



# IDAHO KNIGHTLY NEWS

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## Editor's Note

If anyone would like to submit an article for the Idaho Knightly News, please email me your article as a Microsoft Word document. Keep it between 1 page and 1.5 pages.

## Upcoming Events:

Colorado Grand York Rite..... Sep 10-12  
Wyoming Grand York Rite..... Sep 17-19  
Northwest Dept. Conference..... Oct 16-17

## Happy Fourth of July

By Barry E. Newell

Two hundred and fifty years ago, fifty-six courageous men affixed their names to the Declaration of Independence and pledged to one another "their Lives, their Fortunes and their sacred Honor." With that act, they announced to the world that liberty was not a privilege bestowed by kings, but a right endowed by God and safeguarded by the courage of free men.

As we commemorate America's Semiquincentennial, we rightly remember the soldiers who endured Valley Forge, the statesmen who crafted our Republic, and the citizens whose sacrifices secured the blessings of liberty for future generations. We should also remember the profound influence Freemasonry had upon the character of many of those who guided our nation through its birth.

The principles taught within the Lodge prepared many of its members for the extraordinary task of building a constitutional republic.

Many of the leading figures of the Revolution were Freemasons, including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere, John Hancock, and Marquis de Lafayette. These men shared an appreciation for the moral instruction, brotherhood, and commitment to honorable conduct fostered within the Craft.

Perhaps no Mason better exemplified these virtues than George Washington. Throughout the Revolutionary War, Washington repeatedly demonstrated restraint, humility, and unwavering devotion to constitutional government. When victory

had been secured, he voluntarily surrendered his military commission rather than seize power for himself; an act virtually unprecedented in history. In doing so, he proved that true greatness lies not in ruling others, but in faithful service to principle and country.

For those of us who wear the Templar Cross, Washington's example resonates deeply. The Masonic Orders of Knighthood teach that our obligations extend beyond ceremony. They call us to defend truth, practice charity, protect the innocent, and live lives worthy of the Christian profession we publicly affirm. While our modern Templar Orders were centralized after the founding of the Republic, they preserve timeless virtues that animated many of America's earliest patriots.

The Declaration of Independence reminds us that rights originate not from governments, but from the Creator. The Constitution demonstrates that liberty survives only when restrained by law, virtue, and an informed citizenry. Freemasonry reinforces these same truths by reminding each Mason that before he can improve society, he must first improve himself. Strong communities are built by upright men, and upright men are formed through moral discipline, personal integrity, and unwavering faith.

As Sir Knights, we inherit a rich legacy of Christian chivalry. The medieval knight pledged himself to defend the faith and protect those entrusted to his care. Today, our battlefield is different, but our duty remains. We defend truth against falsehood, civility against discord, faith against indifference, and liberty against apathy. We do so not with sword or shield, but through

our example, our service, and our steadfast commitment to God and country.

The 250th anniversary of the United States is therefore more than a historical milestone. It is an opportunity for reflection. We should ask ourselves whether we are preserving the constitutional freedoms entrusted to us, strengthening our communities through virtuous leadership, and leaving future generations a nation worthy of the sacrifices made by those who came before us.

May this anniversary inspire every Mason, every Sir Knight, to renew his dedication to the timeless principles of faith, honor, liberty, and service. If we remain faithful to those ideals, we will continue to prove that the true strength of America has never rested merely in its wealth or power, but in the character of its people.

May God continue to bless the United States of America, and may He strengthen us to be faithful stewards of the precious inheritance entrusted to our care.

