

# ALABAMA SUPPLEMENT



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## (Past) Grand Prelate's Apartment

Sir Knights, by the time you read this, I will be a "Past" Grand Prelate. However, I would be remiss in my duties if I did not take some time to thank our immediate Past Grand Commander, R.E. Sir Knight Billy Rikard, for the trust and faith he reposed in me by appointing me to this position, and also to those Knights across the state who encouraged me by letting me know how much they appreciated my monthly "Grand Prelate's Apartment" messages in this Supplement. I also owe a debt of gratitude to PGC Tom Craig, State Editor, for his kindness in making space in the Supplement for those messages.

I hope I have represented you well as your Grand Prelate, and wish all success to our new Grand Prelate. It has been an enjoyable year. May the blessings of Almighty God and his Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, rest and abide with each of you and with our beloved Fraternity.

George Marshall, Jr., PGC, KCT

## GRAND YORK RITE 2009

Although I missed our sessions this year because of my wife's recovering from surgery, a couple of the Sir Knights have given me information on the elected officers from this meeting in Birmingham. In the Grand Commandery, Sir Knight Owen E. Gore, KYCH, of Cyrene Commandery No. 10 was chosen to preside over the Grand Commandery for the next year. Other officers of the Grand Commandery are: Sir Knights Jimmy O'Dell, KYGCH (1), Deputy Grand Commander; Jack Wade, KYGCH (1), Grand Generalissimo; Ronald Thomas, KYCH, Grand Captain General; James Blanteno, KYCH, Grand Senior Warden; Paul Drinkard Sr., KYCH, Grand Junior Warden; Joe D. Lee, KYGCH (1), Grand Treasurer; Hiram O. Williams, Grand Recorder; George Mills, KYCH, Grand Standard Bearer; Jamie Smith, KYGCH (1), Grand Sword Bearer; and Ray Dunn, KYGCH (1), Grand Warder.

In the Grand Council, Companion and Sir Knight Phillip J. Sherman, KYGCH (1), of Decatur Council No. 81 and DeMolay Commandery No. 14, was elected Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Alabama for 2009-2010. Other officers elected and appointed to serve the Grand Council with Most Illustrious Companion Sherman are Companions: Jamie Smith, KYGCH (1), Deputy Grand Master; Teddy Grogan, KYGCH (2), Grand Principal Conductor of the Work; Joe D. Lee, KYGCH (1), Grand Treasurer; Hiram O. Williams, Grand Recorder; Jimmy O'Dell, KYGCH (1), Grand Captain of the Guard; George Marshall, KYGCH (2), Grand Conductor of the Council; Ron Thomas, KYCH, Grand Steward; and Ray Dunn, KYGCH (1), Grand Sentinel.

In the Grand Chapter, Companion and Sir Knight C. Sterling Hughes, KYCH, of Dothan Chapter No. 113 and Dothan Commandery No. 25, was elected to serve as Most Excellent Grand High Priest for the ensuing term. Other elected Grand Chapter officers are: Companions James McGee, Grand King; James Tidmore, KYCH, Grand Scribe; Joe D. Lee, KYGCH (1), Grand Treasurer; Hiram O. Williams, Grand Secretary; Paul Drinkard, KYCH, Grand Captain of the Host; Jack Wade, KYGCH (1), Grand Principal Sojourner; Arthur Lee Campbell III, KYCH, Grand Royal Arch Captain; Thomas Craig, KYGCH (1), Grand Master of the Third Veil; Ron Thomas, KYCH, Grand Master of the Second Veil; and Thomas Nesbitt, Grand Master of the First Veil.

Next year's meeting will also be in Birmingham.

## THE GEESE

There was once a man who didn't believe in God, and he didn't hesitate to let others know how he felt about religion and religious holidays.

His wife, however, did believe, and she raised their children to also have faith in God and Jesus, despite his disparaging comments.

One snowy eve, his wife was taking their children to service in the farm community in which they lived.

They were to talk about Jesus' birth. She asked him to come, but he refused. "That story is nonsense!" he said. "Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!"

So she and the children left, and he stayed home.

A while later, the winds grew stronger and the snow turned into a blizzard. As the man looked out the window, all he saw was a blinding snowstorm. He sat down to relax before the fire for the evening. Then he heard a loud thump. Something had hit the window. He looked out, but couldn't see more than a few feet. When the snow let up a little, he ventured outside to see what could have been beating on his window.

In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. Apparently they had been flying south for the winter when they got caught in the snowstorm and couldn't go on. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter. They just flapped their wings and flew around the field in low circles, blindly and aimlessly. A couple of them had flown into his window, it seemed.

The man felt sorry for the geese and wanted to help them. The barn would be a great place for them to stay, he thought. It's warm and safe; surely they could spend the night and wait out the storm. So he walked over to the barn and opened the doors wide, then watched and waited, hoping they would notice the open barn and go inside.

But the geese just fluttered around aimlessly and didn't seem to notice the barn or realize what it could mean for them. The man tried to get their attention, but that just seemed to scare them, and they moved further away. He went into the house and came with some bread, broke it up, and made a bread crumb trail leading to the barn. They still didn't catch on.

Now he was getting frustrated. He got behind them and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered in every direction except toward the barn. Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where they would be warm and safe.

"Why don't they follow me?!" he exclaimed. "Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm?"

He thought for a moment and realized that they just wouldn't follow a human. "If only I were a goose, then I could save them," he said out loud. Then he had an idea. He went into barn, got one of his own geese, and carried it in his arms as he circled around behind the flock of wild geese.

He then released it. His goose flew through the flock and straight into the barn -- and one-by-one, the other geese followed it to safety.

He stood silently for a moment as the words he had spoken a few minutes earlier replayed in his mind: "If only I were a goose, then I could save them!" Then he thought about what he had said to his wife earlier. "Why would God want to be like us? That's ridiculous!"

Suddenly it all made sense. That is what God had done. We were like the geese--blind, lost, perishing. God had His Son become like us so He could show us the way and save us.

As the winds and blinding snow died down, his soul became quiet and pondered this wonderful thought. Suddenly he understood why Christ had come. Years of doubt and disbelief vanished with the passing storm. He fell to his knees in the snow, and prayed his first prayer:

"Thank You, God, for coming in human form to get me out of the storm!"

Author Unknown

## WASHINGTON'S TESTAMENT

If it has pleased the supreme architect of the universe to make me an honorable instrument to promote the welfare and happiness of my fellowmen, my exertions have been abundantly recompensed by the kind partiality with which they have been received; and the assurance you give me of your belief that I have acted upon the square in any public capacity, will be among my principal enjoyments in this Terrestrial Lodge.

George Washington