

Mendocino, California
June 18th, 2022

Mendocino Masons Open Lodge to Rare Public View on July 4th to Celebrate Masonic Declaration of Independence Signers

When: Monday, July 4th, 2022, 11:00AM-2:00PM

Where: Mendocino Masonic Lodge Building, northwest corner of Lansing and Ukiah Streets, Mendocino

Freemasonry's leadership in the American Revolution will be celebrated on Monday, July 4th when Mendocino Masonic Lodge #179 holds its Ninth Annual Community Open House to commemorate their nine Masonic Brothers who signed the Declaration of Independence, on July 4, 1776.

The Event

The Lodge will open its historic 1865 Lodge Room upstairs to the public for a **rare, once-a-year, guided tours**, providing presentations on Freemasonry by Masters of the Lodge. Displays and Brothers will be available to speak to you throughout.

The event will be held from **11:00 a.m. through to 2:00 p.m.** at the Mendocino Masonic Lodge Building, located at the northwest corner of Lansing and Ukiah Streets, in Mendocino, on land donated by Worshipful Master William Heeser, a community leader in Mendocino in the 1860's.

This July 4th, 2022, the Mendocino Masonic Lodge will provide visitors, and residents alike, a rare opportunity to peek inside one of Mendocino County's oldest and most historic buildings, as well as learn from knowledgeable speakers who these brave men were, their backgrounds and their international fraternal organization that contributed so much to America's creation in 1776.

About Mendocino Masonic Lodge #179

The Mendocino Masonic Lodge #179 is one of the oldest continuously operating Masonic Lodges in California, one of the oldest philanthropies in Mendocino County, and one of the oldest continuously occupied buildings in the County of Mendocino. Founded in March 1865, its organizers were Freemasons who had moved to California from northern East Coast Masonic Lodges. Among original members were leaders of Mendocino, including Worshipful Master William Heeser, who was a storeowner, a newspaper

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publisher, and banker. Heeser donated the land on which the Lodge is now located. The current Mendocino Lodge now consolidates with the former Masonic Lodges of Fort Bragg and Pt. Arena.

The Mendocino landmark building is easily recognizable because of the single piece, outsized, redwood statue on the roof representing a scene of secret Masonic ritual. Currently a financial institution now occupies the bottom floor of the building, with the Lodge Room occupying the second floor, up stairs behind the back of the building overlooking the back parking lot.

“Two hundred and forty-three years ago, fifty-six brave colonists met in Philadelphia to risk their *‘lives, fortunes and sacred honors’* so that you and I can live in the freedom, liberty and independence we enjoy in America today,” says Master Mason Robert Scott. “What is less known is that nine of these courageous men, including the President of the Continental Congress, were members of the world’s oldest, and largest, worldwide fraternity – the Freemasons. The values of Masons then - individual worth, education and liberty - are the same as Masons today.”

“Recent movie hits, television specials and best selling books have focused on the Freemasons, and their role in the creation of the world’s greatest democracy — the United States of America,” continues Scott.

“These nine Masonic signers, along with others, who led our nation on the road toward freedom, independence and liberty, were merchants, printers, lawyers and other people in business who were mostly college educated,” Scott added. “Geographically diverse, they came from as far apart as the colony of New Hampshire in the north, to the colony of Georgia in the south, as well as colonies in between.”