

Missouri Supplement

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Grand Commander:

Sir Knights,

As I end my year as your Grand Commander, mixed thoughts cross my mind. It will be nice to "slow down" for a while. On the other hand, I will miss the opportunities to make new friends and renew friendships.

Everywhere I have visited, I have been received with respect and fraternal friendship. There are many outstanding men in our fraternity.

It has truly been an honor to serve as your Grand Commander this year.

I am so grateful for the work that has been done by the grand officers, the committees, and my Regional Grand Officers. Thanks to the Ladies for their support and contributions.

Thanks go to Kevin and his Lady Joyce and to our Jurisprudence Chairman, Robert Schlichter, who have been helpful when needed and have tried to keep me on the right track.

To my Lady Sue, my secretary and traveling companion, I extend my heartfelt thanks and love.

To all the Sir Knights of Missouri, your support and efforts during the year to York Rite Masonry has not gone unnoticed.

I have appreciated the enthusiasm and dedication shown by our youth groups and their leaders. These young men and young ladies will be our future Masonic members.

Congratulations to Sir Knight Ronnie Green, Right Eminent Grand Commander, 2009-2010. I wish for you the very best in your coming year. May your travels be safe and your pleasures many.

Fraternally
James J. Hayes
Junior Past Grand Commander

Women over 40!

Older women are generous with praise, often underserved. They know what it's like to be unappreciated.

Older women are forthright and honest. They'll tell you right off if you are a jerk, if you are acting like one. You don't ever have to wonder where you stand with her.
A Change:

In winter why do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?

By the way, how come you never hear father-in-law joke?

Why do people keep running over a string a dozen times with their vacuum cleaner, then reach down, pick it up, examine it, then put it down to give the vacuum one more chance?

Greetings Sir Knights:

It is my hope that everyone enjoyed Grand Sessions. Congratulations to Sir Knight James Joseph Hayes for his successful year as Grand Commander.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Sir Knights for the privilege and honor of allowing me to serve as your Grand Commander for the ensuing year. I have a great corp of Grand Officers to assist me and to guide me in my endeavors. I will do my very best.

My term begins with my attending the DeMolay Session in Jefferson City on May 24th and 25th; Supreme Grotto in Peoria Illinois will be June 10th-13th.

It is my hope that I will be invited to your Commandery for a visit. I will attempt to visit all the Commanderys in the state of Missouri during my term in office.

Fraternally,
Ronnie E Green REGC

The Essence of Ritual

Ritual is nothing more than rote learning turned into an art form. It is beautiful beyond description when done with feeling and understanding. Ritual is the essence of Masonry. It was done with sensitivity to the fact that many of the men being addressed could not read, and some could not write, but they could memorized large amounts of ritual, which was passed down from generation to generation.

But all this changed in the 20th Century, when it was determined that "rote" learning had no lasting value. One must know the subject by studying it and mastering its eccentricities. There is an element of truth to this when applied to the educational forum. However, in the world at large, there is great use for rote learning. Actors used to learn and still do to some extent, pages of dialogue to be given by them at the proper time.

So, "Rote Learning" became persona non grata. But is it? Why should we allow the essence of our degrees to die just because some have called the mode of mastering the ritual antiquated? Ritual can still be given with eloquence and essence. It is still a valuable tool. To go away from it, takers away, the "essence"-- the teachings of the fraternity.

Yet, we find another problem, the problem of time. Is it that our posteriors do not allow us to set for long times listening to such lengthy dialogue? Or is it that the present age is desirous of getting everything fast and immediate.

(I will look at this further next month, if I don't forget.)