

# Benjamin Franklin

1706 - 1790

*Bro. Benjamin Franklin was the city of Philadelphia's greatest citizen of all time: printer, writer, artist, publisher, philosopher, scientist, inventor, soldier, diplomat, abolitionist, founder of a half-dozen Philadelphia institutions, influencer of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, and more.*

Benjamin Franklin was one of the most practical, prudent, dynamic and influential men of his time. He left more than a legacy; he left a litany of legacies that more than two centuries later continue to benefit mankind and are destined to serve for posterity. Accordingly, "Franklin Legacy Society" is the appropriate name today for those persons whose caring will craft legacies for generations to come.

At 17, Ben left a printing apprenticeship in Boston and started his printing business in Philadelphia, published "The Pennsylvania Gazette" and gained recognition with his "Poor Richard's Almanack."

During the early years of his career, he organized a literary club that evolved into the American Philosophical Society, laid foundations for what became the Philadelphia Library, initiated the first formal fire company, was instrumental in improving the lighting of city streets, invented the Franklin stove and flew his famous kite. In 1748, he sold his business and turned to public life.

In public affairs at home and abroad, he forged lasting relationships, influenced decisions and acted to shape the future. He was Pennsylvania's delegate to the Albany Congress in 1754 and then he worked in England for five years relative to the enforcement of taxes in Pennsylvania. In 1766, the House of Commons summoned him to England to explain colonial opposition to the Stamp Tax.

When war was inevitable in 1775, he returned to Philadelphia where, in due course, he served as a member of the second Continental Congress, was on the committee to draft the Declaration of Independence and was one of its signers. He helped to negotiate a treaty with France and was sent to negotiate peace with Great Britain.

About a month after his 25th birthday, Franklin became a Mason, joining St. John's Lodge which met at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia. By the next year, he had drafted the lodge's bylaws and was elected Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He then served his first term as the Grand Master in 1734, the same year that he published Anderson's "The Constitution of the Free-Masons", the first Masonic book printed in America.

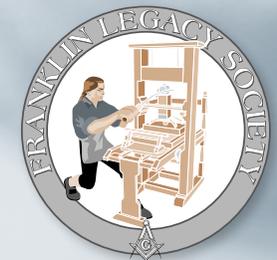
He was appointed Provincial Grand Master in 1749; then, in organizational changes a year later, he was appointed Deputy Grand Master. He served on a committee to build the first Masonic building constructed in America, the "Free-Mason's Lodge" in Philadelphia, and took a prominent part in its dedication in 1755. In 1760, he was named Provincial Grand Master of Philadelphia.

As he traveled frequently on diplomatic missions, Franklin visited lodges in England, Scotland and France. He became active with lodges in France: serving two years as Master of the Lodge of the Nine Sisters, as honorary Master of the Respectable Lodge de Saint Jean de Jerusalem, and as an honorary member of the Loges des Bon Amis of Rouen.



# FRANKLIN LEGACY SOCIETY

A Society of Visionaries Whose Benevolence Ensures the Continuation of the Missions of the Masonic Charities



**THE MASONIC CHARITIES**  
OF THE R.W. GRAND LODGE  
F. & A.M. OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF GIFT PLANNING  
MASONIC CHARITIES  
ONE MASONIC DRIVE  
ELIZABETHTOWN PA 17022

