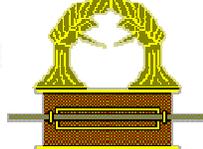




# THE WORKMAN



**Robert V. Wright, Jr., Grand High Priest**

**Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of California**

June 2012

Vol. IV, No. 1

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## GHP MESSAGE

Companions:

Thank you, companions, for your trust and confidence by electing me to serve you as your Grand High Priest for Capitular Year 2012-2013. I look forward to meeting all of you sometime during the year at visitations, receptions, award ceremonies, and so forth. You can find a brief biography of me at our website, but having served the Active Army Reserves for 15 years, and the Department of the Navy for the last 26 years, I am most happy to address you on this Memorial Day.

As I prepare this soon after Memorial Day, I would like to quote part of an article that appeared in the Wall Street Journal of May 26<sup>th</sup>, about the use of the Poppy as a tradition to remember our fallen soldiers. "Once upon a time, before Memorial Day inspired

thoughts of a weekday at the beach, it marked an opportunity to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of America. The poppy became a symbol of remembrance and gratitude for departed soldiers after World War I and the publication of the 1915 poem 'In Flanders Fields.'

Written by Canadian army officer and physician John McCrae after he had witnessed the horrific carnage at Ypres, the poem begins with the words, "In Flanders fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row."

It concludes with a message from the honored dead: 'To you from failing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die we shall not sleep, though poppies grow in Flanders fields.'

Nearly a bloody century later, Americans have infinitely more reasons to remember and to be thankful for all who have since died in the defense of liberty. "

My hope is that I can serve this Grand Chapter as well this year as our troops, living and dead, have served our country, indeed the world, for the last few decades. I have asked the editor of this newsletter to get it out by the last day of each month so that the dais officers in our local chapters will have it available to share at stated convocations. Best wishes for the remainder of 2012! Hope to see many of you at Comptche on June 23<sup>rd</sup> – if you plan to attend and/or bring candidates, please do not delay sending the registration document to Guy Chalmers. He

needs to know who will want to eat which meals, in order to purchase enough for the event on Friday night and Saturday. You may find the reg doc in the April Encompasser, or in the April and June RAMI Newsletters.

Remember to contribute to the DeBarrows Scholarship Fund.

Fraternally,

**Bob Wright, Grand High Priest**

### IN FLANDERS FIELD

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

### RAM INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

As you know, our Grand Chapter is associated with the General Grand Chapter RAM International. The General Grand Chapter is now publishing a newsletter with international scope. Issue number 8 for June of 2012 will soon be forwarded to local Chapter officers. Please share as appropriate with your companions. Under Grand Chapters on the left side of the Newsletter, check for California specific news. In the June edition, you will find copies of the flyers distributed at Grand Sessions for the upcoming 3-Way Receptions, if you need further info for those events.

Prior editions from March 2012 can also be found under the Library tab at the Research Chapter website: [www.goldenstatechapter.org](http://www.goldenstatechapter.org)

### FORTY FOR FORTY

Speaking of Festivals, each Chapter, especially those north of Fresno, should consider taking candidates to the beautiful outdoor setting near Mendocino, where Larry Tunzi allows the use of his ranch and amphitheater for conferral of the Chapter degrees. This year is especially significant, as this Festival at the ranch in Comptche (9 miles inland from Mendocino) is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> year! The theme is Forty For 40!! So if you have candidates for any or all of the Chapter Degrees, bring them to Comptche. Camping on the Ranch is at no cost! And there is a shack with men's and ladies' restrooms, and a co-ed shower. And of course a cook shack for preparation of the Friday night Fish Fry and the Saturday night Bar-be-Que. Nancy Hardiman will be planning a trip into Mendocino or Fort Bragg for shopping and lunch on Saturday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, while we confer degrees. See the latest edition of the Encompasser on the website for the registration flyer. **Delay no longer in sending this in, especially for your candidates, if you or they wish to eat!!!**

### WHAT OF MASONRY IN AMERICA?

**Prior to our own Revolution** when thirteen small Colonies were separated by such distances that it took a letter three weeks to travel from Boston to Georgia. There was no uniformity in the administration of those thirteen separate governments, or in their religious affiliations, or social standards. There were the merchant class of the North and the great land owners of the South. There were the Puritans, the Quakers, the Catholics, the Dutch, English, Scotch-Irish, Germans and French. All rivals and jealous of each other. There was no unity.

