In the Daylight

Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, F.&A.M.
14750 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA 91405
Ed: davidikarp@karpmediation.com

July 2026

Masons Build a Nation

Foreword...

There will be much said, written and promoted this July as the country honors the 250th Anniversary of the birth of our nation. Of course, this Trestle Board should be no different: among other things, it will celebrate Freemasonry's impact during that period and thereafter.

Articles in this edition include those about: Building our Nation (i.e., Freemasonry and the Declaration of Independence, and George Washington and others at the time of the American Revolution); Building a Great Edifice (i.e, Washington laying the cornerstone of the Capitol Building); and Building our Laws (i.e., Masonic "Rulers of Law," Justices of the Supreme Court).

As a Mason, I have always been interested in the overlap of American History and Masonic History. Thus, there can be no doubt that the preparation of this edition has been thoroughly enjoyable for me. I hope you enjoy reading it as well.

Happy 250th Anniversary!
Fraternally,
Bro. David I. Karp
Editor

July Trestle Board

(We meet in person each month on the first and third Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM at the Van Nuys Masonic Center, except as otherwise noted. Always subject to change.*)

July 4, 2026 Dark for Independence Day
July 11, 2026 Masonic Education (TBA)
July 11, 2026 8-11AM, Annual Fundraising Breakrast
July 11, 2026 12-1PM, Stated Meeting. Lunch donation $15/person. Attire: Business casual (polo shirt); Officers - CFS Navy Blue Polo.
July 12, 2026 LA Masonic Service Bureau's Breakfast Reception for MW Garrett S. Chan, Hilton LA Airport Hotel, 5711 Century Blvd.
July 16, 2026 7PM-9PM, DSI/OSI Host: Reseda Lodge No. 666 3rd Deg, 2nd Section
July 18, 2026 11AM-4PM, Practice, Degree or Fellowship
July 25, 2026 Third Degree Conferral
*See Messenger or text messaging for the Master's postings or contact him directly for add'l info or changes.. Ed.







Part I: Building our Nation

The Bee Hive above is an emblem of industry. It teaches us that, as we came into the world rational and intelligent beings, so we should ever be industrious ones, never sitting down contented .... Grand Lodge of California Monitor,1989 ed., pp. 38-39.

Freemasonry and the Declaration of Independence

By Michael Totten, Saco Lodge #9

[Editor's note: : The following is quoted verbatim from Bro. Totten's online article provided by Unity Lodge No. 146 (Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia) at https://unity146.org/2015/07/01/freemasonry-and-the-declaration-of-independence/]

From the first American lodge meeting in Philadelphia in 1731, Freemasons have been closely associated with the birth of the United States and the writing of the Declaration of Independence. However, Lodge membership records are rarely public. Unless the member himself makes his affiliation known or all his private correspondence becomes public, membership may always be a mystery.

[Continues on next page, see "Declaration"]

CFS Daylight's Officers for 2026

Worshipful Master Bro. Joseph R. Chavez
Senior Warden Bro. Roland Cortel
Junior Warden
WB Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig, PM
Treasurer Bro. Ely Ayao
Secretary Bro. Akram Al-Awar
Asst. Secretary WB Gerald Alvarez, PM
Chaplain Bro. Aldrin Perez
Senior Deacon Bro. Ryan Lim
Junior Deacon Bro. Harlem Ruiz
Senior Steward Bro. Lloyd Donasco, Sr.
Junior Steward Bro. Earl Austria
Marshal Bro. Jamille Paas
Organist Bro. Cody Morrison
Tiler Bro. Marvin De Guzman
Officers' Coach
WB Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig, PM
Candidates' Coach
Inspector WB Leland H. Celestre, PM

Contact information:
Master:
Worshipful Joseph Chavez

Secretary:
Brother Akram Al-Awar



["Declaration," continued from page 2]

The opportunity was there. Freemasonry proliferated quickly in the American colonies. Libre B, the St. John's lodge in Philadelphia, first met on June 24, 1731, just 14 years after the premier Grand Lodge was formed in London, England. Boston's first lodge was constituted two years later, on July 30, 1733. By 1739, Masonic lodges had been opened in all 13 American colonies.

The association was there. Freemasons have long seen themselves as philosophical builders rather than physical layers of stones. In the young United States was the opportunity to put theory into practice. After the hard decision had been taken to declare independence, the United States was seen as the grand experiment, built upon the principles of equality, freedom, and enlightened reason. This symbolism resembles the threefold lesson of Freemasonry, "Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth." In fact, early arguments for independence were often worded as "relief" from an infringement of human rights.

