

# The George Washington Gavel

A National Treasure

Coming to Ocala March 24-25, 2017



## A brief history of the gavel

At 10:00 a.m. on September 18, 1793 the President of the United States, George Washington, and his entourage crossed the Potomac River to arrive in the city of Washington. There they were joined by an escort consisting of the Alexandria Volunteer Artillery and members of Masonic Lodges from Virginia and Maryland, and proceeded to the construction grounds approximately 1.5 miles away. At the site of the Capitol, Washington was received by the Grand Master of Masons of Maryland Joseph Clark. A silver plaque fashioned by Georgetown silversmith Caleb Bentley was handed to Washington who stepped into the foundation trench and placed the plaque, whereupon the cornerstone was lowered. The plaque was inscribed with a brief tribute to the "military valor and prudence" of Washington, and dedicated the building in the "*first year, of the second term, of the presidency of George Washington ... and in the year of Masonry 5793.*"

Washington, accompanied by three Worshipful Masters carrying corn, wine, and oil, then struck the stone three times with the gavel, as prescribed by Masonic custom. Washington exited the trench to cheers by the assembled Masons and a 15-gun salute (one gun for each U.S. States) from the Alexandria Volunteer Artillery. Clark then delivered a short invocation, after which a 500 pound ox was slaughtered and roasted.

The venue in Ocala and Schedule, are to be determined

For more information please visit [www.fldistrict15.org](http://www.fldistrict15.org)

Call the 15th Masonic District of Florida GW Gavel Committee Chairman Glen Garner 305-775-1254

Or email: [gwgavel@gmail.com](mailto:gwgavel@gmail.com)