

- SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE -

Oriental Lodge No. 20, F. & A. M.

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HISTORIC DEDICATION SET FOR NEW MASONIC CENTER IN MESA

After more than two years of planning and construction, Mesa's Masonic community will celebrate its new Masonic Lodge and Activity Center with an ice-cream social and building dedication [insert day, date, year]. The festivities are open to the public and will begin at [time, AM/PM]. Ice cream and cake are free.

The new structure, located at [address], will be the home of Oriental Lodge No. 20 [name of Lodge, Center, Temple]. Completed at a cost of more than \$1.4 million, the 8,400 square-foot building replaces the old Masonic Center which was razed this winter to make room for the future Mesa Arts and Entertainment Center at Center and Main.

First chartered in 1911, Oriental Lodge predates statehood by one year. The original Lodge conducted its meetings in rented rooms in the old Hafford Delaney Building in downtown Mesa. Oriental Lodge's first permanent building was erected at 25 N. Center in January 1951. The previous year, Arizona's first Republican U.S. Congressman, John J. Rhodes was made a Master Mason in the Lodge.

"This Lodge represents some of the finest men I've ever known from all walks of life," said Rhodes, who served Arizona for 30 years in the U.S. House of Representatives. "Freemasonry is made up of men who join together freely to understand and further certain great principles, many of which are ancient in origin, but are increasingly relevant in the present and to the future."

Former Congressman Rhodes, along with local dignitaries, representatives from Mesa City government, and invited guests will be on hand for the building dedication.

Oriental Lodge No. 20 is active in various Masonic charities, which include direct support and advocacy for child protection and education. The new building will also be home to the Orders of Eastern Star, Amaranth, Rainbow for Girls, and DeMolay for Young Men.