

FIRST GIVING ALL HONOR TO THE GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE, WHO HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY, THIS DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE. TO THE HON. OSCAR MACK, PAST NATIONAL GRAND MASTER, TO HON NORMAN WOODARD, PAST NATIONAL GRAND MASTER AND TO HON FELTON FERGUSON, PAST NATIONAL GRAND MASTER.

TO MY ESTEEM NATIONAL CABINET, TO ALL NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS, TO ALL PAST NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS, ALL GRAND WORTHY MATRONS, TO ALL GRAND OFFICERS AND GRAND MASTERS, TO ALL MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, TO MY COMRADES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. GOOD MORNING. I BRING YOU GREETINGS FROM THE MOST WORSHIPFUL NATIONAL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED ANCIENT YORK RITE MASONS, PRINCE HALL ORIGIN, NATIONAL COMPACT, U.S.A.

THANK YOU PGM WILLIAM CONYERS, GRAND MASTER ALI CONTRELL, AND MEMBERS OF THE MW ST. JOHN GRAND LODGE OF NEW JERSEY. YOU HAVE TAKEN ON A MONUMENTAL TASK OF HOSTING THIS 151ST GRAND MASTERS COUNCIL AND DEPARTMENT HEADS WORKSHOP. IT REQUIRED CAREFUL PLANNING, AND PRAYER, PERCISE COORDINATION, AND PRAYER, GOOD TECHNICAL SUPPORT, AND PRAYER, NUMEROUS COMMITTEE MEETINGS, AND PRAYER, A LOT OF PATIENCE AND PRAYER.

ON BEHALF OF THE MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SINCERE AND DEDICATED DEVOTION TO THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE. JOIN ME IN THANKING THIS OUTSTANDING GRAND LODGE BY A STANDING OVATION AND A HARDY ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

ABOVE ALL, THANK YOU THE MEMBERS OF THIS MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE FOR ATTENDING THIS 151ST GRAND MASTERS COUNCIL AND

DEPARTMENT HEADS WORKSHOP. IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR YOUR LOYAL AND DEDICATED SUPPORT NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TODAY. GIVE YOURSELF A HAND WITHOUT YOU... THE MEMBERS WE WOULD NOT BE

WE ARE NOW IN OUR 163rd YEAR OF EXISTENCE.

IT IS BECAUSE OF YOU... THIS MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE HAS EXISTED FOR THE LAST 163 YEARS... AND WE ARE STILL HERE.

IT IS BECAUSE OF YOUR PRAYERS AND OUR FOREFATHERS PRAYERS... THIS MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE HAS EXISTED FOR THE LAST 163 YEARS...AND WE ARE STILL HERE.

IT IS BECAUSE OF YOU THIS MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE HAS CONTINUE TO MAKE GOOD MEN AND WOMEN BETTER MEN AND WOMEN FOR THE LAST 163 YEARS...AND WE ARE STILL HERE.

IT IS BECAUSE OF YOU AND THE FOREFATHERS OF THIS MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE HAS STOOD IN THE GAP OF CONFUSION, SPLITS, and DEFECTION, JUMPING OVER THE FENCE TO THIS JURISDICTION AND THAT JURISDICTION, TAKING THIS FROM THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE AND THAT FROM THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE, TAKING US TO COURT, WE TAKING THEM TO COURT... THROUGH IT ALL...WE STILL CONTINUE TO EXISTED FOR THE PAST 163 YEARS...AND WE ARE STILL HERE.

IT'S BECAUSE OF NATIONAL GRAND MASTERS LIKE JOHN T. HILTON AND W.D. MATTHEWS WHO HAD A VISION THAT THE MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE WOULD STAND THE TEST OF TIME... NOW 163 YEARS LATER... WE ARE STILL HERE.

THE GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE HAS BEEN GOOD TO THE MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE IT'S BECAUSE OF HIS GRACE AND MERCY THAT THIS MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE HAS EXISTED FOR THE LAST 163 YEAR...AND WE ARE STILL HERE.

