

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio

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GRAND SECRETARY



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Grand Secretary's Newsletter

December 4, 2015

Memo Describes Code Changes

Legislation approved by delegates at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in October has resulted in changes to the Grand Lodge Code.

So Codes can be updated, three copies of the "Memo 2015" have been mailed to the Lodge for the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens. Additional copies may be purchased from the Grand Lodge Office.

Grand Lodge to Hold State-wide Raffle

At the 2014 Annual Communication, delegates voted to remove all restrictions pertaining to "Lotteries, Raffles, or Games of Chance" from the Grand Lodge Code.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio will soon be offering a state-wide raffle on a Henry Repeating Arms Freemason Tribute Rifle. (See attached flyer information.)

While this Masonic tribute rifle is available from any registered firearms dealer, you will be able to purchase a chance on winning this beautiful rifle for \$20.00. Only 500 chances will be sold.

100% of the revenue will go to the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation, an IRS designated 501(c)3 organization.

Submit Your Lodge Election Results!

Please make the update entries for your Lodge election results in MORI by performing the creation of a "Certificate Of Election". Note: When you enter the Lodge Officers, it will be for the year 2016!

In the event the Lodge elects a new Secretary for 2016, the current, i.e. 2015 Lodge Secretary, must make this entry to MORI.

We publish and distribute the annual Grand Lodge of Ohio Masonic Directory from this information you enter into MORI. The sooner you enter this information, the sooner we can get the 2016 Directory created and emailed to you. Please ensure the contact information is correct, including the email address.

For information and instructions on how to make this entry, please refer to page 7 in the Secretary's Manual.

Grand Master Rill has requested this information be entered not less than 48 hours following your Annual Meeting.

Note to NEW Lodge Secretaries:

- Don't forget to create a MORI account in MORI!
- Reference the Lodge Secretary's Manual from our website
- Add your Assistant Secretaries (if needed)

Lodge Forms on the Grand Lodge Website

At the bottom of the home page on www.freemason.com you will see *RESOURCES* and *DOCUMENT LIBRARY*. Select *DOCUMENT LIBRARY* as this is where all the Grand Lodge Forms are located. Note the *Lodge Secretary's Manual*. You might find this a most helpful reference manual for processing Lodge membership related tasks and the companion step-by-step processes for performing those appropriate tasks in MORI.

2016 Inspection Forms can also be found here.

Periodically Check for the Latest Order Form From the Grand Lodge Website

The current revision of the Secretary's Supply Order Form is found on the Grand Lodge website at:

<http://www.freemason.com/secretary-items>

Please make certain you are using the most recent version (currently: 11/1/2015) of the order form when placing your supplies order.

Grand Lodge Office Accepting Credit Card Form of Payment

The G.L. Office has the capability to accept American Express, MasterCard or Visa as a form of payment for your administrative orders.

Office Staff have been instructed how to accept your credit card payment. You will have to simply provide your card-related information at the time of your order.

Service Award Policy

When MORI prints your Service Award Eligibility form it lists all members of your Lodge who are eligible for their award regardless if he is a Plural or Primary member.

An individual should only receive his Service Award one time, and that should be from his Primary, home Lodge. He should not receive a Service Award from his Plural Lodges where he holds membership.

When receiving your order form, the Grand Lodge Office has no way of knowing if the named recipient is a Primary or Plural member of your Lodge. Only you, the Lodge Secretary, knows your Plural Members.

When submitting your Service Award Order Form mark-out or do not order a certificate and pin for your Plural members. Only order for your Primary members.

When submitting your order for the Lodge's Service Awards using the Service Award Order sheet, please make certain to enter a presentation date. This is so we will know the timeframe needed to process your order and get the requested awards back to you in ample time prior to the scheduled presentation date.

Please allow 2 weeks for processing Service Award orders. It is too difficult to try and guarantee delivery for shorter time frames.

Service Awards: 25, 35, and 40 Year Pins

Like the traditional 25-year pin, the 35 and 40-year pins, made available for the first time five years ago, are in stock. These 35 and 40-year service awards are available for your purchase at a price of \$5.00 each.

Also, now available, for that Mason who also was an Eagle Scout, is an attractive Mason/Eagle Scout lapel pin. This emblem is also available at the low cost of \$5.00.