**Freemasonry alone, undertook to prepare a common foundation.** It spread throughout the Colonies among a prominent class of people. Contact between American Lodges became closer and closer each year, and any Mason traveling found a welcome in the Lodges he visited. There he met the best citizens who were glad to help him in both social and business ways. As a result a virtual social and economic aristocracy of Freemasonry was established in America on a national scale, with a feeling of American unity, without which American Liberty

would not have developed and without which there would have been no United States of America.

**Benjamin Franklin** (1706-1790) had been the first great American apostle of Freemasonry and had busied himself in organizing not only the Society but also a Colony wide Press with a strong Masonic influence. From 1750 to 1773 all the Masonic newspapers and Lodges were united in resisting the encroachment of the English Government. Americans remained faithful to English civilization, but they were fast becoming conscious of an inevitable national unity. Freemasonry, in the meantime, was still the only meeting ground for the exchange of view of the Colonies.

**Boston was the center of discontent in America.** Feeling ran high in the Puritan capital. The Merchants were angry with England because of restrictions imposed on their trade. All were ready to pay the price to get rid of English custom officials. It took but a spark to produce the conflagration.

**St. Andrew's Lodge**, while not the wealthiest Lodge of Boston, could well be termed the most active. It was headed by a famous surgeon, **Joseph Warren** (1741-1775), an intimate friend of Franklin and a man whose intellectual renown and political influence had spread throughout the Colonies. Here belonged Paul Revere and John Hancock. St. Andrew's Lodge held its meetings at a tavern called "The Green Dragon, or the Arms of Freemasonry". The Green Dragon also was the meeting place for others who damned the English and denounced the new tax which had just been imposed upon tea imported into the Colonies.

**On Thursday afternoon, December 16th, 1773**, the members of St. Andrew's Lodge proceeded to the Green Dragon for their regular communication, but the minutes show that they must have been busy elsewhere. Suddenly, out of the Tavern appeared a band of redskins strangely masked and shabbily clad. Rushing to the docks they boarded some sloops, proceeded to three English Merchantmen in the harbor, threw overboard 342 cases of tea; returned to the sloops; regained the docks, marched to the Green Dragon with song and hurray, and entered the Tavern. But, strangely, no redskins were thereafter reported to have left. History has never disproved that Joseph Warren was the host of the Boston Tea Party.

**Have you ever attempted to picture the assistance given by the Masonic order to the Colonial Army?** We scarcely need chronic condition; untrained country lads with short enlistments; a quartermaster corps that failed to supply clothes, food or guns; a militia that was never dependable. What was it that held this army together, that could turn it around after a long retreat through the Jerseys and march barefoot men through ice and snow to a Trenton midnight attack and give our country the best Christmas present it ever received? Nothing but the spirit of one man, **George Washington** (1732-1799), who had earned the confidence and worship of the entire army, himself a member of the Masonic Order since the age of twenty-one, and acquainted its colony-wide influence as "the cement which binds us together."

**Into this Colonial Army of Washington** came those famous Lodges of the Line. He visited them personally and in one Lodge, tradition (not fact) says he raised **Gilbert LaFayette** (1757-1834). Can we picture the scene, perhaps in a tent - the great drum in the center, covered with our flag, as an altar, three bayonets, disengaged and stuck in the ground, holding burning tapers in their sockets for the Lesser Lights?

**These ten or eleven Lodges of the Line served well in their stations and places.** They kept alive morale, they restored courage, they inspired hope. The indomitable spirit of Washington found its greatest ally in the Militant Masonry. May it not be that when, as President, he accepted the Mastership of Alexandria Lodge, he was making formal acknowledgment before the world of the debt the United States owed to Freemasonry?

**When Franklin was sent to Europe to seek the aid of France in the struggle against England**, on all sides the American Minister found a people filled with enthusiasm for his country, and kindly disposed toward him, but who adhered strictly to the policy of avoiding war. His cause seemed hopeless. However, the Colonies could not succeed without the help of France, and Franklin would not be denied. He surveyed the situation and concluded that Freemasonry was the means to attain his end. A new, brilliant and very influential Lodge had but recently been organized, the "Lodge of the Nine Sisters". Franklin joined this Lodge, and what he now accomplished was a stroke of genius.