Of the Committee of Five set up to draft the Declaration of Independence, 2 were certainly Freemasons. There is no evidence that Thomas Jefferson, who actually wrote the Declaration of Independence, was a Freemason, although some circumstantial evidence does point at least to Masonic connections. John Adams was not one either, although he is recorded as having spoken favorably of Freemasonry.

Benjamin Franklin, who made several small draft changes into the copy sent to him by Jefferson, was inducted into the Philadelphia St. John Lodge in 1731, becoming its Grand Master in 1734 and Grand Master of what was then the province of Pennsylvania in 1749. Robert Livingston is the other known Freemason on the Committee of Five. He would become the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York in 1784. The other suspected Freemason on the Committee of Five is Roger Sherman.

[Continues on next page, "More re Declaration]

Our Past Masters

Past Masters of Clarence F. Smith Daylight Lodge No. 866, F. & A.M.

Steven A. Wolvek (2017-2018)
Rogelio ("Roger") L. Soriano (2019)
Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (2020-2021)
Edgar O. Yeghiazaryan (2022)
Fernando ("Jhonny") O. Lebrilla, Jr. (2023)
Spartak ("Spo") Khachatryan (2024)
Gerald J. Alvarez (2025)

Past Masters by Affiliation

Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig, (2021)
Celso V. Cardano, Jr. (2012)
Omar Cervantes (2021)
Emmanuel D. Espiritu (2014)
Bruce L. Ewald (2004-2006)
Bruce L. Hawley (1984)*
Luc Paul, Jr. (2018)

Past Masters who are "Honorary Members"

Jovito ("Jovi") R. Rivera (2017)
Timoteo ("Tim") Zuniga (2020)

*Deceased.



["More re Declaration," continued from pg 3]

Robert's cousin Philip Livingston, who signed the Declaration on behalf of the Livingstons of New York, is not known to be a Freemason. However, it is obvious that he worked closely with his Masonic cousin, since one helped write the Declaration of Independence and the other signed it.

Among the 56 signers of the Declaration, 9 are known to have been Freemasons, 1 is recorded as having visited a lodge, while as many as another 18 signers are suspected Freemasons based upon circumstantial nonLodge evidence. The president of the Congress, John Hancock, was a known Freemason in Merchants Lodge No. 277, Quebec, which was affiliated with St. Andrew's Lodge in Boston. Benjamin Franklin has already been mentioned. Thomas McKean is recorded as having visited the Perseverance Lodge, Harrisburg, but no membership is known. Robert Treat Paine attended the Massachusetts Grand Lodge. Other known Freemasons among the signers were:

William Emery, First Lodge of Boston

Joseph Hewes, Unanimity Lodge No.7

William Hooper, Hanover Lodge

Richard Stockton, St. John's Lodge in Princeton NJ, Charter Master

George Walton, Solomon's Lodge No.1

William Whipple, St. John's Lodge in Portsmouth

Masonic influence was much stronger in the American Constitution, in the early American army, and possibly in the symbology of the Great Seal of the United States, but those are stories for other articles. [End of quoted material.]



Award Recipients in our Lodge

Hiram Award (for dedicated Service)

Akram Al-Awar (2024)
Archimedes ("Kim") S. Cabanig, PM (2022)
Celso V. Cardano, Jr., PM (2022)
Keith S. Cotton (2017)
Bruce L. Ewald, PM (2011)
Bruce L. Hawley, PM (2000)*
David I. Karp (2020)
Fernando ("Jhonny") O. Lebrilla, Jr., PM (2025)
Barry Mann (2021)
John T. Seletos (2017)
Thomas K. Sheehan (2014)*
Rogelio L. Soriano, PM (2018)
Steven A. Wolvek, PM (2019)

Sciots' Cornerstone Award

Ely D. Ayao (2025)

Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award

Steven W. Engstrom (2022)
David I. Karp (2007)

* Deceased.

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Freemasonry During the Revolutionary War

Editor's note: The following is excerpted verbatim from an excellent and lengthy online article from "Great Masons" at https://greatmasons.com/pages/freemasonry-the-american-revolution

When the first Continental Congress met in Philadelphia, nine English Lodges, four "Modern" lodges, five "Ancient" lodges and one Scottish lodge had been warranted in that city.

From the best available records, it is estimated that there were approximately one thousand Masons in that city.