Grand Master's Receptions in Florida

Grand Master Rill has planned three visitations in Florida during the month of January. The visitation schedule is:

- Sunday, January, 17, 2016; 12:00 p.m.
—The Villages: Eisenhower Recreation Center 3560 Buena Vista Blvd., The Villages, FL 32163. \$6.00 each
- Monday, January, 18, 2016; 12:00 p.m.
—Sarasota/Bradenton: Peridia Golf and Country Club, 4950 Peridia Blvd. E., Bradenton, FL. 34203. \$6.00 each
- Tuesday, January 19, 2016; 12:00 p.m.
— Ft. Myers: Araba Shrine Center, 2010 Hanson St., Fort Myers, FL 33901. \$6.00 each

Reservations for each location will be handled through the Ohio Masonic Home.

For reservations call **Becky Cason** at the Ohio Masonic Home Resource Center toll free 1.877-881-1623. Please make your reservation prior to Monday, January 4, 2016.

Please notify the Grand Secretary's Office if you would like to have the Grand Master present a Service Award to one of your deserving members attending one of these receptions.

Renewal of Property Tax Exemption

Lodges that have received a property tax exemption from the Department of Taxation should have also received a renewal application from their County Treasurer. If such a renewal application, entitled *DTE23V*, was not received, please contact the County Treasurer and inquire if one needs to be completed. If there are any questions regarding the renewal process, please contact Chad Simpson at the Grand Secretary's Office

Subordinate Lodge Insurance

Approximately six years ago The Grand Lodge Advisory Committee performed an assessment of its insurance coverage and decided upon a change. Prior to that decision, Grand Lodge provided a limited coverage to each Symbolic Lodge. This coverage included liability for litigation purposes only and a \$50k maximum claim for essential Masonic paraphernalia only. The change was made due to a large duplication in coverage.

Since that time, each Lodge is to provide its own coverage according to its own needs. The Grand Lodge of Ohio is now the secondary, self-insurer limited to assistance in the replacement of essential Masonic paraphernalia.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio has only one concern in mind when it comes to Lodge insurance. Grand Lodge cares that each Ohio Lodge is adequately covered. This is why your DDGM during the inspection process will want to know to what extent the building is insured, coverage on Lodge furniture and fixtures, personal liability, and officer's fidelity.

Grand Lodge does not care which company provides the coverage or from whom the Lodge purchased the insurance. These are Lodge business decisions that are left up to the Lodge to determine.

Annual Return Reminder

Five Lodges were delinquent in paying annual per capita this year. This means five Lodges did not receive mileage and per diem for attending the Annual Communication in October.

Please file this reminder away for 2016: when you have made your final membership entry, usually in June, make a simple call or email to the G.L. Office requesting your Lodge's Annual Return. The return will be processed and mailed to the Lodge indicating amount of per capita owed.

The Grand Lodge Office MUST receive your per capita payment no later than August 31st or the Lodge is considered delinquent. This is according to our Code.

Deaths Reported Since the Last Issue

Please remember to notify the Grand Secretary's Office when a PDDGM, a long-time Lodge Secretary, current sitting Worshipful Master, DEO, etc. passes away. This information will not only be reported to you in an upcoming Newsletter, but it will become part of the Grand Lodge Necrology Report for the year.

Three deaths were reported to our office since the last issue of the Newsletter.

- R. Eugene Hilligas, PDEO 23rd District; Flushing Lodge #298; passed 9/13/2015
- Timothy L. Jolliff, PDDGM 10th District; Past Grand Tyler; Dunkirk Lodge #599; passed 10/9/2015
- Tad C. Fithian, Lodge Secretary; Western Star Lodge #21; passed 10/18/2015

Must Have Correct Current Contact Information

Whenever you (Lodge Secretary) or the Master has a change of address, email or phone, notify the G.L. Office by either email or telephone.

Grand Lodge Mileage & Per Diem Checks

Mileage and per diem checks were recently mailed to the address of the Lodge Secretary. If you did not receive a check it could have been for two different reasons. If the Grand Lodge Office did not receive your annual per capita payment before the deadline of August 31st (Grand Lodge Code, Chapter 7 - Annual Return) then no check was mailed.

Or, while attending the annual Grand Lodge Communication, if the Lodge's representative did not drop his Friday or his Saturday pay slip into one of the collection boxes, the Lodge will not receive payment. Announcements are made during the Communication reminding the delegates how important it is for them to deposit these slips, one on Friday and one on Saturday, into one of the red boxes located at the main entrances to the Lodge room. These pay slips are the only physical evidence we have that the Lodge was truly represented in the session.

