



News and events from the organizations that meet at Suburban Lodge #740.

From the East:

Family Night!



By Hank Buckwalter
Worshipful Master

Greetings Brothers! It's me again, the Worshipful Master. I'm sure many of you are probably getting tired of me by now, or maybe "had your fill." Sometimes it's challenging to discern, given that there isn't a Google Review option readily available. I do write that in jest, but the mission persists, and the message continues to endure. With that said, I'd like to give my opinion on our Family Nights. So far this year we have had some great times, meals, and memories. We are able to gather together and enjoy the company of our Brothers, their families, our widows, and those prospective men who are interested in the oldest, largest, and greatest Fraternity on the Globe. These moments that we spend together not only encourage our connection, but also solidify our commitment to our families and the interactions that we hold dear and important. We make sure that it is an enjoyable experience for all, and we are blessed that we are THE Fraternity that always makes sure we invite, embrace, and support our widows.

I more than appreciate and enjoy the opportunity to be a part of such experiences. The assistance of our

Widows Committee, the Refreshment Committee, and the Brothers that enable us to execute these evenings is more than celebrated and recognized. From the Brothers who make sure that our widows and members are notified of these gatherings, to the Social Club and Fish Fry that supports the occasion (both financially and directly), to the Brothers that help us prepare, serve, and clean up after these meals. I, and the Lodge, highly and sincerely regard and acknowledge your efforts.

These Family Nights are dear to all of us and Suburban 740 will continue to facilitate and enjoy the time that we are able to spend together with our families, our widows, and believe it or not... each other (there's that jest again). It truly is an example of how we can all work together to achieve a common goal, honor our obligations, and ensure that we are doing what we can do to have a good time. Our beehive is alive and well, and it is quite obvious during our Fish Fry, the labors of the Lodge, and our Family Nights.

Fraternally Thine,
Henry "Hank" Buckwalter
Worshipful Master, 2024 ♦



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Suburban Lodge #740 Free & Accepted Masons
3901 South 3rd Street, Louisville, KY 40214
Hank Buckwalter, Master • Tom Mercer, Secretary



Masonic Affiliations of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence



Chris King
Junior Deacon

The Declaration of Independence marked the birth of the United States as a sovereign nation. It is a remarkable document that became the philosophical foundation for American independence

and one of the most influential political statements in history.

On June 11, 1776, the Continental Congress appointed a five-man committee to draft a declaration explaining the colonies' decision to break from Great Britain. This Committee of Five included Thomas Jefferson (Virginia) – Principal author, John Adams (Massachusetts), Benjamin Franklin (Pennsylvania), Roger Sherman (Connecticut) and Robert R. Livingston (New York).

The Continental Congress debated and edited the document between July 1 and July 4, 1776. Some passages—particularly a strong condemnation of the slave trade—were removed or softened during this process. On

July 4, 1776, Congress officially adopted the Declaration of Independence, though most of the signers added their names on August 2, 1776.

Of the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence, the following were known to be members of a Masonic lodge:

Benjamin Franklin –member of St. John's Lodge, Tun Tavern, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Past Provincial Grand Master of Pennsylvania.

Elbridge Gerry - member of Philanthropic Lodge, Marblehead, Massachusetts.

John Hancock - made a Master Mason, at the age of 23, in 1760, in Merchants Lodge No. 1, Quebec City, the first civilian Lodge established in Canada after the Conquest. In 1763, he went to Boston, Massachusetts, where he affiliated with St. Andrew's Lodge.

William Hooper - member of Hanover Lodge, Masonborough, North Carolina.

Richard Stockton - charter member, and first Master of St. John's Lodge, Princeton, New Jersey.

Matthew Thornton - made a Mason in a Lodge attached to a British Regiment of Foot during the Siege of Louisburg, Canada, in 1745, serving in a New Hampshire Colonial Regiment as a surgeon. Baron Von Steuben, while at Valley Forge, is said to have conferred the higher Degrees on him and to have been the only Signer who attained the 32nd Degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite.

George Walton - member of Solomons Lodge No. 1, Savannah, Georgia.

William Whipple - member of St. Johns Lodge No. 1, Portsmouth, New Jersey.

The following named Signers have been referred to as members of the Fraternity by various Masonic writers, and in Masonic publications, but their Lodge affiliation is not known:

Roger Sherman - claimed to have been made a Mason prior to the American Revolution. A Masonic Apron said to be worn by him is in the collection at Yale University.

Josiah Bartlett - is listed as a charter member of King Solomon's Lodge, Charlestown, Massachusetts but his descendants deny he was a Mason and records of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts do not show his Lodge affiliation.

Philip Livingston - often referred to as a Mason, but records of the Grand Lodge of New York do not disclose his name.

Joseph Hewes - Records of Unanimity Lodge No. 7, Edenton, North Carolina, show his name as a visitor on St. John's Day, December, 1776.

Robert Treat Paine – said to be a member of a Massachusetts Lodge, but records of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts do not show his affiliation.

Thomas McKean - noted as a frequent visitor to Perseverance Lodge No. 21, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. His family genealogy has stated he was a Mason, but his name is not found on the records of the Grand Lodge of Delaware.

John Penn - known to have attended Lodges in North Carolina, but his Masonic affiliation is not known.

Lyman Hall - claimed to have been a member of Solomons Lodge No. 1, Savannah, Georgia.

William Ellery - claimed as a member of a Lodge in Boston, Massachusetts.

Thomas Nelson, Jr. - claimed to have visited Lodge No. 9, Yorktown, Virginia, after the Siege of that place was lifted in the Revolutionary War, accompanied by Lafayette and Washington.

