

Louisiana Supplement

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Memorial Day Message

Greetings Companions,

As we prepare to remember those brave veterans that gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country on this day we call Memorial Day, let us be reminded of the tremendous price each paid. Some folks confuse Memorial Day and Veteran's Day and honor our veterans on Memorial Day, but please remember this day is to remember those who are no longer with us. Veteran's Day will be celebrated in November. As a Vietnam Era Vet, I naturally think of the 58+ thousand that didn't return from that war, but we also need to remember all those that didn't make it home from all the conflicts that our country has been in, from the Revolutionary War to the current conflict in the Middle East.

Memorial Day, as Americans have come to know it, began in the years immediately following the Civil War. But until World War II, most people knew it as "Decoration Day." It was a day to decorate with flowers and flags the graves of fallen soldiers and remember those who had given, as Lincoln beautifully said, "the last full measure of devotion" to defend their nation. It was a day to remember what the honored dead had died to defend.

Freedom is a gift, it's a treasure. And though we all may agree on that truth, it's often easy to take for granted the greatest gifts that God has given us in our lives. But those most precious gifts are never free. They came with a price. With sacrifice. They were worth fighting for. And are still worth fighting for today. Many brave men and women were willing to face hard battles in order for us to enjoy that gift of freedom today.

I'm reminded of scripture that says "*Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*" [John 15:13](#).

Dear God,

Thank you for all the men and women that have laid down their lives over all the years of conflict. Thank you for their sacrifice and their love of our nation. Please be with their families that carry their memory in their hearts. Be with the children that may not have ever gotten to know their mother or father. Father, please be with our nation's leaders that you will provide them the wisdom to lead us and reduce the casualties.

Amen.

Al Simms Excellent Grand Chaplain Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons

Grand Commanders Message

Greetings all Valiant Sir Knights of the Temple,

How are we spending our time these days? Yes, we should still be following the Grand Encampment guidelines until we are instructed otherwise. However, that does not mean we need to sit idle and do nothing. We need to use this time wisely, we know this will end at some point, let's not sit idle and when the "All Clear" is given, not be prepared. We need to spend this time evaluating what we have learned, and what changes will need to be made in the future.

How will our meetings be held in the future; do we need to make any changes now, these changes may be physical or procedural, they may be simple or complex.

How could we better handle our future fund-raising activities and make people more comfortable participating in them. Think outside the box.

The commander of each individual commandery should, via phone or internet teleconference, obtain committee reports. He should know where his commandery stands at all times and be prepared to handle business when the time comes. Don't wait and be blindsided, scrambling at the last minute to handle issues that can be prepared for now.

Keep your officers and committees busy working behind the scenes too be ready to execute at a moments notice. If need be, appoint new committees, and get several activities going, keep your officers and members busy, working toward new activities. Let's not lose ground, while we wait for the "All Clear"...

All members should be thinking of good Masons they would like to invite into the York Rite. Yes, we can invite them, and as Christian Knights, we should feel an obligation to do so. Let's use this time constructively and build a better and stronger future for York Rite here in Louisiana.

"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give Glory"

Rory Bozeman,

RE Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of the state of Louisiana

"Chivalry, Christianity, Templary - A Way of Life"

"Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar"