

GRAND COMMANDERY OF ALABAMA

State News for January 2022

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Grand Commander: Winston L. Each REGC

Editor: Thomas F. Craig, PGC, tfcraig@aol.com

GRAND CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:30-31, NIV)

The start of each new year is a time to reflect on the year just past, and to make plans for the future. It holds a special magic, with a promise of new opportunities and the possibility to change our lives for the better. And this change includes renewing our faith and our strength by trusting in the Lord God, the Maker of heaven and earth and all that is therein. So, my Companions, let us welcome in the new year by assisting and inspiring our friends and loved ones to mark this special time of year with joyful optimism and faith in our wonderful Lord. And realizing how challenging 2021 has been for us all with COVID-19 and its variants, it seems especially important to express to each other our prayers, our hopes and our dreams for better days ahead in 2022!

George Marshall, Jr., PGHP

Grand Chaplain, Grand Chapter RAM of Alabama

EUNOMIA CHAPTER NO. 5 EXEMPLIFIES ROYAL ARCH DEGREE

On Tuesday evening, November 30, the Companions of Eunomia Chapter No. 5, Royal Arch Masons, performed the Royal Arch degree as courtesy work on six candidates hailing from Gurley, Decatur, and Florence. Several past and present grand chapter of Alabama officers assisted in the conferral: Dr. R. Kim Harrison, grand high priest; George Marshall, Jr., PGHP and grand chaplain; Johnny Strickland, grand principal sojourner, John Meyers, grand sentinel; and PGGHP and PGHP Emory "Smokey" Ferguson. Also present was Ted Loggins, grand marshal.

The degree parts were filled as follows: High Priest, George Marshall, Jr.; Zerubbabel, Kim Harrison; Haggai, Jared Webster; Capt. of Host, Smokey Ferguson; Royal Arch Capt., Jared Cassidy; Principal Sojourner, Lee Gibson; Master 3rd Veil, John Meyers; Master 2nd Veil, Johnny Strickland; Master 1st Veil, Jason Crowe.

Following the ceremony, Comp. Jeremy New played the guitar and sang a beautiful yet mournful tune of the Israelite captives in Babylon. Pictured below are the candidates and cast members present.



PAID IN FULL

Your day in court will come one day, so make sure that you have good representation.

After living a "decent" life my time on earth came to an end. The first thing I remember is sitting on a bench in the waiting room of what I thought to be a court house. The doors opened and I was instructed to come in and have a seat by the defense table.

As I looked around I saw the "prosecutor," he was a villainous looking gent who snarled as he stared at me, he definitely was the most evil person I have ever seen. I sat down and looked to my left and there sat my lawyer, a kind and gentle looking man whose appearance seemed very familiar to me.

The corner door flew open and there appeared the judge in full flowing robes. He commanded an awesome presence as he moved across the room and I couldn't take my eyes off of him. As he took his seat behind the bench he said "Let us begin."

The prosecutor rose and said "My name is Satan and I am here to show you why this man belongs in hell." He proceeded to tell of lies that I told, things that I stole and in the past when I cheated others. Satan told of other horrible perversions that were once in my life and the more he spoke the further down in my seat I sank. I was so embarrassed that I couldn't look at anyone, even my own lawyer, as the Devil told of sins that even I had completely forgotten about.

As upset as I was at Satan for telling all these things about me, I was equally upset at my representative who sat there silently not offering any form of defense at all. I know I had been guilty of those things, but I had done some good in my life -- couldn't that at least equal out part of the harm I've done?

Satan finished with a fury and said "This man belongs in hell, he is guilty of all that I have charged and there is not a person who can prove otherwise. Justice will finally be served this day."

When it was his turn, my lawyer first asked if he might approach the bench. The judge allowed this over the strong objection of Satan, and beckoned him to come forward.

As he got up and started walking I was able to see him now in his full splendor and majesty. Now I realized why he seemed so familiar, this was Jesus representing me, my Lord and my Savior. He stopped at the bench and softly said to the judge "Hi Dad" and then he turned to address the court. "Satan was correct in saying that this man had sinned, I won't deny any of these allegations. And yes the wages of sin is death and this man deserves to be punished."

Jesus took a deep breath and turned to his Father with stretched arms and proclaimed "However, I died on the cross so that this person might have eternal life and he has accepted me as his Savior, so he is mine."

My Lord continued with "His name is written in the book of life and no one can snatch him from me. Satan still does not understand yet, this man is not to be given justice but rather mercy." As Jesus sat down, He quietly paused, looked at his Father and replied "There is nothing else that needs to be done, I've done it all."

The Judge lifted his mighty hand and slammed the gavel down and the following words bellowed from his lips -- "This man is free -- the penalty for him has already been paid in full. Case dismissed."

As my Lord lead me away I could hear Satan ranting and raving "I won't give up, I'll win the next one."

I asked Jesus as he gave me my instructions where to go next. "Have you ever lost a case?" Christ lovingly smiled and said "Everyone that has come to me and asked me to represent them has received the same verdict as you . . ."

"PAID IN FULL."

-- Author Unknown

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