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California Supplement
Grand Commander's Message for May 2018

"Work for the Cause, not the Applause"

It is hard to believe that as I write this message, my term as your Grand Commander is quickly coming to an end. This has been an absolutely amazing year and Pam and I are thankful for all of the new friendships that we have made this year. We will forever treasure all of our memories. Your hospitality has been gracious and your commitment to your Commandery is inspiring.

It has been my privilege to travel throughout California with two very distinguished York Rite representatives, Sir Knight Randy Downey, the Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in California, his beautiful wife Mickey, and Sir Knight Lee Whelan, Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons in California. They have been amazing ambassadors for York Rite Masonry and I thank them for their friendship, their humor, their service and their dedication to our fraternity. As Jacques Cousteau would say, it is a great day to be a York Rite Mason!!!

I want to thank my Grand Officers and their Ladies for their support; it has been a pleasure and an honor to serve with each of you.

I would like to offer a special thank you to all of the Past Grand Commanders and their ladies. This Commandery has been blessed with amazing men who have served before me and continue to provide their love and support to the people coming up through the line. Your help and advice have definitely made this year much easier for me. Pam and I are so thankful for each of you.

I could not write this message without thanking our family for their love and support. To our oldest daughter, Mary Ann, and our son-in-law, Andy, who has served as Grand Warder this year: thank you for everything that you have done this year. The list of all that you have done is way too long to list but having you by our side through all of our travels has been wonderful. You have both definitely worked for the Cause, not the Applause. To our youngest daughter, Alison, and her boyfriend, Justin: thank you for traveling when you were available and staying home and taking care of the animals, house, etc. the rest of the time. We hope to be able to spend more time at home this year.

To Pam's Dad, Gordon, and his beautiful wife, Shirley: thank you for your complete support this year and always being willing to step in and help out wherever was needed, especially running my business while we traveled.

To my Dad, George: thank you for introducing me to Masonry and believing in me every step of the way. It will be my sincere pleasure to present my Dad with a very special award before I complete my term as Grand Commander.

Last, but definitely not least, to our 2 amazing Grandchildren, Nathan and Emma: thank you for sitting through a lot of boring receptions and always being adorable. You light up our lives and we are so thankful that we could show you off this past year. We hope that you will continue this great family history of Masonry.

I hope that you are all planning on attending Grand Sessions in Visalia from the May 20th – May 23rd.

I thank you for the love and support that has been extended to Pam and me this year and know that you will extend the same courtesies and Masonic brotherhood during this next Templar year to our Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander Gregg Hall and his 2018-2019 officers.