The first men of the city and state were among their number.

The membership of old St. John's Lodge Number 1 alone, included nine lawyers, of whom seven were judges; four Mayors of Philadelphia, two High Sheriff's, two physicians, two coroners and two Governors of Pennsylvania.

No less than eight were scientists of great distinction and were members of the American Philosophical Society.

The same was true throughout the colonies; the men of education, culture, prominence, and leadership were members of the Masonic Lodges.

Men like Joseph Warren, (later General Warren lost his life at Bunker Hill,) and Paul Revere in Mass., Ethan Allen of Vermont, Roger Sherman of CT., John Sullivan (later a great Revolutionary General from New Hampshire,) Franklin of Philadelphia, Robert Livingston of New York, George Washington and Patrick Henry of Virginia and many others among the recognized leaders were Freemasons.

When the war was declared, and every citizen had to take his stand, either for or against independence, it was found that every Masonic leader was among the patriots.

... An illustration of the influence Masonry exerted at that time, was ... the appointment of George Washington as Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary forces.

It was said Washington was chosen partly because of the fame he had won in the Braddock expedition, and partly to ensure the support of the Southern Colonies.

The men over whom he was placed in command were simple, democratic, hard-working people, dissenters to the backbone.

Washington was a Freemason, and as such, was acceptable to the leading patriots in both civil and military life.

... Military Lodges ... continued to function during the war. Attached to particular regiments they followed the movements of the regiment and flourished under the vicissitudes of the conflict.

Washington and other Masonic Generals visited these lodges from time to time and distinguished foreign Masons, such as Lafayette and von Stueben were frequent visitors.

In fact, there is a story that Lafayette was made a Mason in a Military Lodge in the presence of Washington.

This story, however, is largely discredited, as there seems to be conclusive evidence that Lafayette was raised a Master Mason in a French Lodge before coming to America.

There is greater evidence that Alexander Hamilton was made a Master Mason in a Military Lodge.

[Continues on next page, see "Military Lodges"]

["Military Lodges," Continued from page 5]

These Military Lodges were a source of patriotic enthusiasm, a continual incentive to patriotic "fervour," and aided materially to the discipline of the Continental Armies and furnished a meeting place for brethren engaged in a great crusade and bound together by the mystic tie of their "Brotherhood" fraternity.

Masonic Leaders in the Revolutionary War [...]

Not only Washington, but also nearly all of his Generals were Masons, such as Greene, Lee, Marion, Sullivan, Rufus and Israel Putman, Edwards, Jackson, Gist, Baron von Steuben, Baron DeKalb and the Marquis de Lafayette.

If the history of these old camp lodges could be written, what a story it would tell.

Not only did they initiate such men as Alexander Hamilton and John Marshall, the immortal Chief Justice, but also they made the spirit of Freemasonry felt in "times that try men's souls," a spirit passing through the picket lines, eluding sentinels and softening the horrors of war. [End of quoted material]

Part II: Building a Great Edifice

By the science of Geometry the architect is enabled to construct his plans and execute his designs; the general, to arrange his soldiers; the engineer, to mark out grounds for encampments, and so forth. Grand Lodge of California Monitor, 1989 ed., p. 24.





Geo. Washington Lays the Cornerstone of the Capital Building

Editor's note: This article is quoted verbatim from the United States Senate website at https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/minute/George_Washington_Lays_Capitol_Cornerstone.htm .

September 18, 1793 - Laying of the Cornerstone of the Capitol

On September 18, 1793, President George Washington laid the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol. A Virginia newspaper, the Alexandria Gazette, recorded how Washington crossed the Potomac and was met by two brass bands, a volunteer artillery company, and a delegation of Masons in full regalia. They accompanied him in the first parade held in Washington, D.C. a grand procession from the construction site of the White House to the construction site for the U.S. Capitol.

We know from that newspaper article, and from Masonic ritual, that Washington placed an inscribed silver plate under the cornerstone at the southeast corner of this building. However, we do not know whether that meant the southeast corner of the Senate wing, the first section of the building to be completed, or the southeast corner of the whole building as intended, which would locate it over on the House side. More than two centuries later, the Architect of the Capitol is still searching for that cornerstone. Metal detectors have failed to locate the silver plate.

