

GIVING ALL HONOR TO THE GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE, WHO HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO STAND BEFORE YOU FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS, THIS 19TH DAY OF JULY 2014 THIS DAY THE LORD HAS MADE. FIRST LET ME PAY HOMEAGE TO ALL OF THE DECEASED PAST NATIONAL GRAND MASTERS OF THIS MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE. FROM HON. JOHN T. HILTON TO HON JEFFERSON D. TUFTS, SR, WHO ARE NOW RESTING IN THAT GRAND LODGE IN THE SKY THAT HOUSE NOT MADE WITH HANDS, ETERNAL IN HEAVEN.

TO 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, NATIONAL TRUSTEES, 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.

TO HON, ANTHONY CHAMBERS GRAND MASTER OF MW PENNSYLVANIA GRAND LODGE AND ITS MEMBERS. YOU HAVE GONE OVER AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY IN HOSTING THIS 56TH NATIONAL TRIENNIAL SESSION. WITH YOUR CAREFUL PLANNING, GOOD TEAMWORK, NUMEROUS CONFERENCE CALLS, MEETINGS AND ATTENTION TO DETAILS YOU'VE DONE AN EXTRAORDINARY JOB.

I KNOW NONE OF THIS COULDN'T HAVE COME TOGETHER WITHOUT THE POWER OF PRAYER JOHN 14:13-14 STATES WHATSOEVER YOU ASK IN MY

NAME, THIS I WILL DO, THAT THE FATHER MAY BE GLORIFIED IN THE SON. IF YOU ASK ME ANYTHING IN MY NAME, I WILL DO IT.

IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN PRAYER OR WHETHER PRAYER WORKS, JUST LOOK BACK AT THE SEVERAL PRAYER BREAKFASTS WE'VE HAD BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF EACH SESSION. PRAYER WORKS!

ON BEHALF OF THE MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SINCERE AND DEDICATED DEVOTION TO THE MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE. PLEASE JOIN ME BY STANDING AND GIVING THE MW PENNSYLVANIA GRAND LODGE AND ITS MEMBERSHIP A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH THE MEMBERS OF THIS NATIONAL COMPACT FOR ATTENDING THIS 56TH NATIONAL TRIENNIAL SESSION. IT IS THROUGH YOUR DEDICATION AND SUPPORT THAT YOU CONTINUE TO MAKE OUR SESSIONS SUCCESSFUL. I APPRECIATE YOUR LOYALTY AND LOVE YOU HAVE FOR THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION. I AM PROUD TO HAVE SERVED YOU.

IT'S NOW HAS BEEN SIX YEARS SERVING AS YOUR NATIONAL GRAND MASTER. I CAN TRULY SAY IT HAS BEEN REWARDING AND CHALLENGING. I HAVE MET NOTHING BUT WONDERFUL BROTHERS AND SISTERS THROUGHOUT THIS NATIONAL COMPACT. I APPRECIATE THE GREAT HOSPITALITY AND RESPECT THAT HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO ME AND MORE ESPECIALLY TO THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE CABINET MEMBERS.

TO THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE CABINET MEMBERS THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUED ASSISTANCE; FOR BEING GOOD TEAM MEMBERS AND FOR YOUR LOYALTY WHICH HAS MEANT SO MUCH TO ME, ALWAYS WILLING TO ASSIST WHENEVER CALLED UPON. THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME

AWAY FROM YOUR FAMILY TO VISIT THE VARIOUS GRAND LODGES ASSIGNED TO YOU. THE VISITATIONS, ASSISTANCE, AND VISIABILITY HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE.

TO MY NATIONAL DEPUTY GRAND MASTER THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUED SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP. WHENEVER THERE WAS A COMPLICATED MATTER YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THERE TO SHARE YOUR VALUED ADVICE. YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF MANY OF THESE MATTERS HAS GREATLY ASSISTED IN MANY OF MY DECISIONS.

BRO. SINGLETON HAS SERVED THIS MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE IN MANY POSITIONS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. HE IS WELL VERSED IN ITS OPERATION, POLICY, AND PROCEDURES AND WELL IS CAPABLE OF SERVING AS THE NEXT NATIONAL GRAND MASTERS. I PLEDGE MY SUPPORT AND ENDORSEMENT OF YOU AS NATIONAL GRAND MASTER.

TO THE OUTGOING NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEADS THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP AND LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF DEPARTMENT HEADS. TO HERON BERNICE STONE-WELL, NATIONAL GRAND MOST ANCIENT MATRON, DTR. JOANN SANDERS, NATIONAL IMPERIAL COMMANDRESS, AND SIS. DIANNE LANDERS, NATIONAL YOUTH MATRON DIVISION I. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNTIRING AND DEVOTED SERVICE TO YOUR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

TO SIR KNIGHT LORENZO PHELPS, NATIONAL GRAND EMINENT COMMANDER, KNIGHTS TEMPLAR. NOBLE CURTIS CHEEKS, NATIONAL IMPERIAL POTENTATE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNTIRING AND DEVOTED SERVICE TO YOUR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

AT THIS 56TH TRIENNIAL SESSION WE WILL ELECT NEW OFFICERS FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS AND THOSE THAT ARE NOW SERVING WILL MOVE ON TO THE NEXT TRIENNIAL SESSION. TRIENNIAL SESSIONS ARE EXCITING BECAUSE SOME ARE JOCKING FOR POSITIONS AND HOPEFULLY TO BECOME A NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEAD.

