



IOWA SUPPLEMENT

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Brothers, Companions, and Sir Knights all

On behalf of the Grand Commandery Officers and their families, I want to send each of you our warmest wishes for this holiday season. This is a time of giving thanks for all the blessings that we have received this past year. While there may have been times of sorrow we must remember that we may miss those that have passed, it could be that God wanted to give you another guardian angel to watch over you and keep you safe.

When we think about all the things we can be thankful for our family, friends and for living in the greatest nation in the world. Some of us take for granted the sacrifices that have been paid for the peace and stability that we enjoy. The price that has been paid by our young men and women over the history of our nation is a tremendous debt we can never repay to the families who lost sons and daughters.

The seeds we planted in the spring have grown under the loving warmth of the sun and the gentle (and sometimes not so gentle) rain to provide for us a bounty that we are truly thankful for. The gathering of friends and family around the harvest table is one of most enduring times for most of us. For while we may not always share the same ideas, and at times disagree, deep down we know that there is a place where all is forgiven and love rules the day.

As I stated in the October supplement, I would like to help the Iowa Veterans Cemetery and the Wreaths across America program at Van Meter, with the 2018 program. Last year they raised enough funds for 2700 wreaths to be placed on the graves of Iowa veterans. This year there are more than 3300 graves. If we are successful in raising our

goal of \$4000.00 (\$2000.00 in matching funds from the Grand Charity fund) we can place wreath on an additional 400 graves. The more monies we raise, the more we can help. I have sent information to all of the recorders and I will ask the director to be at our fall festival and at that time we will present the check. Additionally if you know of any veteran or mason that is buried in the Iowa Veterans cemetery please let me or the recorder know and we will place the wreaths of our hero's grave.

Sir Knights if your Commandery has not made plans for your Christmas observance now would be the time to begin planning your event. This is one of our requirements.

*Fraternally yours
Forrest Peck Jr REGC*