

This paper is presented by Worshipful Brother Thomas H. Whitaker in Millennium Council #382 Allied Masonic Degree.

Most Worshipful brother Harry S. Truman born May 8, 1884 in Lamar , Missouri, the eldest child of John Anderson Truman and Martha Ellen Young Truman . His Mother and Dad could not agree on a middle name apart from the initial S. A brother John Vivian born in 1886 died in 1965 , and a sister Mary Jane Truman born in 1889 and passed away in 1978. Harry's father was a farmer and livestock dealer. They lived in Lamar until Harry was 11 months old when the family moved to his grandparent's 600 acre farm in Grandview Missouri. When Harry was six years old they moved to Independence Missouri so he could attend school. After graduating from High School in 1901 Truman worked a series of Clerical jobs. He returned to the Grandview Farm in 1906 and stayed there for the next decade. He work hard during these years and often hearken back nostalgically to the years he spent as a farmer. During this time in 1911 he was courting his Wife Bess and even proposed to her but she turned him down. Truman said he wanted to make more money than a farmer before he proposed again. (He did propose to her again, successfully, in 1918 after coming back as a Captain from World War I. He was the only president after 1870 not to earn a college degree, although he studied for two years at the Kansas City Law School in the early 1920's.

Harry S, Truman was initiated February 9, 1909 in Belton Lodge No. 450 Belton Missouri. Several members separated to establish Grand View Lodge No. 618, Grandview Missouri. And Harry served as its first worshipful Master. At the annual Session of the Grand lodge of Missouri, September 24, 1940 Brother Truman was elected (by a landside) the Ninety-Seventh Grand Master of Masons of Missouri, and served until October 1, 1941. Brother and President Truman was made a Sovereign Grand Inspector General 33rd degree and Honorary member Supreme Council on October 19, 1945 at the Supreme Council A.A,S.R. Southern Jurisdiction Headquarters in Washington D .C. upon which occasion he served as Exemplar (Representative)) for his class. He was also elected an Honorary Grand Master of the International Supreme Council Order of DeMolay. On May 18, 1959 Brother and former President Truman was presented with a Fifty -Year award the only U.S. President to reach that golden anniversary in Freemasonry.

On June 28, 1919 Harry fresh back from World War I married his sweetheart Bess Wallace. and on February 24, 1924 the couple had one child named Margaret. A month before the wedding Harry opened a Men's clothing store with his long time friend and army buddy Eddie Jacobson. Truman & Jacobson opened at 104 West 12th Street in downtown Kansas City. After a few successful years, the store went bankrupt during a downturn in the farm economy in 1922. Lower prices for wheat and corn meant fewer sales of silk shirts.

In 1922 Truman was elected Judge of the County Court of Jackson Missouri this was an Administrative, not judicial position similar to County Commissioner elsewhere. During his term he won personal acclaim for several popular public works projects, including an extensive series of roads for growing automobile traffic. And the dedication of a series of 12 Madonna of the trail monuments honoring pioneer women. One which is located on U.S. Route 40 at the Western edge of Springfield. In 1934 Truman was elected a U.S.

Senator from Missouri a position he would hold until 1944 When President Franklin D. Roosevelt picked him to be his running mate. He was sworn in as Vice President on January 20, 1945 and served less than three months. On April 12, 1945, Truman was urgently called to the White House, where Eleanor Roosevelt informed him that the president was dead. Truman, thunderstruck, could initially think of noting to say. He then asked if there was anything he could do for her, to which the former First Lady replied. "Is there anything we can do for you? For you are the one in trouble now." Truman having only been Vice President for only 82 days had very little meaningful communication with Roosevelt about world affairs or domestic politics since being sworn in as Vice President, and was completely unbriefed about major initiatives relating to the successful prosecution of the war-notably the top secret Manhattan Project, which was, at the time of FDR's passing, on the cusp of testing the world's first atomic bomb. Truman quickly got up to speed and eventually authorized its use against the Japanese.

Shortly after taking the oath of office, Truman said to reporters: "Boys, if you ever pray, pray for me now. I don't know if you fellas ever had a load of hay fall on you, but when they told me what happen yesterday, I felt like the moon, the stars, and all the planets had fallen on me."

Momentous events were to occur in Truman's first five months in office.

April 25, 1945 Nations meet in San Francisco to create the United Nations.

April 28, 1945 Benito Mussolini of Italy Killed.

May 1, 1945 Announcement of the suicide of Adolf Hitler

May 2, 1945 Berlin Falls

May 7, 1945 Germany Surrenders

May 8, 1945 Victory in Europe Day

July 17-August 2, 1945 Truman, Josef Stalin, and Winston Churchill meet at the Potsdam Conference to establish political landscape of post-war world.

August 6, 1945 Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

August 8, 1945 USSR declares war on Japan.

August 9, 1945 Atomic Bomb Dropped on Nagasaki.

August 14, 1945 Japan agrees to surrender (Victory over Japan).

September 2, 1945 Japan Formally surrenders aboard the USS Missouri.

Truman ran for a second term in 1948 and Know will ever forget Truman's stunning come from behind victory. With Thomas Dewey having a substantial lead the Gallop poll quit taking polls two weeks before the election even though 14 percent of the electorate was still undecided. George Gallup would never repeat that mistake again, and he emerged with the maxim." undecided voter side with the incumbent." Truman drew huge crowds with his "Whistlestop campaigning where would draw huge crowds. Every one as seen the picture of President Truman holding the Chicago Tribune that featured a huge headline proclaiming "Dewey Defeats Truman."

Truman was defeated in the New Hampshire primary in 1952 and dropped out of the race for President. Leading the way for Illinois Governor Adlai Stevenson to run against

Dwight David Eisenhower who won the 1952 election in a landslide ending 20 years of the Democrats residing in the white house as President..

Most Worshipful Brother Harry S. Truman 33rd degree Mason and 33rd President of the United States of America. He had many accomplishments as Presidents and he had a few failures as President but he always be remembered as Give "EM HELL HARRY."

And he always said the Buck Stops Here. He loved to play the Piano and He and his Wife Bess enjoyed 53 years together and were the first two people to receive a Medicare card from at a signing of the Medicare bill by President Lyndon B. Johnson. On July 30, 1965. When he retired as President he returned to the home his mother in-law had in Independence Missouri. He turned down numerous offers for commercial endorsements. As a result, he faced an interesting set of financial challenges, having no private fortune to support him after his time as President, and no federal pension. It wasn't until 1958 congress passed the former Presidents act offering a \$25,000.00 yearly pension to each former President.

On December 5, 1972 he was admitted to Kansas City's Research Hospital and Medical center with lung congestion from Pneumonia. . He developed multiple organ failure and died at 7:50 P.M. on December 26, 1972 at the age of 88. He and Bess are buried at the Truman Library.

Respectfully Submitted by Worshipful Brother Thomas H. Whitaker