Every year we receive calls from Lodges who were present but didn't deposit their pay slips. We can't issue a check without this slip. This is so important to the Lodge in receiving your expense check.

Please save this information and remind your Lodge representative attending next year's Communication to please deposit his pay slips in the collection box. (Note: he receives his slips at the time he registers.)

"Freemason" License Plates

Did you know that Ohio Freemasonry was the first fraternal group to be awarded specialty Ohio license plates? MWB Jerry Razor started the initial attempt, but could not obtain approval. He turned the initiative over to then Grand Master MWB H. Ray Evans in 1993. Most Worshipful Brother Evans' Senior Grand Deacon took the program on. He found a "friend" in the Ohio DOT who helped open doors. The rest is history.

Freemason Plates cont.

I recently received a phone call from ODOT. They informed me that the "Freemason" Ohio plate is one of the top ten license plates sold in Ohio. As of the end of September, just under 6,000 Freemason plates had been sold this year.

There is no markup for purchasing this plate. Meaning, The Grand Lodge of Ohio does not receive a penny for the sale of this specialty plate. When your tags come due this year, why not show your pride in being a Mason on the highway by purchasing an Ohio "Freemason" license plate?

Difference Between Stations" & "Places"

Only three officers of the Lodge occupy "Stations", the Master and the two Wardens. The remainder of the officers have "Places".

In the dictionary, "Station" gives the idea of being permanent, where "Place" indicates a more temporary location. Permanent is more like the Master and the Wardens, who cannot resign (unless in accordance with our Code); temporary can refer to the other officers who may resign and therefore occupy "Places".

Word Meanings in Our MM Charge

You have heard the words many times, but what exactly do they mean? For example, "to fortify their minds with resolution against the snares of the insidious".

Someone who is insidious is one who is sly, beguiling, intending to entrap, or "laying in wait". We are admonished to be resolute and steadfast in our convictions against those who would slyly want to do harm to us.

"endeavor to remove every aspersion against this venerable institution". This is a disparaging remark or an abusive attack on Masonry's good character reputation.

Season's Greetings!

From the Grand Secretary and everyone on staff at the Grand Lodge Office, we wish you a happy holiday season. Our wish for a wonderful holiday season goes out to each of you and your families.

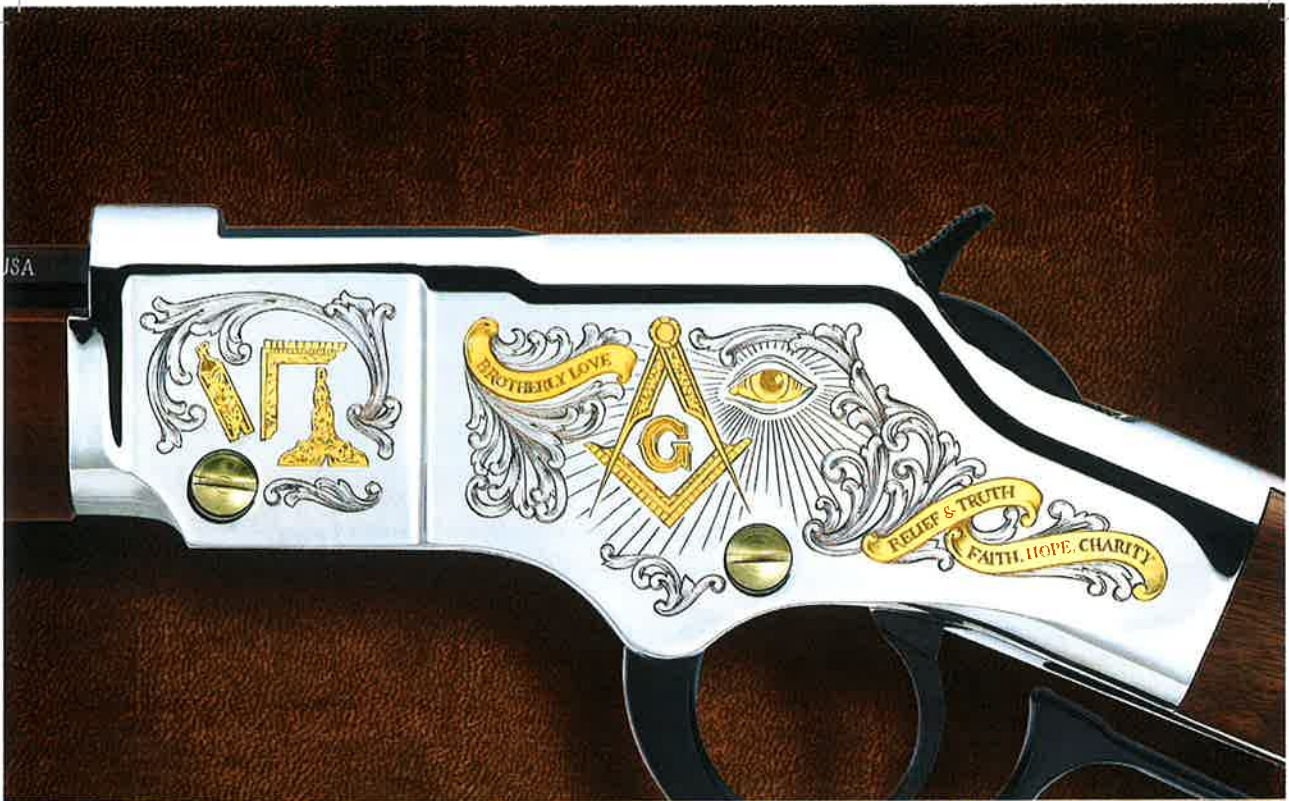
Please pause and give thanks for those manifold blessings and comforts which we all enjoy. Especially keep in your thoughts and prayers those men and women who serve in our communities who protect and serve to keep us safe and those gallant warriors who serve to protect our way of life and bring peace to those who live in troubled environments.

