

**MASONIC EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**BUZZ ALDRIN, ASTRONAUT and  
FAMOUS MASON OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**



**Committee on Masonic Education**

**Edward O. Weisser, R.W.P.G.M.  
Chairman**

**THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF THE MOST ANCIENT  
AND HONORABLE FRATERNITY OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF PENNSYLVANIA**

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**Purpose:** The Lodge Program titled “Buzz Aldrin: Famous Mason of the Twentieth Century” was prepared to help Masons of Pennsylvania commemorate the anniversary of the famous Moon Walk.

**Introduction:** (to be given by the Lodge Education Chairman)

You have looked at the cover of the “Friend to Friend” brochure that has been used as an important part of membership building program. You must have seen the copy of the “Friend to Friend” painting that was provided for every Lodge in the Jurisdiction. We can expect that you noticed individuals are placed in a central position in the artistic depiction. We can say without equivocation that a man has great importance in our Fraternity whether he be a Member of the Lodge or he might be a potential candidate for membership in the Lodge.

We can also expect that all Masons can become so familiar with the faces on the brochure that they can identify them by sight. While most of the men pictured are American Masons, one is not. Each of us knows the importance of King Solomon in the ritual, dialogues and history of our Fraternity. We can easily recognize George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Truman as American Presidents and statesmen. General Douglas MacArthur, General Lewis Armistead and Captain Henry Bingham (honored by Pennsylvania Masons in 1993 at Gettysburg) were Masons in military service.

One American Mason on the cover of the “Friend to Friend” brochure is alive and pursues his vocation as an astronaut as well as his interest in Freemasonry. We are taking a few minutes to consider the achievements and to honor U.S. Lunar Astronaut and Brother, Buzz Aldrin.

**Methods of Presentation: (to be used by the Presenter – Lodge Masonic Education  
Chairman)**

The following procedures are suggested to the presenter in order to help him give a good program.

1. Display the "Friend to Friend" painting prominently at the front of the room where the program is to be given. Talk about the painting during the Introduction of the program and refer to it when appropriate.
2. Secure a supply of "Friend to Friend" brochures to be used during the program. Hold the brochure up for the Brethren to see and give copies to anyone desiring them.
3. Post or hold up the photograph of Buzz Aldrin which has been sent to you as a part of this Lodge program. We want the Members to recognize the photograph of Astronaut and Brother Buzz Aldrin.
4. Proceed to Content Outline of the program and present the material to your audience.
5. Move briskly through the narrative of the program, briefly focusing on each segment of the content.
6. Keep in mind the program should not be longer than 15 or 20 minutes. Do not go beyond the time period so you do not lose the interest of your audience.
7. The information about Astronaut and Brother Aldrin relates to his training in science, his activities as an astronaut and his Masonic activities.
8. A portion of the dialogue from the historic lunar mission has been included to give a sense of the experience of the astronauts in their unusual setting. Ask three men to take the parts of the astronauts Aldrin and Armstrong and Capcom/ Mission Control in Houston and have them read the dialogue to the Lodge.
9. Take a few minutes to summarize the important segments of the program. Make it brief.

## Contents of the Program

### Introduction: The Moon in the Lodge and Freemasonry

We are talking tonight about one of America's present-day heroes, U.S. Lunar Astronaut and Brother Buzz Aldrin. On July 20, 1969 Brother Aldrin made his famous "Moon Walk". Tonight we honor the man, the Mason and his achievements.

Masonry has retained the use of the moon in the Lodge because it represents a part of the universe.

As the sun rules over the day, the moon presides over the night.

As the one regulates the year so does the other the months.

As the former (the sun) is the king of the starry hosts of heaven, so is the later (the moon) their queen.

But both deriving their heat, light and power from Him, who as the third and greatest light, the Master of heaven and earth controls them both.

Masons use the moon as the lesser light.

Many early Lodges and some Lodges today use the moon to govern the times of their meeting. In early times, during the long winter, Members of the Lodge would travel on horseback or in carriages by the light of the moon.

The maiden name of Astronaut Aldrin's Mother was Moon.

## U.S. Lunar Astronaut Buzz Aldrin

Born January 20, 1930 at Glen Ridge, New Jersey

Attended West Point Academy

Graduated 3<sup>rd</sup> in his class in 1951

Received a Doctor of Science Degree in Astronautics from M.I.T. (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in 1963

Engineer with Space Systems Division in Houston, Texas

Served as a pilot in Korea, amassing more than 2500 hours of flying time.

Credited with two enemy fighter kills while on duty in Korea.

Served on 4-day Gemini 12 flight on which he took a five and one half hour space walk. November 11-15, 1966.

Was Co-Pilot of Apollo II lunar module landing on the moon.

Photograph of Aldrin on the Moon has become the classic image of Man's conquest of space.

Second person to walk on the moon.

First Mason to walk on the lunar surface.