**François-Marie Arouet de Voltaire** (1694-1778), was the hero of the French public. He had spent his whole life battling error and had won the acclaim of the nation. From Royalty to tavern waiters - they worshiped him. He was the realized idol of everyone of them; of all Frenchmen, the most French. It was in this Lodge of the Nine Sisters that Voltaire was initiated under the direction of Franklin. At the close of the initiation these two great men, overcome with emotion, embraced each other. This made such a profound impression that its story was on every tongue and wherever they appeared together they were requested to embrace again.

**Franklin became Master of the Lodge of the Nine Sisters** and was now in a position to use his skill. The native ingenuity of Franklin has never been surpassed. Soon the Lodge was spreading abroad slogans and epigrams to influence public opinion in favor of the Colonies, and, largely due to the influence of Masonry, France was induced to assist America. As they say, the rest is history!

Submitted by Nigel Gallimore

### GRAND CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS

For info about 2012 Scholarships, go to the following website:

<http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org/royalarch/rara.html>

**If you have the resources, please consider making a significant donation on behalf of our Masonic Youth. Send any excess cash (!) to the Grand Chapter Scholarship Program at 11428 E. Artesia Blvd, #13, Artesia, CA 90701-3872**

**Remember that all donations to the Scholarship Program are Tax Deductible, so keep this in mind as you plan your annual giving and when you pay your dues.**

### THE CLOTHES LINE

A line of Jackets for our York Rite bodies continues to be available at MP. ENTERPRISES. The price for red and blue is great -- \$75.00 plus tax and shipping, for sizes 34 to 49 in short, regular and tall; and

\$87.00 plus tax and shipping for sizes 50 to 60, also in short, regular, and tall. Purple Jackets are little more expensive at \$95.00 for the smaller and \$107.00 for the larger. Also available are Men's and ladies' vests, tuxedos and shirts, pins, patches, and flags, and OES T-Shirts. Contact Max Luy at (510) 527-5728, or cell: (510) 502-3224; or email at [maxluy@hotmail.com](mailto:maxluy@hotmail.com).

### ENCOMPASSER

The **April 2012** edition of the Encompasser is now available on the website. Go to <http://www.yorkriteofcalifornia.org> and click on The Encompasser on the left hand toolbar. You will there find copies of the registration documents for Grand Sessions as well as for the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Royal Arch Festival at Comptche.

**You can help us control cost by letting us know you are willing to take the Encompasser by email only.**

**Check out the new format available – you can now read the Encompasser online! No need to even print it out. Many thanks to our web-master, Excellent Companion Richard Thornton, for his efforts in applying this technology to our needs!**

### GOLDEN STATE RESEARCH CHAPTER

The latest meeting of the Research Chapter was held in Bakersfield on Wednesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, after the Grand Chapter Annual Convocation and the conferral of the Order of High Priesthood.

The website located at [www.goldenstatechapter.org](http://www.goldenstatechapter.org) now contains a copy of the 2010 and 2011 Grand Orations booklets. At the latest convocation, the Chapter approved the publication of the 2012 Grand Orations. This will also contain the paper delivered by our out-going High Priest, Richard Wilson, Inspector, and the Vesper Service and West Coast Easter Observance messages given by Tom Boles, the out-going Grand Prelate.

Peter Eiserloh was elected as King, and our Research Chapter web-master, Casey Latham from the High Desert, was elected King. Our Scribe, Dan Kaffka,

preferred to remain as Scribe. After a brief and failed attempt to encourage the out-going High Priest to move in as Secretary, Yours Truly was re-elected as Secretary, and Grand Secretary, Ken Hope, as Treasurer.

The next meeting will be at Grand Lodge on Friday night, during the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, at 5:00 p.m. outside the library. The new Grand Orations booklet should be available at that time.

For information about membership, contact:

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**GRAND HIGH PRIEST ITENERARY**

<b>JUNE</b>		
<b>14th</b>	3-Way Bellflower	Ken Hope 562-924-6500
<b>16th</b>	3-Way Oxnard	Fred Ervast 805-389-0787
<b>23rd</b>	Chapter Festival Comptche	Guy Chalmers 707-763-0741 707-477-3046
<b>27th</b>	3-Way San Jose	Bob McCain 510-476-6302
<b>JULY</b>		
<b>7th</b>	3-Way Victorville	Jim Baum 760-843-9258

<b>AUGUST</b>		
<b>3rd</b>	3-Way Fairfield	Randy Billingsley 707-344-1685 David Anderson 707-421-8054
<b>4th</b>	3-Way Alameda	Tony Yuson 925-709-0885
<b>5th</b>	3-Way South SF	Ted Lyau 415-337-1979

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 Website**  
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