

The George Washington National Masonic Memorial

Article by W.Bro. Rob Lund

On a short vacation to North Carolina in 2010, my wife and I stopped over in Washington D.C. We managed to see some of the major landmarks before night fall: the Lincoln Memorial on the one side, the Capitol building on the other, the White House on another side, and the giant obelisk in the centre. The next morning, with time pressing us to move on to our destination, we went to the George Washington National Masonic Memorial. This is an impressive building, not only for its looks and content, but the whole idea of a Masonic memorial impressed me.



We managed to get a guided tour of the building. As can be seen from the picture alongside, it is a multi-storied structure.

The entrance leads to the impressive second floor Memorial Hall, with a bronze statue of Washington on the far side, and eight magnificent green granite columns. Behind the columns, on each side, are two huge murals: the one on the south wall depicting Washington in Masonic Regalia laying the cornerstone of the Capitol. On the same floor is a replica Lodge Room, two other Lodge rooms, a theatre, and gift shop.



We did not see the ground floor, which houses a banquet hall, an exhibit on Freemasonry, and a Shrine exhibit.

Going up the tower, we came to a museum, showing many Masonic artifacts, related to Washington. There is a library, which we didn't see.

Further up the tower, there is a Royal Arch Chapter room,

beautifully decorated.

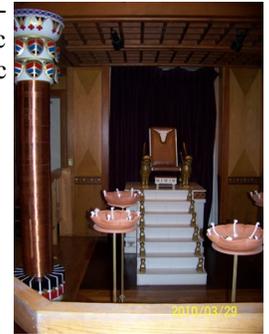
We were not able to visit the Library.

Then, going even further up the tower, there is a chapel room for



the Knights Templar. Small but impressive, especially the stained glass window.

The top floor is sponsored by the Tall Cedars of Lebanon, a social and philanthropic Masonic order.



At the top of the tower is a lookout platform with a sweeping view of Washington.

If you're ever in the

city, don't miss a visit.