Happy New Year to all and may 2016 be a great year for Ohio Freemasonry.

Grand Lodge Offices Closed

The Grand Lodge Office will close on December 24—25 and December 31—January 1 for the holiday observance.

*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year!*

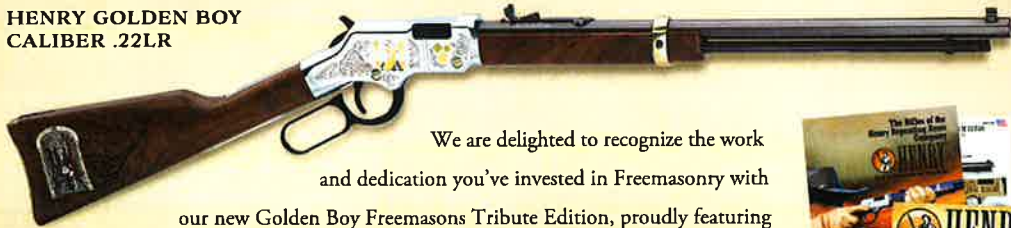


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AMERICA'S MOST ENDURING
FRATERNAL ORDER"**

Henry Repeating Arms Company

THE FREEMASONS TRIBUTE EDITION

**HENRY GOLDEN BOY
CALIBER .22LR**



We are delighted to recognize the work and dedication you've invested in Freemasonry with our new Golden Boy Freemasons Tribute Edition, proudly featuring imagery instantly recognizable by Masons everywhere on its brightly polished silver receiver. To see more of this unique rifle please visit us at henryrifles.com/masons.



For information on all Henry rifles and a list of Henry dealers in your area please order a free catalog and decal by calling 800-504-4731 or visit henryrifles.com/catalog



