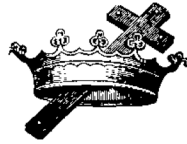


ALABAMA SUPPLEMENT

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FROM THE GRAND COMMANDER

Sir Knights, I find it hard to believe my year of service to you as your Grand Commander is almost complete. It has been a year of many joys and much travel. At every visit, I have been met with fraternal greetings, great warmth and more food than I could have been expected to resist. I have met many proud Templars from all over these United States, as well as several foreign lands. It is a great pleasure to see how much we have in common. We are indeed one dedicated band of Christian soldiers, with the same goals and focused on a common path. Thus, I am certain we can prosper our Order, so long as we are willing to put forth the required effort.

As I write this, I have just finished visiting local Commandery Christmas Observances. It has been a truly blessed experience for me to be in the presence the Sir Knights of Alabama as they join to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I was fortunate to be able to attend eight of the twelve Christmas Observances in Alabama. I am thankful to Sir Knights Winston Each and Jim McGee for attending three of the remaining four in my stead. Unfortunately, one Observance was scheduled on the same day as the conferral of the Templar Orders in Decatur. This support of the local Christmas Observances and the beautiful Knighting ceremony in Decatur are two of the proudest accomplishments of my year.

This year of serving you certainly has been the highlight of my Masonic career. I thank you so much for this honor you have bestowed on me and hope that I have proven worthy of your trust. I also hope to see as many of you as can be there at our annual communication later this month.

I attended the Alabama Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star this year. During the introduction of the Officers, there was a common theme of reading a simple statement of the individuals philosophy. This seems to me to be a valuable way to focus ones efforts and I have spent time developing such a statement for myself; Be serious when you should, Laugh when you can, Be better today than you were yesterday.

In His service,
Thomas H. Nesbit - R.E. Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Alabama

I ASKED GOD

I asked God to take away my pride.
God said "No".
It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.
I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.
God said "No".
Her spirit was whole, her body was only temporary.
I asked God to grant me patience.
God said "No".
Patience is a by-product of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is earned.
I asked God to give me happiness.
God said "No".
I give you blessings, happiness is up to you.
I asked God to spare me pain.
God said "No".
Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.
I asked God to make my spirit grow.
God said "No".
You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful.
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life.
God said "No".
I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things.
I ask God to help me LOVE others, as much as he loves me.
God said... Ahhhh, finally you have the idea!

-- Author Unknown
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