I KNOW WE DON'T HAVE A PERFECT UNION AND WE ARE NOT FREE FROM DISCORD OR TROUBLING ISSUES IN THE MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE...BUT IT'S IN OUR HEARTS AND TO FUTURE GENERATIONS TO SEE THAT THE WM NATIONAL GRAND LODGE IS HERE FOR ANOTHER 163 YEARS.

WHEN WE FIRST ENTERED THIS ORGANIZATION WE LEARNED THAT IT WAS IN OUR HEART WE WERE FIRST PREPARED TO BE A MASON OR STAR...

HOWEVER, IN THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, I HAVE SEEN BROTHERS AND SISTERS TURNED INTO MEAN SPIRITED, EVIL, AND VINDICTIVE MEMBERS WHO ARE OUT TO DESTROY THIS NATIONAL GRAND LODGE. IT'S PRETTY CLEAR THEIR HEARTS WERE NEVER IN THE RIGHT PLACE ANYWAY.

LET ME TAKE A MINUTE TO REFLECT BACK ON A FEW GREAT YORK RITE WARRIORS WHO HEARTS WERE IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

I KNOW THEIR NAMES WERE MENTION IN THE MEMORIAL SERVICE, BUT AS I REFLECT BACK ON PNGM JEFFERSON TUFT SR, PNGSW LOUIS MACKIE, PNGJW RICHARD REMBERT AND MANY MORE THAT HAVE GONE ON TO THAT CELESTIAL LODGE IN HEAVEN.

WHAT'S INTERESTING ABOUT THESE WARRIORS IS THAT THEY WERE TRUE MEMBERS WHO LOVED THIS NATIONAL GRAND LODGE. THEY WERE GOOD MEMBERS. THEY DID NOT TARRY WHEN IT CAME TO DEFENDING THIS NATIONAL GRAND LODGE.

LET'S TAKE A BRIEF LOOK AT WHAT GOOD MEMBERS DON'T DO...

GOOD MEMBERS DO NOT SHARE FINANCIAL AND SENSITIVE INFORMATION WITH OTHERS JURISDICTIONS WITH THE INTENT OF EMBARRASSING THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE

GOOD MEMBERS DO NOT SPREAD LIES AND MISLEADING RUMORS ABOUT THEIR GRAND LODGE AND THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE

GOOD MEMBERS DON'T GO AROUND LIKE A THEFT IN THE NIGHT SEEKING INFORMATION TO PLACE ON THE INTERNET OR GOSSIP ABOUT.

GOOD MEMBERS DO NOT SPEAK EVIL ABOUT THEIR LEADERS WITH THE INTENT OF DESTROYING ONE'S CHARACTER.

GOOD MEMBERS ARE NOT CHEAP SHOT CHARLIE'S

NOW LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT A GOOD MEMBER SHOULD BE...

GOOD MEMBERS ARE RESPECTFUL

GOOD MEMBERS ARE OBEDIENT

GOOD MEMBERS ARE LOYAL

GOOD MEMBERS ARE DEDICATED

GOOD MEMBERS ARE DEPENDABLE

GOOD MEMBERS ARE TRUSTWORTHY

GOOD MEMBERS ARE FAITHFUL

GOOD MEMBERS ARE SUPPORTIVE

GOOD MEMBERS ARE RELIABLE

GOOD MEMBERS ARE TACTFUL

GOOD MEMBERS ARE COMMITTED TO THE NGL

GOOD MEMBER BELIEVE IN THE NGL

THIS ORGANIZATION HAS AWESOME MEMBERS AND WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND STRIVE DUE TO GOOD MEMBERS. THE DALAI LAMA HAS A QUOTE THAT READS ‘EVERY INDIVIDUAL HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP GUIDE OUR GLOBAL FAMILY IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION’

THIS ORGANIZATION IS OUR “GLOBAL FAMILY” EACH ONE OF YOU HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO THIS FAMILY. SO, I CHALLENGE ALL THE GOOD MEMBERS OF THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION TO GO AND SEEK OTHERS GOOD MEMBERS SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO BUILD A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR OTHERS TO BUILD UPON.