[Continues on next page, see "Capital"]

["Capital," continued from page 6]

Regardless of where the cornerstone may be found, the significance of that event was the personal interest that George Washington and other federal leaders took in this building. They were conscious of creating a republic amid a world of monarchies, and they turned to the ancient Roman republic as a model, to make the fledgling government look more impressive. In that spirit, they renamed Jenkins Hill as Capitoline Hill soon shortened to Capitol Hill. On the draft plans for the city, Thomas Jefferson also crossed out "Congress Hall" as the meeting place for Congress was called in Philadelphia and wrote "Capitol" instead. At the time, the federal government was situated in Philadelphia, a city of brick, but Washington wanted a classical style for the new capital city that would be named for him, with buildings constructed in stone.

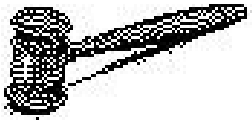
George Washington envisioned a domed structure atop Capitol Hill, and he admired the neoclassical design submitted by a physician, Dr. William Thornton, for its "grandeur, simplicity, and beauty." Thomas Jefferson similarly described Thornton's plan as "simple, noble, beautiful, excellently distributed, and moderate in size." Jefferson added that no one was more delighted with these plans than the president, "whose decision is most important." Congress agreed and appropriated the funds. After laying the cornerstone, Washington returned periodically to oversee the construction, but sadly did not live to see Congress occupy the new building. He died in December 1799, less than a year before Senate and House first convened in the Capitol.

Since then, the Capitol has grown along with the nation. New states brought more senators and representatives, and new wings had to be added to accommodate them, their staffs, and their constituents most recently with the opening of the Capitol Visitor Center in 2008. Throughout this growth, the building has retained the classical appearance that Washington wanted. The Capitol stands as a reminder of the lasting impact of government actions for decisions made in the 1790s continue to influence this building and this city more than two centuries later. [End of quoted material.]



Part III: Building our Laws

Justice is that standard or boundary of right which enables us to render unto every man his just due, without distinction. This virtue is not only consistent with divine and human laws, but is the very cement and support of civil society.... Grand Lodge of California Monitor, 1989 ed., p. 15.



Our "Rulers of Law"

As it is written: "We are all familiar with the phrase, the rule of law. We tend to think of those words more in connection with the judiciary than the other two branches of government. However, the concept of the rule of law has a long heritage in the United States. Founding Father John Adams articulated the concept when he famously called

[Continues on next page, see "Rule of Law"]

["Rule of Law, continued from page 7]

" a republic 'a government of laws, not of men.' John Adams' cousin and fellow Founding Father, Samuel Adams, observed that the rule of law means that 'There shall be one rule of justice for rich and poor, for the favorite in court, and the countryman at the plough.' Today, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts lists the rule of law as 'a principle under which all persons, institutions, and entities are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced, independently adjudicated, and consistent with international human rights principles.' See, THE RULE OF LAW IMPLEMENTED BY MEN AND WOMEN, April 2024, by Hon. Curtis L. Collier, United States District Judge, Chair, Eastern District of Tennessee Civics and Outreach Committee, at https://connections.ca6.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/announcements/Civics%20Article%20April%202024%20on%20The%20Rule%20of%20Law%20%20%5BFinal%5D.pdf .

Less familiar than the phrase, "rule of law," is "rulers of law" (I made it up). But it fits the theme of this newsletter inasmuch as we can identify several Masons as "rulers of law."

The first that comes to mind is Brother John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the United States (1789-1795). As I have written before (Oct. 2023 Trestle Board), online research has not revealed in which Lodge Bro. Jay was a member. In *U. S. Supreme Court Justices who were Freemasons* by Paul M. Bessel (http://www.themasonictrowel.com/Articles/General/about_individual_files/us_supreme_court_justices_were_masons.htm) at fn. 1, the author writes: "'10,000 Famous Freemasons' quotes evidence that Jay was a Freemason, but says there is no proof. The MSA 1940s study also indicates Jay was a Mason, but says it has not yet been discovered in which lodge." Nevertheless, there are numerous Masonic Lodges with the name, John Jay, as a part of the Lodge name. See, e.g., John Jay Lodge No. 653 (GL NY) at https://653-ny.ourlodgepage.com/ .

Next is the famous Brother John Marshall, Fourth Chief Justice (1801-1835). "It is believed he became a Freemason while in the Revolutionary Army, perhaps while serving that winter at Valley Forge with George Washington. Although we cannot find the specifics, we know he was a Master Mason, a member of Richmond No. 10. He was also a member of Richmond Randolph No. 19. Richmond Royal Arch Chapter records indicate he became a Royal Arch Mason in the period 1792-1794." https://www.masonicworld.com/education/articles/THE-GREATEST-AND-BEST-BROTHER-JOHN-MARSHALL.htm .