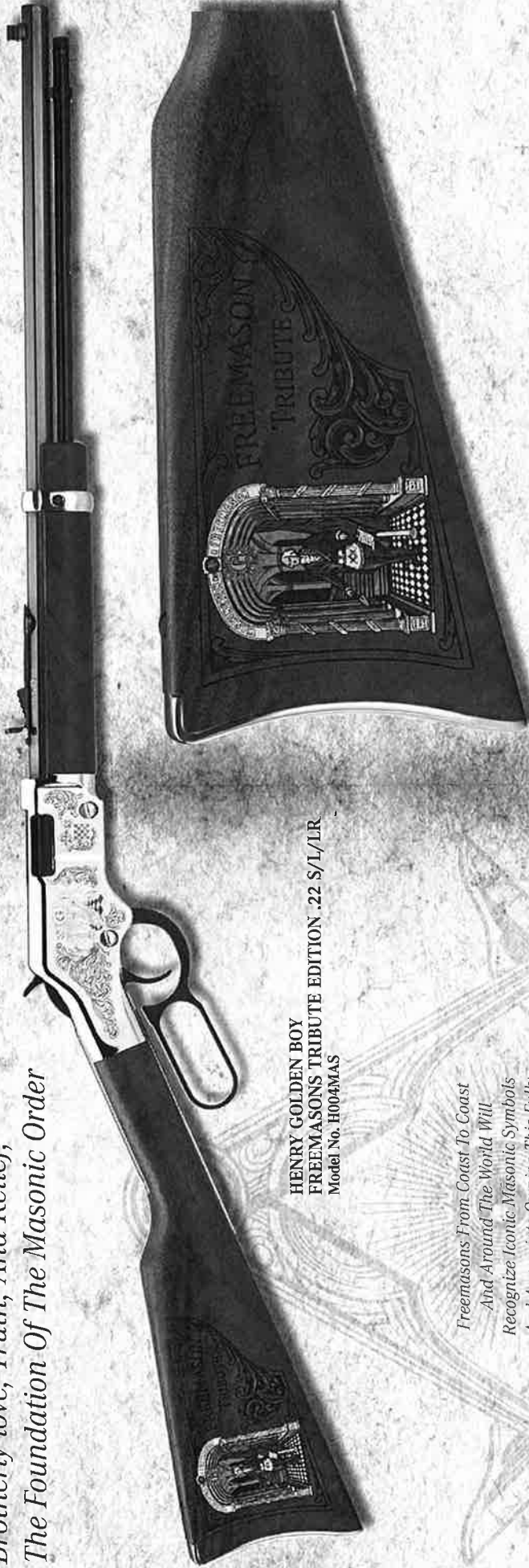
Made in America, Or Not Made At All

HENRY GOLDEN BOY FREEMASONS TRIBUTE EDITION

Unique To America's Most Enduring Fraternal Order



Brotherly love, Truth, And Relief, The Foundation Of The Masonic Order



**HENRY GOLDEN BOY
FREEMASONS TRIBUTE EDITION .22 S/L/LR**
Model No. H004MAS

*Freemasons From Coast To Coast
And Around The World Will
Recognize Iconic Masonic Symbols
And Appreciate Owning This Fully
Shootable Tribute Rifle*

With roots dating back to the great European stonemason guilds of the 14th Century, the Freemasons later evolved into a fraternal order of brotherhood and service that spans the globe today. Each member is initiated into the order and progresses through the original medieval levels of advancement that include Apprentice, Journeyman (now called fellowcraft), and Master Mason. Dedication to each other, and a belief in a supreme being (regardless of denomination), are essential elements that bind Freemasons together.

The Masonic lodge serves as a meeting house, educational center for matters Masonic, and a setting for the rituals associated with the various functions of advancement, along with local, internal, Masonic business and social activities. Lodges and rituals typically display standard Masonic symbols familiar even to non-members, and those include both stone mason symbolism as well as references to the Temple of Solomon.

Freemasonry notes its beginnings here in America in the very early 1700s, with one of its most notable members being our first American president, George Washington. Open to all levels of society from cab driver to Congress, the Freemasons have included such names as country western singers Roy Acuff and Eddy Arnold, astronaut Buzz Aldrin, South Pole discoverer Roald Amundsen, hotelman John Jacob Astor, western star Gene Autry, comedian Harry Pryor, actor John Wayne, magician Harry Houdini, jazz legend Count Basie, America's literary icon Mark Twain, and boxing great Sugar Ray Robinson, to name just a few.

We are delighted to recognize this ancient and honorable fraternal order with our new Henry Golden Boy Freemasons Tribute Edition in .22 LR rifle, proudly featuring imagery instantly recognizable by Masons everywhere on its brightly polished silver receiver.

To lumber set off this striking tribute edition, the select American walnut stock depicts our first President in full Masonic regalia, with apron, (trowel) and Warden's column, standing on a "temple" floor in front of the Masonic staircase, in a painted tableau bordered by scrollwork in the same style as the receiver.

