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Brother Truman

This review of the book Brother Truman by Allen E Roberts was written by Denny Brydl, a member of the Grand Lodge Education Committee. It gives us a tantalizing glimpse of the Mason Harry S. Truman and entices us to further study.

Most people remember Harry S. Truman as the man who barely squeaked out a presidential election victory over Dewey, or the President who said "The buck stops here!" People who lived at the time of his presidency always talk about where they were at the announcement of FDR's death, but not much about his successor.

Brother Truman is the story of one of the few Great American Statesmen. It is the story of the human Harry S. Truman -- a man with a philosophy anyone can emulate; a man who deeply loved his family, his country, and his fellowman; a man who refused to prostitute the title of President of the United States.

In Brother Truman you will find a man, who considered others before himself; who felt strongly; who believed in and fought for his country and its citizens. Harry S. Truman was the right man in the right place on many occasions, especially during the trying days preceding, during and following World War II. Few men, if any, could have so successfully carried the United States from the hells of war through the problems of peace.

In Brother Truman you will find how Harry Truman saved much of the world from despotism. Through his vision the starving in war torn Europe were fed and the naked clothed. Because of his actions, ravaged industry, cities and countries were rebuilt, and an international forum was established which gave the world the prospects for no more global wars. Through his decisiveness he stopped the enemies of freedom on many fronts.

He idolized Andrew Jackson (also a Mason), who had the same values and lifestyle as Truman. In his personal life, he too exemplified the values and beliefs of Masonry. He was devoted to his wife, and she to him. He was not from a wealthy family and struggled his entire life to make ends meet, he truly was the common man's president. He had many opportunities to prosper from his position, but chose not to use his position for the purpose of profit.

His Masonic life reflected the same difficulty and success as his political life. His initial election to the Grand Lodge was made a political issue. His term as Grand Master was criticized by his foes. However, as in his presidency, he served the Fraternity and its members with honesty, balance, integrity, and honor. He presided with unbiased fairness to all members, regardless of his friendships, critics or differing views.

Most of Harry Truman's former critics came to realize he was far more often right than wrong. They understood his character, honesty and dedication to the voters who elected him. Many publicly apologized for their past criticisms. Others wished his successors had been as strong and unselfish.