

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in National Sojourners is open to citizens of the United States who are Master Masons in good standing in any duly constituted Lodge of Master Masons recognized by, and maintaining fraternal relations with, a majority of the Regular Grand Lodges in the United States and who are serving, or have served honorably, as members of the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, Space Force, the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service or the Commissioned Officer Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in the Active or Reserve Component, the National Guard, the militia of the United States (as defined in 10 USC 311) or who have been elected to Honorary Membership (per the *National Constitution and Bylaws* of National Sojourners, Inc.)



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT:

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LOCAL CONTACT

INFORMATION: Chapter Secretary or member – attach business card or write in the information.

HISTORY

National Sojourners, Inc., was born of wartime requirements, the desire of displaced military Masons to seek each other's company, counsel, and aid continued to nurture the Order. Early in 1900, after the North Dakota Regiment departed the Philippines with a Field Lodge dispensation, a group of Masons organized an informal club and named it "Sojourners."

In 1901, these Sojourners chartered Manila Lodge under the Grand Lodge of California. Captain Harry E. Stafford, 33°, an original Sojourner, was Chartering Master of Manila Lodge, and in 1913 he became the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

The Philippine "Sojourners" resurfaced in 1907, open to Masons who were not members of local Lodges. Within a year, it had 174 members from the U.S. and eight other countries. Many Philippine Sojourners eventually returned to the U.S. In 1917, a group of Masonic military officers stationed in Chicago organized the "Sojourners Club" originally composed of U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and Coast and Geodetic Survey Officers (1917). They began chartering Chapters on or near Army posts and Naval bases (1918), became National Sojourners Club (1919), became National Sojourners (1927), became National Sojourners, Incorporated (1931), added Air Force in (1948), and added Space Force in (2021).

National Sojourners efforts focus on Americanism and Masonic activities. Patriotic activities include presentations, flag ceremonies, and other programs on national security and love of country, with focus on Youth. Our Bridge of Light Program directly supports Masonry by involving Sojourners in all Masonic activities, especially Blue Lodges.

Proudly Serving The Cause Of Patriotism

NATIONAL SOJOURNERS INCORPORATED



AND THE
**RESERVE OFFICER
TRAINING CORPS**

PURPOSES

The Purposes of National Sojourners, Inc. shall be to organize current and former members of the uniformed forces of the United States and Honorary Members, who are Master Masons, into Chapters, for the promotion of good fellowship among its members, for assisting such as may be overtaken by adversity or affliction, for cultivating Masonic ideals, for supporting all patriotic aims and activities in Masonry, for developing true patriotism and Americanism throughout the nation, for bringing together representatives of the uniformed forces of the United States (past and present) in a united effort to further the military needs of national defense, and for opposing any influence whatsoever calculated to weaken the national security.



PRONOUNCEMENT

National Sojourners believe in God as the Supreme Architect of the Universe.

We hold that political, economic, and social problems are subsidiary to and ever separate from that steadfast belief in God.

We maintain that God must motivate man, if present day problems are to be solved, and we urge active participation in maintaining that Government for which our forefathers fought.

Sojourners remember that George Washington once said, **“When we assumed the soldier, we did not lay aside the citizen.”**

HISTORY AND CONCEPT OF JUNIOR AND SENIOR ROTC

The Reserve Officer Training Corps had its beginning in 1862 when Congress passed the Morrill Act. This Act provided grants of land for educational institutions, which would include, among other things, military science in their curriculum. These institutions were known as Land Grant Colleges. Other laws were subsequently enacted to elaborate on the program. The most significant of these was the ROTC Vitalization Act passed in 1964. This Act enlarged the Junior ROTC Program from 252 Army sponsored schools to 1,200 and included Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Units.

From 1920 through World War II, all able-bodied males under the age of 21 who attended a Land Grant College were required to take two years of ROTC training. This requirement was dropped in 1946. Other major changes have been made and continue to be made, but the Services monitor the programs for curriculum, numbers involved, scholarship requirements and program management to ensure that a dynamic and viable program is in place for all services.

BACKGROUND OF THE SOJOURNERS' ROTC PROGRAM

The National Sojourners ROTC Program was adopted at the 1970 Annual Convention in Columbus, Ohio. Originally, it was authorized for the Army Senior ROTC Program, but it has since been expanded to include all ROTC Programs. Appropriate regulations of the various Services have been published which establish the criteria for the National Sojourners' Award.

The National Sojourners' ROTC Awards program supports the Purposes of National Sojourners "for developing true Patriotism and Americanism throughout the Nation" and "furthering the military needs of the National Defense."

“A TOAST TO THE FLAG”

John Daly, 1917

Here's to the red of it –
There's not a thread of it,
No, not a shred of it
In all the spread of it
From foot to head;
But heroes bled for it,
Faced steel and lead for it,
Precious blood shed for it,
Bathing it Red!

Here's to the white of it –
Thrilled by the sight of it,
Who knows the right of it
But feels the might of it
Through day and night?
Womanhood's care for it
Made manhood dare for it,
Purity's prayer for it
Keeps it so White!

Here's to the blue of it –
Beauteous view of it,
Heavenly hue of it,
Star spangled dew of it
Constant and true;
Diadems gleam for it,
States stand supreme for it,
Liberty's beam for it
Brightens the Blue!

Here's to the whole of it –
Stars, stripes and pole of it,
Body and Soul of it,
O, and the roll of it,
Sun shining through;
Hearts in accord for it,
Swear by the sword for it,
Thanking the Lord for it,
Red, White and Blue!