

GIVING HONOR TO THE GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE, OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, THE ALPHA AND OMEGA, THE REDEEMER, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, THE BREAD OF LIFE, THE ALMIGHTY, THE GOOD SHEPHERD, THE KING OF KINGS, THE PRINCE OF PEACE, THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH, WHO HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU AND I TO BE IN THIS PLACE, 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 IN HIS ABSENCE HON. FELTON FERGUSON, PAST NATIONAL GRAND MASTER.

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

THANK YOU GM HENRY TYLER, AND MEMBERS OF THE MW MERIDIAN GRAND LODGE STATE OF FLORIDA. YOU HAVE TAKEN ON A

MONUMENTAL TASK OF HOSTING THIS 153RD GRAND MASTERS AND NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS WORKSHOP. IT REQUIRED CAREFUL

YOU ARE JUST LIKE THE LITTLE TRAIN THAT THOUGHT IT COULDN'T MAKE IT UP THE STEEP HILL. IT KEPT SAYING I CAN, I CAN, I CAN, AND IT MADE IT TO THE TOP.

ON BEHALF OF THE MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE THANK YOU FOR TAKING ON THE CHALLENGE. YOUR HARDWORK, YOUR SINCERE AND DEDICATED DEVOTION TO THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE HAS PROVEN NO MATTER HOW BIG THE TASK IS... YOU CAN SUCCEED. . PLEASE JOIN ME BY STANDING AND GIVING THE MW MERIDIAN GRAND LODGE AND ITS MEMBERSHIP A STANDING OVATION FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

ABOVE ALL, WE THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR ATTENDING THIS 153RD GRAND MASTERS AND NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS WORKSHOP. IF IT WASN'T FOR YOUR LOYALTY; YOUR SUPPORT, AND YOUR DEDICATION, NONE OF THESE SESSIONS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL.

ONCE AGAIN, I APPRECIATE THE GREAT HOSPITALITY THAT HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO ME AND MORE ESPECIALLY TO THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE CABINET MEMBERS AND NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS ON OUR VISITS TO YOUR GRAND LODGE SESSIONS.

WE ARE HERE THIS WEEK AND NEXT FOR OUR 153RD GRAND MASTERS AND NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS WORKSHOP. I WANT YOU TO TAKE A MOMENT AND LET 153 YEARS SINK INTO YOUR TREND OF THOUGHTS.

REMEMBER THE MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR 166 YEARS. SO 153 FROM 166 EQUAL 13. THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE WAS CREATED IN 1847; 13 YEARS LATER WILL BE 1860. SO SINCE 1860 THE MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE HAS BEEN HAVING THIS SESSION.

CAN YOU IMAGINE THE MINDSET AND CHALLENGES THEY FACED IN 1860 WHEN THEY BEGAN TO SETUP THIS SESSION AND CALL IT GRAND MASTERS AND NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS WORKSHOP?

HISTORY SHOWS THAT PNGM HON. WILLIAM RILEY WAS THE NATIONAL GRAND MASTER FROM 1859 TO 1862. EITHER NGM RILEY OR SOMEONE IN HIS ADMINISTRATION HAD A VISION TO BEGIN BRINGING THE GRAND MASTERS AND NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS TOGETHER FOR A REASON.

KEEP IN MIND WE ARE IN THE YEAR OF 1860, ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS ELECTED THE 16TH PRESIDENT, SLAVERY WAS IN FULL FORCE IN MANY STATES, AND MY STATE SOUTH CARLOINA SECEDED FROM THE UNION.

OUR FOREFATHERS FACED TREMENDOUS PREJUDICES IN A TROUBLING TIME. SOMEONE HAD A VISION TO TAKE WHAT WE HAD AND BEGIN TO LAY A FOUNDATION FOR OUR FUTURE. I ENVISION SOMEONE STANDING SAYING LETS ESTABLISH THE GRAND MASTERS AND NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS WORKSHOP SO WE ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL CAN EDUCATE THE GRAND MASTERS AND THEY GO BACK AND EDUCATE OUR MEMBERSHIP

HERE WE'RE TODAY 153 YEARS LATER STILL BUILDING ON THAT FOUNDATION. WE HAVE MADE SIGNFICANT PROGRESS BUT NOT THE KIND OF PROGRESS FOR AN ORGANIZATION THAT HAS BEEN ESTABLISH SINCE 1847.

NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE USE THIS SESSION TO EDUCATE OUR MEMBERSHIP ON THE WORKING OF THIS GREAT FRATERNITY. WE MUST ASSIST THE SMALLER IN GROWING THEIR MEMBERSHIP. I AM VERY IMPRESSED WITH OUR SISTERS WHO HAS FORMED REGIONS ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL, WHERE IF ONE HOUSE IS MEETING FOR A REGIONAL MEETING, ALL HOUSES USUALLY MEET. THEY ARE HELPING EACH OTHER GROW BY WORKING COLLECTIVELY. WE SHOULD REFUSE TO LET A GRAND TURN IN ITS WARRANT AND ARE DOING EVERYTHING WITHIN THEIR POWER TO KEEP IT ACTIVE.

GRAND MASTERS YOU MUST BE THE ONE TO DRAW DESIGN ON THE TRESTLE BOARD. FOLLOWING IN THE SAME FOOTSTEPS OF THE PRECEDING GRAND MASTER DOES NOT MAKE YOU A GOOD GRAND MASTER. YOU MUST BE THE ONE WORKING WITH YOUR WORSHIPFUL MASTERS IN PLANNING PROGRAMS. OUR MEETINGS ARE IN COMPETITION WITH MANY OTHER ATTRACTIONS, AND WE MUST PROVIDE INTERESTING AND ATTRACTIVE PROGRAMS IF WE ARE TO SECURE THE ATTENDENCE OF OUR MEMBERS. WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO EXPECT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS TO ATTEND MEETING MERELY TO COLLECT DUES.

MEMBERS YOU ARE THE KEY TO UNLOCKING THE DOOR ___MUST BE THE ONE SAY "I AM NOT GOING TO SETTLE FOR MEDIOCRE LEADERSHIP IN ANY OF MY HOUSES" THEN AND ONLY THEN CAN WE BEGIN TO SEE THE DREAMS OF OUR FOREFATHERS.

THE GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE HAS BEEN GOOD TO THE MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE.

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AND CONTINUE TO BLESS THE MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE.

THANK YOU.

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