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GRAND COMMANDERY OF NEW MEXICO

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www.nmyorkrite.org

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Good Knights of New Mexico, Greetings!

We can all agree that baseball, beach days and the Fourth of July are the best things about summer. Now that it's finally here, it's time to start planning an epic celebration fit for America's big day and considering the fellows that came before us. What would Freemasonry be today if it were not for the men who came before? Where would we *all* be today without the triumphs, struggles, conflicts, resolutions, of our past?

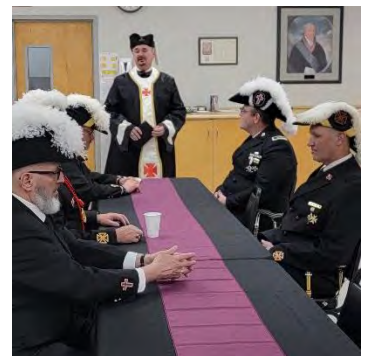
Let us remember that a difficult and courageous struggle took place at this time more than 200 years ago. Freemasons played important roles in leading a new nation towards freedom, carving a path to independence that would guide generations of families and brothers. The Declaration of Independence was signed and accepted into Congress on the **Fourth of July 1776**, marking the birth of the United States. 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. In fact, nine Freemasons out of 56, signed the Declaration of Independence. 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.



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.

I will now borrow the wisdom from some of these American icons;

- "Whoever walked behind anyone to freedom? If we can't go hand in hand, I don't want to go." — Hazel Scott
- "The happiness of America is intimately connected with the happiness of all mankind; she is destined to become the safe and venerable asylum of virtue, of honesty, of tolerance, and quality and of peaceful liberty." — Marquis de Lafayette
- "One flag, one land, one heart, one hand, One Nation, evermore!" — Oliver Wendell Holmes



Our next Grand York Rite Quarterly meeting will be at the Grand Lodge in Albuquerque on July 22, 2023. We have parts available in many degrees and orders coming up at the Land of Enchantment Festival (LEF) to be held August 25-26, 2023 in Santa Fe. As always, if you have any questions on registration, please contact our Grand Recorder or myself. To my American brethren Happy Fourth of July! May it be safe and filled with family and friends! To my brethren around the world, may the ideals of Justice, Freedom and Equality be ever present in your lodges and Commandries.