"On Oct. 27, 1786, at age 31, John Marshall was appointed Deputy Grand Master of Masons in Virginia by Most Worshipful Edmund Randolph. Marshall and Randolph were members of No. 10, No. 19 and Richmond Royal Arch Chapter No. 3.... At Grand Lodge in 1793, John Marshall was elected Grand Master at the age of 38." *Id*.

In 1801, President John Adams appointed Marshall to the Supreme Court. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Marshall . As Chief Justice, Bro. Marshall delivered the opinion of the Court in *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 US 137 (1803), perhaps one of the Court's most powerful and important decisions because it established the concept of Judicial Review, that is, where a court can strike down a law that it finds inconsistent with the Constitution.

Much later on, we have yet another Masonic "ruler of law," Bro. Thurgood Marshall. "If ever there was a man who represented the core tenets of Freemasonry Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth it was Thurgood Marshall. Marshall is famous for being the first African American justice of the Supreme Court, but his legacy and influence on our culture are so much greater than that. Brother Marshall had an astute legal mind and ardently voiced his support for civil rights

[Continues on next page, see "Justices"]

["Justices," continued from page 8]

and the policies needed to achieve them.... [¶] He was an attorney of much renown, a Supreme Court justice of 24-years, an activist, and a Prince Hall Freemason, belonging to Coal Creek Lodge #88 in Tulsa, Oklahoma...." The Grand Lodge of Ohio, at https://www.freemason.com/thurgood-marshall-freemason/ .

There are many more Masonic "rulers of law," but, alas, we must leave space for our Grand Master's and Pillars' contributions. DIK.

PEACE & HARMONY
MASONS OF CALIFORNIA

Grand Master's Proclamation

JULY 2026 IS SUPPORT OUR VETERANS MONTH

Whereas California Masons recognize the service and sacrifice that our military veterans have made for our country; and

Whereas veterans face enormous challenges upon returning to civilian life, including heightened rates of physical, mental, and emotional health issues, homelessness, and substance abuse; and

Whereas California Masonry has long counted among its members an enormous number of military veterans; therefore,

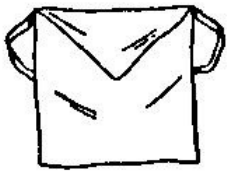
As grand master, I proclaim July 2026 to be Support Our Veterans Month.

As California Masons, we honor those who have served our country as members of our military during both peace and wartime. Our fraternity has had a long and proud history of military support, from organizing the volunteer Masonic Ambulance Corps during World War I to organizing relief for the more-than-30,000 California Masons who enlisted during WWII. This month, during which we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation's independence, I call on all California Masons and lodges to recognize the veterans in their communities and to salute them through acts of volunteerism, donations, or lodge events. Thank you to our veterans for your service to the country.

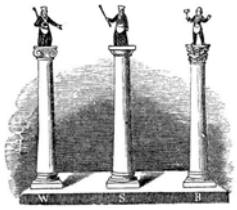
Sincerely and Fraternally,
Grand Master Garrett S. Chan
Attest:
Grand Secretary Allan L. Casalou



[Third Degree Conferral, CFS at Granada Hills Lodge, May 23, 2026. Congrats to Bros. Wynn and Rolly on being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. The well attended ceremonies predict a future of wisdom, strength and beauty for you both.]



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Greetings from the East

Brethren,

Why July Is Important in Masonry:

As we begin the month of July, in celebration of our country's 250 years, let us remember our Founding Fathers and reflect on how far Masonry has come through the years.

July gives us an opportunity to reflect on one of the core values of our Craft: freedom. In the United States, July is associated with independence and liberty, values that connect deeply with Masonic principles.

Freemasonry teaches us to think for ourselves, to seek truth, and to live by moral principles. We are taught that true freedom is not simply the ability to do as we please, but the discipline to govern ourselves with wisdom, justice, and integrity.

This month, let us reflect on how we use the freedoms we have been given. May we continue to be just in our actions, faithful in our obligations, and true to our principles.

I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to be a Mason. As the first Mason in my family, I hope to set a good example one rooted in integrity, humility, service, and brotherly love, not only for my family but for those who may one day choose to walk this path as well.

I would also like to encourage each of you to make time to join us at one of our stated meetings. Your presence, fellowship, and participation truly mean a great deal, and having you with us strengthens our Lodge.