NOT EVERYONE CAN BECOME A NATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEAD HOWEVER, IF YOUR ONLY DESIRE IS TO BECOME AN OFFICER THAT'S GREAT! MY ONLY ADVICE TO YOU IS TO PREPARE YOURSELF FOR WHATEVER POSITION YOU DESIRE. LET THE POSITION SEEK YOU, NOT YOU SEEK THE POSITION. WE ALL HAVE A PATH OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS WE CAN LOOK BACK ON, THAT OTHERS CAN SEE AND JUDGE FOR THEMSELVES AS TO WHETHER WE'RE WORTHY OF A POSITION.

I CAN STAND BEFORE YOU THIS MORNING AND CITE MANY OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS ACHIEVED FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS, BUT I WON'T. HOWEVER, I WANT TO FOCUS BRIEFLY ON WHERE WE GO FROM HERE.

YOU'VE OFTEN HEAR ME SPEAKING ABOUT THE SOLID FOUNDATION THAT OTHER PAST NATIONAL GRAND MASTERS HAS LAID. ESPECIALLY THE HON. JOHN T. HILTON A MASONIC SCHOLAR WHO CONCEIVED THE IDEA OF THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE. MANY PAST NATIONAL GRAND MASTERS HAS TAKEN HIS DREAM AND TRANSLATED THESE IDEAS INTO REALITY.

HERE WE ARE 167 YEARS LATER AND THE STRUCTURE ISN'T NEARLY COMPLETED. IF WE ARE TO COMPLETE THE STRUCTURE HERE ARE A FEW THINGS I SUGGEST WE MUST DO AS AN ORGANIZATION:

- WE MUST BEGIN TO RECRUIT AND BRING INTO OUR ORGANIZATION THOSE YOUNG AND BRIGHT MINDS.

- WE CAN'T BE AFRAID OF NEW IDEAS AND WELCOME CHANGE.
- WE MUST PUT QUALIFIED BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS.
- WE NEXT TO FIX UP OUR LODGES AND CHAPTERS IN THE COMMUNITY.
- OUR SEASONED BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS MUST BEGIN TO MENTOR YOUNGER MEMBERS
- GRAND LODGES NEED TO FOCUS WORKSHOPS ON LEADERSHIP SKILLS RATHER THAN OPENING AND CLOSING.
- GRAND LODGES, LODGES, AND CHAPTERS NEED TO FOCUS MORE ON COMMUNITY PROJECTS. (ROYAL ARK LODGE #574, ATLANTA, GA, BRO. SHANNON KEITH WM, INVCITUS LODGE #7, INDIANAPOLIS, IN, BRO. TIM BROWN WM, NAOMI MARTHA #103 ATLANTA, GA, SIS. LEOLA HATCHER, WM, PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS)
- WE MUST BEGIN TO BE INVOCATIVE IN OUR LODGE AND CHAPTER MEETINGS. (INVITE SPEAKERS FROM COMMUNITY, LAWYER, DOCTOR, COURT REPRESENTATIVE, ETC.)
- LASTLY, WE MUST RESPECT EACH OTHER AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS. WE GOT TO STOP DESTORYING OUR LODGES AND CHAPTERS JUST BECAUSE WE HAVE A DISAGREEMENT. I CAN DISAGREE WITH YOU AND STILL BE YOUR BROTHER AND FRIEND.

THESE SUGGESTIONS ARE SIMPLE IN NATURE AND CAN VERY EASILY BE ACCOMPLISH IN A MATTER OF MONTHS. WE MUST CHANGE AND HAVE A VISION FOR THIS ORGANIZATION FUTURE. THIS IS ONE OF THE TOPICS I WILL DISCUSS WITH THE GRAND MASTERS IN MY MEETING WITH THEM TODAY. WE MUST BE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS MATTER AND COME TO THE TABLE WITH POSTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

MY APPEAL TO YOU AS MEMBERS IS TO CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF THIS ORGANIZATION. THE GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE HAS BEEN GOOD TO THIS MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE. WE'VE HAD SOME GOOD AND BAD TIMES AND HE HAS BROUGHT US OVER AND THROUGH FOR THE PAST 167 YEARS.

I AS YOU 22ND NATIONAL GRAND MASTER CAN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE AND LOVE YOU AND THIS MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE. I HAVE TRULY ENJOYED BEING YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT. BEING YOUR NATIONAL GRAND MASTER HAS BEEN THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY MASONIC CAREER, THIS HAS BEEN REWARDING IN TERMS OF MEETING AND WORKING WITH SO MANY WONDERFUL BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

IN CLOSING I WAS THINKING AS TO HOW I COULD THANK YOU'LL FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE AND FOR ME AS YOUR NATIONAL GRAND MASTER. SOME MAY KNOW I'M A GREAT FAN OF FRANKIE BEVERLY AND OTIS REDDING. FRANKIE BEVERLY SUMS IT UP IN THIS SONG EXACTLY HOW I FEEL IN MY HEART FOR YOU. PLEASE LISTEN FOR NEXT 7 MINUTES AND 19 SECONDS.

THANK YOU, BROTHERS, AND SISTERS. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AND THE MW NATIONAL GRAND LODGE?

THANK YOU.

Hon. Clyde L. Shepard, 33^o
MW National Grand Master

July 19, 2014