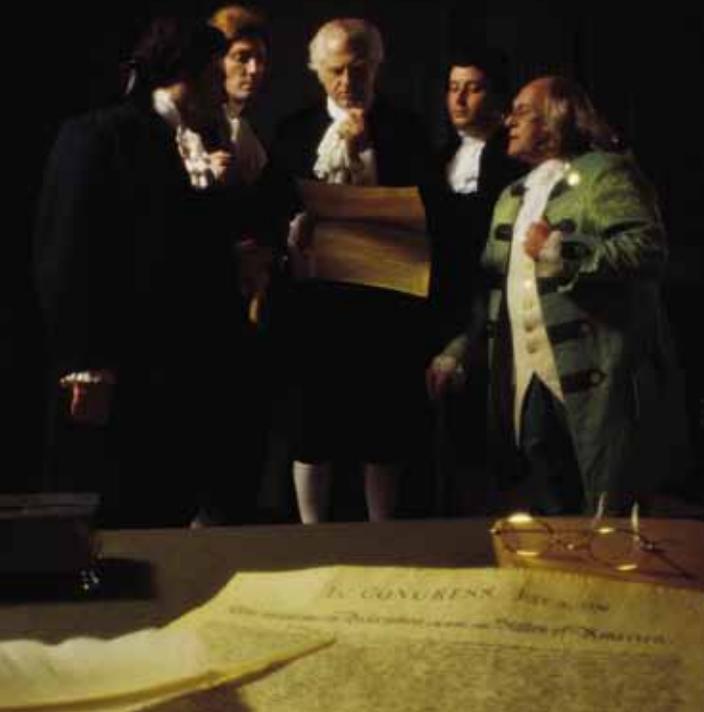
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The Franklin Legacy Society recognizes and honors persons of vision and foresight who have taken the initiative to strengthen and enhance the good works of one or more of the Masonic Charities of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, including the Masonic Villages, Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation, The Masonic Temple-Library and Museum of Pennsylvania and Masonic Charities Fund, through their estate plans.

The Masonic Charities are the means whereby the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania carries out its rich tradition of caring for those in need within the Fraternity and throughout the world. Through their benevolence, members of the society are helping to ensure that the vital missions of the Masonic Charities will be available for the benefit of future generations.

*“Doing nothing for others is the undoing of ourselves.”*

*-Bro. Benjamin Franklin*



### Who is Eligible for Membership?

Membership in the **Franklin Legacy Society** is open to anyone who has included a gift provision in any amount for one or more of the Masonic Charities in their will, revocable trust, life insurance policy or retirement plan. Also eligible, are persons who have entered into a planned gift arrangement, such as a life estate, charitable gift annuity, pooled income fund, charitable remainder trust or charitable lead trust, with a Masonic charity.

### We would like to say “Thank You”

Members of the **Franklin Legacy Society** are recognized in the following ways:

- ◆ Invitation to special events
- ◆ Recognition on a special donor wall \*
- ◆ Recognition in The Annual Report for the Masonic Charities \*
- ◆ Recognition with the Society’s distinctive lapel pin and book clock, which depicts Bro. Benjamin Franklin at work at his printing press

\* NOTE: Persons who wish, may remain anonymous while participating in the activities of the **Franklin Legacy Society**.



The official registration and financial information for any of the Masonic Charities can be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, (800) 732-0999. Out-of-State residents may contact the Gift Planning Office at 1-800-599-6454 for registration information in their particular state. Registration does not imply endorsement.

### How May I Become a Member?

If you have already provided for one or more of the Masonic Charities in your financial plans as outlined in this brochure, you qualify for membership in the **Franklin Legacy Society**. Complete and return the attached coupon to the Office of Gift Planning or telephone us toll-free at 1-800-599-6454. We will then forward you a short membership form for completion.

If you are considering providing for one or more of the Masonic Charities in your estate plans or through a planned gift, and if you are interested in membership in the Society, the staff of the Office of Gift Planning looks forward to assisting you and your advisors in complete confidence and, of course, at no obligation to you. There can be significant tax benefits to proper charitable estate planning.



*The Masonic Charities  
of the  
R.W. Grand Lodge  
F. & A. M. of Pennsylvania*

*Office of Gift Planning  
Masonic Charities*

*One Masonic Drive  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022-2199*

**1-800-599-6454**

*email: [giving@pagrandlodge.org](mailto:giving@pagrandlodge.org)  
Website: [pagrandlodge.org/giving](http://pagrandlodge.org/giving)*

### You Are Invited

...to share in the vision for the future of the Masonic Charities of the R.W. Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Pennsylvania by becoming a member of the...

### Franklin Legacy Society

- I/We have included a provision for one or more of the Masonic Charities of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in my/our estate plan(s) or through a planned gift. Please send me/us a membership form.
- I/We am/are considering a provision for a Masonic Charity and membership in the Franklin Legacy Society. Please contact me/us to discuss.

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