All Masons will recognize the Declaration's most quoted lines, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..." but relatively few will recognize much of the rest of it. If you've never read the Declaration, I invite you to [click here](#) to visit one of our most vital founding documents in its entirety. ♦

References: Fleischer, T. (2017), Masonic Affiliation of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence [Article]. <https://saladolodge296.com/masonic-affiliation-of-the-signers-of-the-declaration-of-independence/>

2025 Suburban Lodge

Important Dates to Remember

EVENTS	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Officer Bakesale	9/20	10:00am	Suburban Lodge
Past Master's Night	10/30	6:30pm	Suburban Lodge
Elections/St. John's Day	12/27	7:30pm	Suburban Lodge
Installation	TBD	TBD	Suburban Lodge

Note: Dates and times may change. More will be added in future newsletters.

He Wore the Apron: Pres. George Washington



George Washington joined the Masonic Lodge in Fredericksburg, Virginia, at the age of twenty in 1752. During the War for Independence, General Washington attended Masonic celebrations and religious observances in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He also supported Masonic lodges that formed within army regiments.

At his first inauguration in 1791, President Washington took his oath of office on a Bible from St. John's Lodge in New York. During his two terms, he received Masonic delegations from several states, and participated over the cornerstone-laying ceremony for the U.S. Capitol in 1793.

In retirement, Washington became charter Master of the newly chartered Alexandria Lodge #22, sat for a portrait in his Masonic regalia, and in death, was buried with Masonic honors. ✧

Source: gwmemorial.org/pages/george-washington-the-mason.

AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 	5	6	7 	8	9 
10	11 	12 	13	14	15	16 
17	18 	19	20	21 	22	23 
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 	5	6 
7	8 	9 	10	11	12	13 
14	15 	16	17	18 	19	20 
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 	3	4 
5	6 	7 	8	9	10	11 
12	13	14	15	16 	17	18 
19	20 	21	22	23	24	25 
26	27	28	29	30	31	

-  Lodge Meeting 7:30pm
-  Hall Association 5:30pm
-  Social Club 7:00pm

-  Fish Fry 10:00am-5:00pm
-  DeMolay 7:00pm

From the Desk of the Secretary :

2025 Masonic Funeral Services



G. Thomas "Tom" Mercer
PM (2014), Secretary

Since the beginning of 2025, Master Henry L. "Hank" Buckwalter thus far has called meetings for Masonic Funeral Services for five of our Brothers who have laid down the working tools of their busy lives and entered that Celestial Lodge above. It has been my honor, and the honor of their Brothers at Suburban Lodge No. 740, Free and Accepted Masons, to confer and preside over those services.

John Cooper Hurst (April 23, 1943 - February 17, 2025)

A Masonic Funeral Service was held for Brother John Cooper Hurst on Friday, February 21, 2025, at Schoppenhorst, Underwood & Brooks Funeral Home in Shepherdsville, Kentucky. He is sadly missed by his wife, Becky, his daughters, Jeannine and Emily, other family members, and many friends.

Paul Herman Stevens (January 24, 1928 - March 5, 2025)

A Masonic Funeral Service was held for Brother Paul Herman Stevens on Friday, March 7, 2025, at Owens Funeral Home, 5317 Dixie Highway, Louisville, Kentucky. He is sadly missed by his children, Pamela and Paul, Jr., other family members, and many friends.

John Dee Eaves (April 4, 1943 - February 17, 2025)

A Masonic Funeral Service was held for Brother John Dee Eaves on Sunday, May 11, 2025, at Ratterman Brothers Funeral Home, 12900 Shelbyville Road in Louisville, Kentucky. He is sadly missed by his wife, Sharon, his daughters, Tonya and Tina, other family members, and many friends.

Patrick Russell Elbert (December 11, 1998 - May 26, 2025)

A Masonic Funeral Service was held for Brother Patrick Russell Elbert on Sunday, June 1, 2025, at Legacy Funeral Center – Scott Chapel in Jeffersonville, Indiana. He is sadly missed by his father, Brother Jon Elbert, a Past Master of Suburban Lodge, his mother, Amanda, his sisters, Miranda and Kara, other family members, and many friends.

James Melvin Casteel (October 24, 1933 - July 3, 2025)

A Masonic Funeral Service was held for Brother James Melvin Casteel on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at Newcomer Funeral Home, 10304 Dixie Highway, Louisville, Kentucky. He is sadly missed by his surviving children, daughters Mary and Barbara, other family members, and many friends. ♦



Soft and safe to you, my Brothers, be thy mortal bed—bright and beautiful by thy rising from it. With fragrance eternal, may the sprig of acacia there flourish; may the earliest buds of spring unfold their beauties above thy resting place, and there may the sweetness of the summer's last rose linger longest.

Although the cold blasts of autumn may lay them in the dust and, for a time, destroy their loveliness, yet their fading is not final, and in the springtime they will surely bloom again.

Just so, my Brothers, in the bright morning of the world's resurrection, your mortal frames, now laid in the dust, shall again spring into newness of life and expand in immortal beauty in realms beyond the skies.

Until then, my Brothers, until then, farewell.

The Empty Chair

*A tribute to our brother
Whose memory we revere
One day you're here among us
The next, no longer here.*

*Yes you left us so quickly
In the blinking of an eye
Leaving those who are grieving
To stop and wonder why.*

*Now your lodge chair is empty
Your working tools laid down
But we know in our hearts
That some peace you have found.*

*So rest easy, my brother
In this "mortal bed"
This is not an ending, but
A new beginning instead.*

C. D. Cox #740

