

## Massachusetts and Rhode Island Supplement

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### GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE - NOVEMBER 2017 Sir Knight Glen Melvin Cunningham



Sir Knights, friends and family,

I wish to thank all of you for the confidence you have shown in me by electing me. I hope I can live up to your expectations. I will do my best. As all of you know there has been change over the last few years as we work to determine the best course for our future. As with all plans we should continually analyze our results and make adjustments and so we will. Make no mistake about it, change can be scary. It's full of unknowns and uncertainty. But then again, so are all aspects of life.

No matter how comfortable we get, nothing is guaranteed. In fact, Greek philosopher Heraclitus once said, "The only thing that is constant is change." At the end of the day, it all comes down to how we handle it. Our ability (or inability) to live in reality and deal with change can say a lot about us and our outlook on life. It can also be indicative of how successful we will be. To understand this correlation, we must first understand the three different stages of change that most people experience. The first is a state of resistance. This when we fear and even reject change in an effort to stay safe at all costs. The second stage is maintenance, which involves mere survival or just getting through the day. Its attitude is one of indifference. And then finally, we have vision. This stage is about embracing change and working towards what's next. Our vision will lead us to build a sustainable future for those who follow. This requires us to focus on a few key areas. 1. Creating a sustainable financial base. 2. Retaining our identity and remaining relevant

to our members. 3. Supporting each other as we work toward our goals. 4. Providing our members with an experience worth their time and support. 5. Communicating with our membership so we are all on the same page.

Change is inevitable, our reaction to it is understandable but progress is what happens when we plan our future and work towards it. All this takes effort and cooperation. I am counting on each of you to be a part of this effort as we move forward on our pilgrimage together, remember our core values and traditions still define us and guide us, our love for each other and the fellowship we share on our journey will sustain us and together we will build our future.

I look forward to the coming year as we build our future together.

God bless you always!  
Courteously yours,  
Glen Cunningham  
Grand Commander, 2017 - 2018

### A word from our Grand Prelate Sir Knight and Reverend Matthew John Wissell

Sir Knights,

November begins our entrance into the holiday season. It is a time when true Knights of the Cross begin to prepare their spirits to give thanks for the blessings in their lives. Some choose to do this by surrounding themselves with friends and family, others choose to add some kind of service into their lives, and yet others decide to make additional monetary gifts to their favorite charities. If given the attention it rightfully deserves, the Thanksgiving holiday can be a time of great renewal for one's soul. I encourage you to allow this holiday season to nurture your soul.

In His Service,  
Matt

The Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island would like to congratulate Companion Dana A. Jackson for his election to Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts and Companion Demetrios J. Sarantopoulos for his re-election as the Most Illustrious Grand Master for the Grand Council of Massachusetts.