



April, 2009

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Sir Knights:

I cannot remember a day in my life when the Pledge of Allegiance did NOT have the words "under God." In 1954, Dr. George M. Docherty, pastor of the New York Avenue, Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., observed in a sermon "there was something missing from the pledge," and the U.S. Congress, in its wisdom, recognizing this truth quickly altered the pledge to its present form. In this action they publicly set forth the ONE GREAT DISTINCTION between our democracy and every dictatorship of which I have known or been taught of, namely, faith in God and submission to His will

I do not profess to know what you, my fellow Sir Knights, always believe, but I for one am deeply convinced that liberty is for all people everywhere, it is divine in its purpose, revealed to man from the heart of God, and that it will always be that way.

There are multitudes all across this earth that either do not believe in God, or believing, still design to do everything in their power to obstruct His purposes. It is my conviction that this universe is so constructed of God and so obedient to His will that it will not support willful disobedience to that will even though it may take many years to realize Gods action or purpose. Obedience is supported and disobedience leads to self-destruction, whether of the individual or of the nation. Those who disobey will ultimately be swept aside by the onward march of the divine will. As Masons, we support, I think, such a belief.

God is FOR liberty for His children; not the unrestrained license which so many call liberty, but the disciplined loyalty to His will, which blesses and envisions and empowers. "For in that day (Gods day), says Paul, "the creation will be set free from its bondage and decay – and will – obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God." The Reverend Basil L. Johnson, Grand Prelate of the Grand Encampment in 1976, stated that, "As Masons we first learn the lesson of discipline; of obedience to the revelations of the Grand Architect, and in that lesson we find our true liberty."

Sir Knights, as we prepare for all of the upcoming Festivals around our wonderful Commonwealth this year, and set about the task of soliciting the best qualified to receive our beautiful Orders, as well as those who will confer them, keep in mind one thought. If we are to make the best impression possible, check attitudes and egos at the door, and let your faith guide your thoughts, words and conduct, and success will, of necessity, follow.

Best wishes to each of you.

Courteously and Fraternally thine,
Raleigh C. Foster, Grand Commander

EASTER OBSERVANCE

Louisville DeMolay Commandery # 12 will hold the annual Easter Observance on Tuesday evening, April 21. The celebration will begin with a catered meal at 6:30 P. M. for all Knights, ladies, guests and widows. This has become more and more a family event in recent years and children are also welcome. Immediately after dinner, the Commandery will open briefly for necessary business following which Prelate James C. Reichert will begin the service.

The Scottish Rite Choir will be present to add music to the festivities. No reservations are required and we hope for a large turnout.

ORDER OF THE TEMPLE TO BE CONFERRED

Louisville DeMolay Commandery # 12 will confer the Order of the Temple on the spring class of candidates on Tuesday, April 7. A member served dinner will be offered at 6:30 P. M. and Commander Foster will begin the Order at 7:30 P. M. We have at least five Knights of Malta eligible to receive the order and courtesy candidates are welcome.

REPORT ON ASHLAND ONE-DAY FESTIVAL

The One Day Festival at Ashland was a great success. A total of thirteen candidates from Louisa, Ashland, Morehead, and Somerset York Rite Bodies were treated to an outstanding day of ritual and instruction. Degree casts from Apperson Chapter, Morehead Chapter, and Temple Chapter conferred all Chapter degrees full form. Everett Council conferred the Council degrees in full form, with Most Illustrious Grand Master Burton E. Allen serving as Illustrious Master for both degrees. The Commandery Orders were conferred in full form by mixed teams from Ashland, Morehead, Frankfort, and DeMolay Commandery. The Order of the Temple Commander was Sir Knight Raleigh Foster, Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Kentucky. Several members from the Grand Chapter line and Grand Commandery line were present, as well as over fifty local Companions and Sir Knights. The Ashland York Rite Bodies express their appreciation to all who attended and took part in a great day of York Rite Masonry. Kerry Sluss MIPGM

MASONIC FAIR

Kosair Shrine continues to plan for this outstanding opportunity to gather and explain our organizations to one another, as well as to the public on Saturday, April 11. In addition, we should be able to truly enhance our philanthropic efforts by offering these explanations at that time.

The presentation of the Arch Ceremony beginning at 1 P.M. will offer new insight into the way we fit together and work together. Call the Kosair office at 585-5412 in order to let them know you will be attending.

UNITY CLASS UPDATE

All three York Rite units in the Louisville DeMolay Asylum stepped up with a donation to offset the upcoming advertising expenses being incurred in promotion of the July 18 event. The three units meeting at Shelbyville did the same last month, as did Bullitt Chapter and Council. We hope for support from the surrounding units, particularly those that will benefit the most from our efforts. Kosair Shrine will have budgeted for this event at the regular February meeting. Petitions are available from many of our members at this time, and several completed petitions have already been submitted. Committee members forming the cast are having great success in attracting the best ritualists to assist.

In addition to supplying their building, the Valley of Louisville, Scottish Rite, has graciously offered to provide our lunch that day. The desired unity is evident.

UPCOMING WEST KENTUCKY SCOTTISH RITE CLASS

The Donald Kent Berkley (Past Grand Commander) Memorial Spring Class is scheduled for April 11 and 25 in the West Kentucky Consistory at Madisonville. For petitions and additional information, contact the Registrar, Dirk K. Molt at (270) 957-0209.