I PRAY THAT THE WORKSHOPS ARE INFORMATIVE AND USEFUL TO YOU DURING THE SESSION. I HAVE ASKED THE DEPARTMENT HEADS TO LIMIT THEIR WORKSHOPS TO TWO HOURS SO YOU CAN ENJOY THE BOARDWALK, CASINOS, AND SHOPPING MALL.

HOWEVER, THERE ARE THREE ISSUES THAT I AM ASKING ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS AND YOU TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO. THEY ARE NEW MEMBERSHIP, RETENTION AND MENTORING. OUR MEMBERSHIP AS WELL AS OTHER ORGANIZATIONS ARE SEEING DECLINING NUMBERS ACROSS THE BOARD. THIS IS REALLY TROUBLING ME. OLDER MEMBERS ARE DYING AND WE ARE NOT DOING A GOOD JOB OF KEEPING OUR NEW MEMBERS.

I WILL TALK MORE IN DETAIL WITH THE GRAND MASTERS DURING OUR SESSION.

WE MUST BEGIN TO BE PROACTIVE IN DEVELOPING PLAN OF ACTIONS FOR CURBING OUR DECLINE, RETAINING OUR MEMBERS BY DEVELOPING

PROGRAMS OF INTEREST, AND MENTORING THOSE WHO WILL BE OUR FUTURE LEADERS.

BEFORE TAKING MY SEAT, I WOULD LIKE TO SPECIALLY THANK SOME OF OUR ESTEEMED BROTHERS AND SISTERS

THANK YOU TO THOSE GRAND LODGES THAT CAME FORWARD AND MADE DONATIONS TO THE HAITI RELIEF FUND. OUR NATIONAL GRAND TREASURER, PGM JOSEPH HESPATH MADE A DONATION TO THE AMERICAN RED CROSS IN OHIO, ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE.

ALSO THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE MADE A DONATION TO THE FRIENDS OF THE PRINCE HALL MONUMENT FUND. THEY WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN ERECTING A MONUMENT IN THE HONOR OF PRINCE HALL IN CAMBRIDGE, MA ON MAY 15TH.

CONGRADULATIONS AND SPECIAL THANK YOU TO SISTER VONDERIA YELDELL OF ALABAMA AND THE VARIOUS STATE EDITORS FOR THEIR EXCELLENT WORK IN PUBLISHING THE YORK RITE BULLETIN ONLINE. WHEN I ASKED SIS. YELDELL TO TAKE ON THIS TASK SHE STEPPED TO THE PLATE LIKE A TRUE YORK RITE WARRIOR.

EACH STATE IS SUPPOSE TO HAVE AN EDITOR WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS TO SUBMIT ARTICLES AND PICTURES ABOUT YOUR LODGE AND CHAPTER ACCOMPLISHMENTS. THERE ARE MANY GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN YOUR STATES AND WE WANT YOU TO SHARE IT WITH OTHERS IN THE COMPACT.

WE MUST NOT FORGET ABOUT OUR OBLIGATIONS TO THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS BUILDING AND THE JEFFERSON D. TUFTS SR.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS. EVEN THOUGH WE ARE FACING AN ECONOMIC DOWNTURN WE MUST NOT LOSE SITE OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THESE PROJECTS. WE STILL NEED YOUR DONATIONS AND I ENCOURAGE YOU TO UPHOLD YOUR PLEDGES.

IN CLOSING, CONTINUE TO UPHOLD THE STANDARD OF THE MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE STAY MINDFUL OF YOUR COMMENTS AND ACTIONS ABOUT HER. SHE'S A VERY OLD LADY... 163 YEARS OLD... AND SHE DOES NOT THINK KINDLY OF THOSE WHO SPEAK EVIL OF HER.

MAY THE GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND THIS MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE?

THANK YOU

July 10, 2010