**News Release: Cornerstone Ceremony**

 **Please retype on your Lodge letterhead**.

 **NEWS**

 ***(Mm/day/yr)***

**For further information, please contact: (Name of Lodge Secretary and telephone number.)**

The cornerstone of ***(Name of Building)*** will be laid by state officers of Ohio’s Masonic Fraternity and local members of ***(Name)*** Masonic Lodge No. ***(#)*** on ***(Month & day)*** in ***(City.)*** The ceremony will take place at ***(Time)*** at ***(Place)*** located at ***(Address)*** in ***(City.)***

***(Fill in more detailed, newsworthy information about the building.)***

The cornerstone ceremony is an ancient tradition popular in the United States since the colonial days. The Freemasons, whose origins are the medieval stonemasons, continue this tradition as a public service.

The cornerstone laying ceremony symbolically uses the tools of the operative Mason to bring a special message of faith in the craftsmanship of a new building. This tradition is a wonderful way to begin the life of a new building.

***(If applicable:)*** A ***(breakfast, luncheon or dinner)*** will ***(precede or follow)*** the ceremony at ***(Time)*** at the ***(Name)*** Masonic Lodge, located at ***(Address)*** in ***(City.) (Name)*** Lodge has been a member of the community for ***(#)*** years. It has ***(#)*** members and is one of ***(#)*** Masonic Lodges in ***(Name)*** County.

There are currently 498 local Masonic Lodges in Ohio with a combined membership of 90,000. Annually, Ohio Freemasons contribute $15 million to charities that include Special Olympics Ohio, college scholarships and elderly care.

General information is available at [www.freemason.com](http://www.freemason.com/).

- 0 -