



**GRAND LODGE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF CALIFORNIA**

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**GRAND MASTER
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**GRAND MASTER'S PROCLAMATION
AUGUST 2024 IS FIRST RESPONDERS MONTH**

Sharing the Light of Freemasonry

Whereas California Masons strive to serve as pillars of society and to recognize, support, and uplift the people and institutions on which our communities rely; and

Whereas our state continues to grapple with crises on multiple fronts, including historic wildfires, a deadly drug epidemic; and the ongoing effects of the pandemic; and

Whereas we all rely on the skill and bravery of more than 4.6 million professional and volunteer firefighters, police, EMTs, and paramedics whose jobs it is to keep us safe;

As grand master, I therefore proclaim August 2024 to be First Responders Month.

California Masons understand what it means to take an obligation in support of others. First responders, including firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, police, and public safety officers take one of the most sacred and challenging obligations of all. For that we all owe them a debt of gratitude, and one that California Masons are eager to recognize. Our communities rely on first responders to serve on the frontline of many of the most challenging and dangerous problems we face as a society.

During this month, I encourage California lodges to honor the efforts of their local first responders and to thank these important members of our community as they see fit—whether through a donation, volunteering, or other lodge recognition. I also urge California lodges to consider ways they can be of service to their communities in times of need, either by becoming certified through the Masonic Emergency Response Team program, by offering their lodge halls as emergency shelters, or by other means. As California Masons aim to share the light of Freemasonry with the community around them, it is important we acknowledge the people around us on whom we all rely.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Attest:

Grand Master G. Sean Metroka

Grand Secretary Allan L. Casalou