

**ARIZONA
SUPPLEMENT**

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LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEW YEAR

Even though you are reading this sometime after the New Year, I want to share some things that are bouncing about in my thoughts and hopes for the year that lies before us. Today I had the opportunity to share an afternoon with several Brothers and their wives as we gathered at another Brother's home for an open house. Later in the afternoon I attended an officer installation for one of our blue lodges and listened to the newly installed Master present his thoughts on what Masonry means to him. Then, just a bit ago, I spoke with a very dear friend and wonderful Brother and Mentor who called just to speak to me. Even though his life is very busy, filled with personal challenges and he admittedly is exhausted from all that is going on in his life these days, he took the time to pick up the phone to call me and wish me a Happy New Year. We spoke of our hopes for the New Year and counted our blessings for having the opportunity as Masons to teach, to pass on some of the knowledge we have gained, and hopefully to inspire others to press forward with their efforts to become better men.

It may seem that there is much to fear in our lives, that there is little we can do to bring about a positive change; that if we wait "someone" will come along to make it all better. Have you noticed that this same attitude seems to pervade within our own Masonic fraternity? Our numbers are dwindling. We are often challenged to muster up enough members to fill the stations just to open a stated meeting, much less to put on our own degrees. My Brothers and Sir Knights, this should not be so. It is up to each and every one of us to make a difference for the good of Masonry.

I would like all of you who read this to make a solemn and personal commitment to work this year to improve yourself and to work for the

good of our fraternity. We belong to the oldest and most extensive fraternity this world has ever known. Take pride in that. Take great pride that you are in even more exclusive company in that you have demonstrated a greater commitment to our craft by working to become a Knight Templar.

Do you remember that famous inspirational quote, "If it is to be, it is up to me." Truer words could not be spoken. You are that "someone" who can make a difference. Resolve to attend more meetings and to participate, even in some small way, to become more active in your Lodge, Chapter, Council, and Commandery. Resolve to read and study more about our noble craft and to have more discussions with your Brothers and fellow Sir Knights about what it means to be a Knight Templar and what it is that we stand for. Resolve to pick up the phone and call a Brother you have not spoken to in some time, offer to pick him up and take him to your next meeting. Resolve that you will live up to one of our most basic obligations to pass on "light, added to further light" to our less informed brethren. Resolve that you will put forth your best efforts all year long to make Arizona Masonry and Templarism even stronger. If it is to be, it is up to YOU!

God Bless you and your family. May God Bless our Armed Forces and keep them safe. I'll see each of you soon in Lodge!

William A. Garrard, Jr.,
Grand Generalissimo

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On December 5th Phoenix Commandery No. 3 sponsored the Templar Ball. This gala holiday event was held at the Phoenix Elks' Lodge on North 32nd Street. The evening featured a cash bar, a wonderful buffet dinner that included both a chicken and beef entrée, and dance music provided by a top-notch six piece jazz band. There were about 80 Sir Knights and ladies in attendance. The men were attired in tuxedo or dress uniform and the ladies added grace and charm to the evening in their lovely gowns. It should also be noted that the Grand Master and all three presiding Grand York Rite officers were present.

This was an elegant and enjoyable evening and Phoenix Commandery No. 3 deserves kudos for a first class effort. It is hoped that the Templar Ball will become an annual event. If you missed this year's event, make plans to attend next year!

--Editor