

TENNESSEE SUPPLEMENT

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Ralph Burks Taylor
Grand Commander

GENERAL ORDER NO. 4

To the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Tennessee, and to the Officers and Sir Knights of the subordinate Commanderies:

This year, 2018, marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I which occurred on the 11th second, of the 11th minute, of the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month, 1918, when the United States and Allied Forces signed the armistice agreement with Germany in Compiegne, France.

On November 11, 1919 then President Woodrow Wilson from the White House penned these words:

A year ago today our enemies laid down their arms in accordance with an armistice which rendered them impotent to renew hostilities, and gave to the world an assured opportunity to reconstruct its shattered order and to work out in peace a new and juster set of international relations. The soldiers and people of the European Allies had fought and endured for more than four years to uphold the barrier of civilization against the aggression of armed force. We ourselves had been in the conflict something more than a year and a half. – With splendid forgetfulness of mere personal concerns, were modeled our industries, concentrated our financial resources, increased our agricultural output, and assembled a great army, so that at the last our power was a decisive factor in the victory. We were able to bring vast resources, material and moral, of a great and free people to the assistance of our associates in Europe who had suffered and sacrificed without limit in the cause for which we fought. Out of this victory there arose new possibilities of political freedom and economic concert. The war showed us the strength of great nations acting together for high purposes, and the victory of arms foretells the enduring conquests which can be made in peace when nations act justly and in furtherance of the common interest of men. To us in America the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with – solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service, and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the council of nations.

It is my order that all subordinate Commanderies have a Veterans Day Observance to remember and honor those heroes. This may be done at a stated conclave of your Commandery or a meeting of your Lodge. If participating in a public function such as a Church or local parade where Sir Knights appear in public, a dispensation is required.

In His Service,

Burks Taylor, Grand Commander

From the Grand Commander: FORGIVENESS

"I now declare in truth and soberness that I entertain no enmity nor ill will against a soul on earth, which I would not freely reconcile, should I have in him a corresponding disposition."

I wonder how many Sir Knights understand the meaning of this sentence? I believe there is a parable found in Matthew that will help us understand the meaning. It is the Parable of the Wicked Servant and is in Matthew 18:21-35:

Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, until seventy times seven. Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. 29 And his fellow servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise, shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses. (Mt 18:21-35, KJV)

Forgiveness is difficult at best for many people. We see it in our fraternity where brothers are not so quick to forgive others for something that has been done to them. They hold onto something that was said about them or said to them that was hurtful and then hold it against the brother perhaps keeping him from getting into a Masonic body. Forgiveness is a must that each of us must do to receive forgiveness from our Heavenly Father who we ask to forgive us from our sins. If we do not forgive a Brother for some transgression against us, how can we expect God to forgive us for what we have done against him when we sin?

In reality, the only person that is being hurt is the Brother who is not willing to forgive. It will eat at him and will eventually turn him in to a bitter person. Satan loves bitter people and he will keep you looking in the past telling you that the other person is to blame and keeping the Brother from forgiving. "If you keep looking over your shoulder and letting your past guide your current direction, then you will plow a crooked row"! It takes one to forgive but it takes two to reconcile! Sir Knights if you truly want to make a difference, you have to be willing to forgive and forgive often. It is only then that you can find peace and truly live the Christian life. No one said being a Christian would be easy but the reward is eternal. How about it Sir Knights, are you willing to make a difference?