Continues to serve as a science consultant

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### Brother Buzz Aldrin

- A Member of Montclair Lodge No. 144, Montclair, NJ
- Received all three Degrees as courtesy of other Lodges
- Initiated by Oak Park Lodge No. 864, Montgomery, Alabama on February 17, 1955
- Passed in the same Lodge on April 12, 1955
- Raised by Lawrence N. Greenleaf Lodge No. 169, Denver Colorado on February 21, 1956
- Received his York Rite Degrees and Orders at an all-state York Rite Festival, Waco, Texas on May 26-27, 1967
- Member of Arabia Shrine Temple of Houston
- Brother Aldrin is now a Member of Clear Lake Lodge No. 1417 in Seabrook, Texas

### Brother Aldrin Takes Masonry to the Moon

When Brother Aldrin made his trip to the moon he carried with him a Special Deputation from the Grand Master of Texas and authorizing him to open a Representation of the Grand Lodge of Texas on the Moon and establish Masonic Territorial Jurisdiction there for the Grand Lodge of Texas.

The Grand Master of Texas met and asked Buzz if he would carry something to the moon for the Masons of Texas. He said that nothing would please him better, but it would have to be very light and very small.

The Grand Master of Texas prepared a special deputation in the name and by the authority of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas A.F.& A.M. to whom these presents shall come; Greetings:

**"Whereas, it is impossible for me to be a member of the Apollo II Lunar Landing Flight; and, Whereas, the lunar landing will be accomplished in the near future, now, therefore, to the end and the rules and regulations of said Grand Lodge may be complied with, the ancient customs of the craft in such manner observed, by virtue of the power and authority in me vested and imposing full confidence in the skill and ability of Colonel of the United States Air Force, Edwin Eugene Aldrin, Jr., NASA Astronaut, and a Member of our Clear Lake Lodge No. 1417, A.F.& A.M., Seabrook Texas, I do hereby constitute and appoint him my special deputy, granting unto him full power in the premise and purpose of territorial Jurisdiction for the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient and Free and Accepted Masons on the moon, and direct that he shall make due return of his acts hereunto as required by the Laws of said Grand Lodge. "Given under my hand and seal of my office at Waco, this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May, A.D. 1969, A.L. 5969", and signed by J. Guy Smith, Grand Master."**

We received this back from Brother Aldrin with this on it:  
"This Special Deputation was carried to the moon by me on Apollo II on July 20, 1969", and signed by Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr.

## Moon Talk of Astronauts Armstrong and Aldrin with Houston Control Center

In order for you to get some understanding of the famous Moon Walk that took place on July 20, 1969, we are including some of the dialogue from the Lunar Mission. The excerpts show the excitement of the lunar landing the different environment of the moon and the historic nature of the mission.

**Armstrong:** Houston, Tranquility base here. The eagle has landed.

**Capcom:** Roger Tranquility, we copy you on the ground. You've got a bunch of guys about to turn blue. We're breathing again. Thanks a lot.  
**(Houston)**

**Armstrong:** Okay, I just checked getting back up to that first step. Buzz, it's not even collapsed too far, but it's adequate to get back up.

**Capcom:** Buzz, this is Houston. F-2 1/60<sup>th</sup> second for shadow photography on the sequence camera.

**Aldrin:** Okay

**Armstrong:** I'm at the foot of the ladder. The LM foot pads are only depressed in the surface about 1 or 2 inches, although the surface appears to be very, very fine grained. As you get close to it, it's almost like powder. Now and then, it's very fine.

**Armstrong:** I'm going to step off the LM now.

**Armstrong:** **That's one small step for man. One giant leap for mankind.**

**Aldrin:** Now, I want to back up and partially close the hatch. Making sure not to lock it on my way out.

**Armstrong:** A good thought.

**Aldrin:** That's our home for the next couple of hours and I want to take good care of it. Okay, I'm on the top step and I can look down over RCU, landing gear pads. That's a very simple matter to hop down from one step to the next.

**Armstrong:** Yes, I found it to be very comfortable and walking is also very comfortable. You've got three more steps and then a long one.

**Aldrin:** Okay, I'm going to leave that one foot up there and both hands down to about the fourth rung up.

**Armstrong:** There you go.

**Aldrin:** Okay. Now I think I'll do the same.

**Armstrong:** A little more, about another inch. There you got it, that's a good step. About a three footer.

**Aldrin:** Beautiful! Beautiful!

**Armstrong:** Isn't that something. Magnificent sight down here.

**Aldrin:** Magnificent desolation.



## **SUMMARY:**

Tonight we have honored a famous Mason of our time, Buzz Aldrin. We have learned of his training, his work as an astronaut and his many Masonic activities.

We honor Bro. Aldrin's achievement on the Anniversary of his moon walk.

Over the centuries Masons have been in the forefront of explorations in providing leadership and courage so all mankind can benefit.

## **Sources of Information:**

1. Mackey, Albert J., Encyclopedia of Freemasonry  
Philadelphia, PA, McClure Publishing Co., 1917
2. Smith, LeRoi, We Come in Peace,  
San Rafael, California, Classic Press, Inc., 1969