Thank you and Happy 4th of July!

Fraternally yours,

Wor. Joseph Chavez, Master

Greetings from the West

Brethren,

I trust that this message finds you well and that you have enjoyed a blessed and joyful summer season so far. As the year continues to pass swiftly, let us take a moment to reflect upon the many blessings that Freemasonry has bestowed upon us. The enduring bonds of friendship, our service to the Craft, the strength of our brotherhood, and the principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth, along with the sense of family we share together, are treasures to be valued and upheld.

I encourage each of you to continue strengthening your Masonic knowledge throughout the summer months. Additionally, I kindly remind you to revisit and refresh your understanding of the CMC through iMember 2.0. This resource contains valuable information that can be shared with the Brethren, whether through study or meaningful discussion with those well versed in our traditions.

In closing, I sincerely hope you enjoy the fullness of the summer season. Let us continue to gather in fellowship, maintaining the peace and harmony we are charged to preserve, and extending brotherly love to all members. May you find time to relax and enjoy the company of brotherhood, family and friends, as we all deserve moments of rest and renewal.

Lastly, let us remember that Honest and Good Masons are never to be diminished; they deserve our friendship and hospitality whithersoever dispersed around the globe.

Note: A brotherly reminder to all Officers of CFS Daylight Lodge No. 866. Our DSI/OSI will take place on July 16. If you are unable to attend, please notify our 709th Masonic District Worshipful Inspector, Leland Celestre, PM, at (818) 317-8402 (no text messages, please).

Fraternally yours,

Bro. Roland Cortel

Senior Warden

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Greetings from the South

Brethren,

The Leadership Training Retreat has just concluded, and I am pleased to share that our lodge is well represented. The attending Brethren returned enriched with the knowledge and strengthened their commitment to the craft.

We extend a warm welcome to our newly raised Master Masons, Bro. Lagsa and Bro. Apao. Their conferral was well attended, with Brothers from various lodges and jurisdictions joining us in fellowship and ritual work. My heartfelt appreciation goes to our Lodge Brethren who were present and supported the work - your presence truly reflects a good Mason being true and honest to his obligations and duties.

To the brethren who have been asked to serve in the Officer's Line for the ensuing 2027 Masonic year, I encourage you to study and deliver your stations with excellence so that you may be fully qualified for the roles entrusted to you.

For the month of July, we will be conferring again on the Master Mason degree, and it will also serve as the qualification for the incoming Master of the ensuing Masonic year. I encourage each of you to make time to review the Grand Lodge of California iMember 2.0 resources and the California Cipher. These tools are invaluable in deepening our understanding of the Craft and strengthening our proficiency.

Suggestions for our July stated meeting refreshment are now open. Let's explore new and enjoyable options so we may partake together in good food and good fellowship.

Lastly, please be reminded of the Grand Master's Breakfast at the Hilton LAX on Sunday, July12, 2026 from 7:15AM to 11:00AM. All are welcome Petitioners, Entered Apprentice, Fellowcrafts, and Master Masons alike.

To our July celebrants, we extend our warmest birthday greetings. May peace and harmony prevail in our Lodge and may the Great Architect of the Universe guide us in all our undertakings. Thank you.

Fraternally yours,
WB Archimedes Cabanig, PM.
Junior Warden.

Bonus Article: The Pursuit of Happiness

Editor's note: The following first appeared in the July 2020 edition of this newsletter.

"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."

These are perhaps the most famous words of the Declaration of Independence, dated July 4, 1776, a day we celebrate annually (usually) with firecrackers, concerts, picnics, family, flag waiving and other effusive demonstrations of our patriotism.

So what is the pursuit of happiness? What did it mean to Thomas Jefferson who drafted the Declaration and to his contemporaries?

According to Professor Brent Strawn (see, https://news.emory.edu/stories/2014/06/er_pursuit_of_happiness/campus.html), "Arthur Schlesinger should be credited with pointing out in a nice little essay in 1964 that at the time of the Declaration's composition, 'the pursuit of happiness' did not mean chasing or seeking it, but actually practicing happiness, the experience of happiness not just chasing it but actually catching it, you might say. ... It's the difference between dreaming and reality. Remember that the pursuit of happiness, in the Declaration, is not a quest or a pastime, but 'an unalienable right.' Everyone has the right to actually be happy, not just try to be happy."

Wishing you and your families such happiness. Fraternally, David I. Karp, Ed.