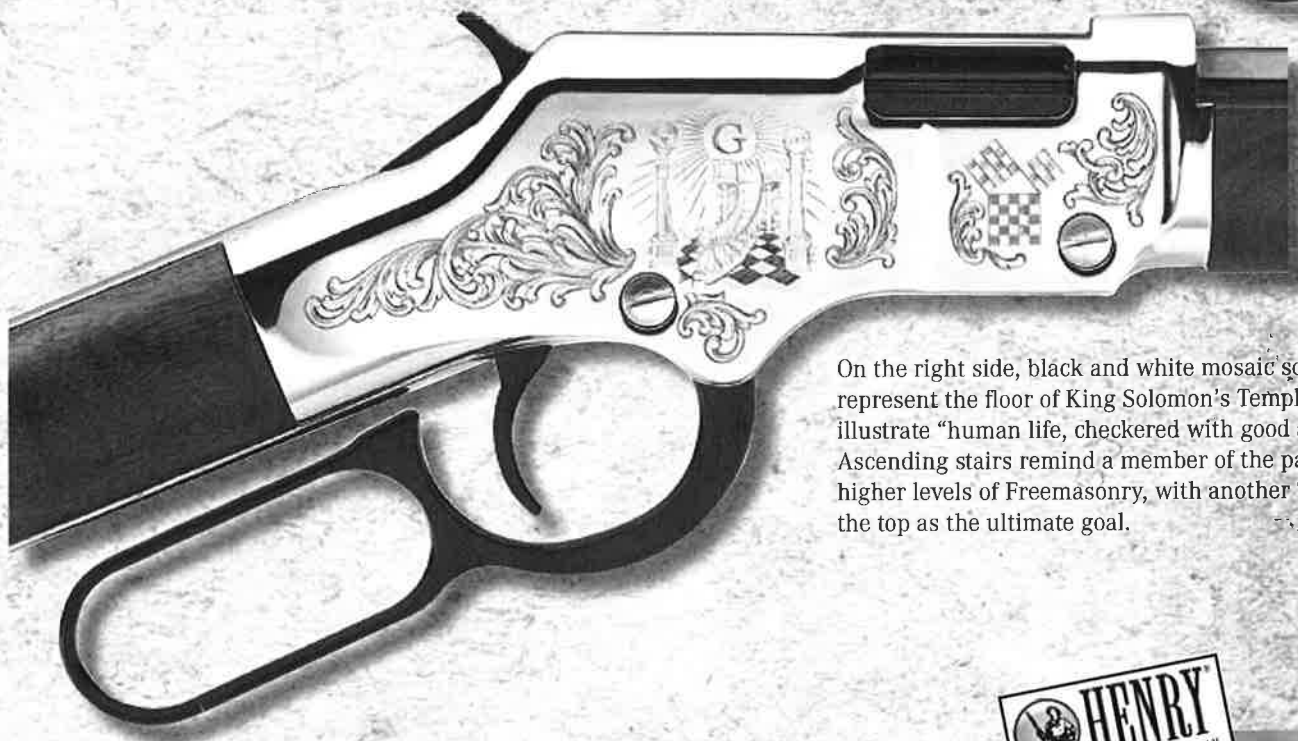
What better way to acknowledge the order's long history, and reward the work and dedication you, or someone important to you, has invested in Freemasonry.



Action Type	Level Action Repeater
Caliber	H004MAS - .22 S/L/LR
Capacity	16 rounds .22 LR 21 rounds .22 Short
Barrel Length	20"
Overall Length	38.5"
Weight	6.75 lbs.
Stock	American Walnut
Sights	Fully adjustable semi-buckhorn rear with reversible white diamond front and brass beaded front sight
Finish	Nickel receiver, brass barrel band, brass trigger & blow lever and barrel H004MAS \$1,021.00
MSRP Price	Ask Gun Shop for quote



This tribute edition's left side carries the famous compass and square retained from the earliest days of freemasonry, the mason's plumb and level, the letter "G" which stands for both God and Geometry, the All-Seeing Eye of God as the symbol of divine watchfulness, and the words BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF & TRUTH that the order considers its foundation, along with FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY, emphasized in a Mason's First Point Ceremony, all in raised 18K gold relief against a background of classic floral engraving.



On the right side, black and white mosaic squares represent the floor of King Solomon's Temple to illustrate "human life, checkered with good and evil". Ascending stairs remind a member of the path to higher levels of Freemasonry, with another "G" at the top as the ultimate goal.



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