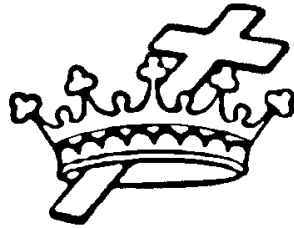


OREGON SUPPLEMENT

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Once again we enter into the final stretch of the year. Ahead of us this month is two holidays and one momentous task. We should take time to weigh each in the light of its intent.

First we will cover the two holidays. Veteran's Day arrives first, it is a time of reflection on those who serve our country. In these days a lot of lip service is given to honoring others for their service. It has become a bland phrase to say "thank you for your service." This is a trap we Christian Warriors cannot fall into. Being in the service is not just a phrase, in time of war veterans are the men and women who put themselves in harm's way so that others can remain safe in their home. Our veterans have studied war so we don't have to. In peace, they are the ones that come to our aid in disasters. Further, there are many veteran groups made up of those who are no longer in the service who have formed volunteer first responder groups that rush to areas where disaster has struck. It is that attitude of service to the masses that we need to remember and incorporate into our lives.

This holiday is followed by Thanksgiving, a time where we thank the Lord for the bounty given to us. It is also a time to share a little of what we have surplus with those in need. It cannot be told too often of the generosity that was shown the original band of settlers when they arrived unprepared on our shores. Should we do no less with those who are in need? Especially for those Masons in our areas or their surviving families that may be in need. In days past these families woke to find a box or bag upon their porch on these special days with no note of who it came from. Maybe this is one tradition we need to bring back.

Lastly we have a large task in front of us. As Knights Templar we are also members of the Royal Arch Chapter and Council of Cryptic Masons. This is the time of the year that we elect new officers. This is a task because as members it is our responsibility to look at those who are rising to positions of responsibility and ask ourselves if this is a person that will step up to the task of spreading the message of York Rite Masonry. Remember that every vote counts, so make yours be heard.

In this time when we gather with family take a moment to reflect on all of the people surrounding you. Renew your commitments to each of them and let them know just how much they mean to you. Think back to your Commandery and of all the holes that we now struggle to fill. Someday soon, and none can say when, there will be a new hole where you once stood. Have you left any jobs unfinished? Have you left any words unsaid? Shall your parting words from this earth be ones of thanks?

Courteously,

Henry G. "Hank" Stockhoff
Grand Commander

