

Laus Deo

The Washington Monument is of course, dedicated to our First President and the Mason whose picture is right outside our lodgeroom doors. I believe Brother George would be proud of his monumental legacy.

One detail that is not mentioned, in DC, there can never be a building of greater height than the Washington Monument. On the top of the monument, 555ft high, facing skyward to the Father of our nation, overlooking 69 square miles of DC, is an aluminum cap. Inscribed on this cap are two Latin words, "Laus Deo." Out of sight and, one might think, out of mind, but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the most successful nation in the world.

From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure, visitors may take in the beautiful panoramic view of the capitol, with its division into four major segments. The first thing you see is a perfect cross imposed upon the landscape. The White House is to the north, the Jefferson Memorial is to the South, the Lincoln Memorial to the West, and yes brothers, our nation is guided by the Capitol of our country, in the East.

Why a cross? What about separation of church and state? Separation of church and state was not and is not, in the Constitution. Let's take an imaginary walk. As one climbs the 898 steps and 50 landings inside, the memorial stones share a message. On the 12th landing is a prayer offered by the city of Baltimore; on the 20th a memorial by some Chinese Christians; on the 24th a presentation made by Sunday School children from New York and Philly. At the top is Laus Deo, you can't see it, it's not ment for us. It is directed towards the heavens. Laus Deo, or "Praise Be God."

On July 4th, 1848 the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid. Deposited within, a Holy Bible, Praise be God. Such was the discipline, the moral direction, and spiritual mood given by the founder, and first president, Brother George

Washington.

When one stops to observe the inscriptions found in public places all over our nation's capitol, he or she will easily find the signature of God. It is unmistakably inscribed everywhere you look.

Do you wonder why other nation fall into an abyss, while the United States continually prospers? The truth is, despite what you might sometimes hear, we have always been one nation, under God. And why was these symbols placed this way? Perhaps the brothers believed what they read in that Bible laid in that cornerstone. "Unless the Lord builds the house its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain." (Psalm 127:1) So mote it be.