother Benjamin Franklin, Confederate General and Brother Lewis A. Armistead being aided by Union Captain and Brother Henry H. Bingham (as depicted by the Friend to Friend Masonic Memorial at Gettysburg), President and Brother Franklin D. Roosevelt, President and Brother Harry S. Truman, U.S. General and Brother Douglas MacArthur and U.S. Lunar Astronaut and Brother Buzz Aldrin.

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BROCHURE
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READ IT***

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WHY YOUR FRIEND ASKED YOU TO READ THIS BROCHURE

Your friend is proud of Freemasonry and the fine character of its members. He believes that you have the qualities for membership and that you deserve the opportunity to know more about it. This brochure will explain what Freemasonry is, who Freemasons are, what they believe in and what they do. *It is important for you to know that, in some Masonic Jurisdictions, those who desire membership must seek it on their own.* Unfortunately, without this understanding, many qualified men have not enjoyed the special rewards of membership and in Freemasonry.

If, after reading this brochure, you have any questions, or desire to know more about Freemasonry, your friend will be pleased to answer your questions or to obtain the answers for you.

Whether or not you decide to seek membership in Freemasonry, you can be certain that you have a special friend within the Masonic Fraternity who thinks very highly of you. Please consider it the highest compliment that he has shared this information with you. It is a message of kindness... from **FRIEND TO FRIEND!** fellowship

WHAT FREEMASONRY IS

Freemasonry is the world's oldest and largest Fraternity. Its history and tradition date to antiquity. Its singular purpose is to make good men better. Its bonds of friendship, compassion and brotherly love have survived even the most divisive political, military and religious conflicts through the centuries. Freemasonry is neither a forum nor a place for worship. Instead, it is a friend of all religions which are based on the belief in one God.

WHO FREEMASONS ARE

Many of our nation's early patriots were Freemasons, as well as thirteen signers of the Constitution and fourteen Presidents of the United States, beginning with George Washington. Today, the more than four million Freemasons around the world come from virtually every occupation and profession. Within the Fraternity, however, they all meet as equals. They come from diverse political ideologies, but they meet as friends. They come from virtually every religious belief, but they all believe in one God. One of the most fascinating aspects of Freemasonry has always been: how so many men, from so many different walks of life, can meet from in peace, never have any political or religious debates, always conduct their affairs in harmony and friendship, and call each other "Brother!"

WHAT FREEMASONS BELIEVE IN

All Freemasons believe in one God and in respect for each other.

WHAT FREEMASONS DO

Freemasons are respectable citizens who are taught to conform to the moral laws of society and to abide by the laws of the government under which they live. They are men of charity and good works. They remain unchallenged as "the world's greatest philanthropy!"

The Freemasons of America contribute more than one million dollars every day to charitable causes which they, alone, have established. These services to mankind represent an unparalleled example of the humanitarian commitment and concern of this unique and honorable Fraternity.

QUALIFICATIONS

Freemasonry is proud of its philosophy and practice of "making good men better." Only individuals believed to be of the finest character are favorably considered for membership. Every applicant must advocate his belief in the existence of a Supreme Being (atheists are not accepted into the Fraternity).

THOSE WHO SEEK MEMBERSHIP

In most Masonic Jurisdictions, one must ask a Masonic friend to recommend him for membership. He must sign a petition, stating his age, occupation and place of residence. Members of the Lodge vote by secret ballot, which, in most Jurisdictions, must be unanimous.

THE MASONIC LODGE

Most Masonic lodges meet one evening per month to conduct their regular business and vote on petitions for membership. It is here where the bonds of friendship and fellowship are strengthened.