



GRAND LODGE  
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA MASONIC MEMORIAL TEMPLE  
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GRAND MASTER'S PROCLAMATION  
**OCTOBER 2020 IS FIRST RESPONDERS MONTH**

*California Masonry: Rooted in the Gold Country, Forged in Ideals*

**Whereas** more than 4.6 million people in the United States work as professional or volunteer firefighters, police, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics; and

**Whereas** those men and women embody the values of sacrifice and bravery, often putting their lives in danger in support of those they don't even know; and

**Whereas** October 28 is now recognized by the U.S. government as National First Responders Day; and

**Whereas** these first responders are deserving of our thanks and recognition;

**As grand master, I therefore proclaim October 2020 to be First Responders Month in California.**

Each year, first responders help ensure the safety of our communities and neighbors. Nationally, firefighters are responding every 24 seconds to a call for distress; more than 100 a year die in the line of duty. Emergency medical service workers help some 22 million people per year, and more than 240 million calls for help are made each year to 911. In recognition of these men and women's enormous sacrifice, I call on California Masons to celebrate their service this month either by arranging events in lodge to pay thanks to local first responders or by volunteering their time and funds to give back to first responders in their community. Masons are committed to improving their communities and the world. By honoring those who take on an outside role in caring for our communities, we help to fulfill that obligation.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Attest:

John E. Trauner  
Grand Master

Allan L. Casalou  
Grand Secretary