

**District of Columbia Supplement
Sir Knight Kevin S. Matthews
Right Eminent Grand Commander**

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From the apartment of the Grand Commander

Sir Knights,

Stuff happens... I was talking to Jerry, the other day... and I am on his list-serve for humor, and he is on mine. We talk almost daily, and he is my MAIN transportation to anything Masonic. He goes WAY out of his way for anyone and everyone, and especially me. He is tireless and relentless, and the heart of everything Royal Arch and Templary. And he is one hell of a good example of what it means to be a Mason, a Companion and a Sir Knight.

He is hurting, at the moment, and, as I write this, he is in surgery for heart problems... please note... this is his physical heart, NOT his Masonic heart.

Every day we face challenges. We were NEVER given ANY guarantee... every day we are faced with these challenges and we have NO guarantees, and precious few sign posts.

[but plenty of honorifics]

Jerry has managed to take some control of his passions, prescribed his directions within due bounds, and balanced his life... I wish I could say as much!! I am CONTINUALLY working on it... very much like Sisyphus.

Right now, my thoughts are on him and his wonderful lady, Renee and their family, but, I can't help but think of myself... how have I lived up to those ideals and precepts. Easy to see it (eye inward... pretty harsh thought, isn't it...

I have been where Jerry is... twice... EVERYTHING changes... you start to remember what is truly important... WHAT matters, and WHO matters. It is a harsh reality check - I KNOW.

I have a fairly good friendship with Jerry. He has been there for me when many, long time "friends" forgot who I was... he has lived up to the ideals of our craft. He has been a brother and an example. We see the good and the bad in others... but what do we see when we train that eye on ourselves? Jerry isn't perfect... don't remember ever hearing of anyone who was or is... but he IS on a path... I HOPE I am, also, and I hope it is the right one! But how do you know?? Turning an honest eye on myself... well... let's not go there... but, what about you? Can you turn an honest eye upon yourself?

I put it to you with this set of questions...

> Who are you?

*** Who have YOU reached out to?**

> Who or where have YOU helped?

> Where have YOU made a difference or a contribution?

*** What have YOU given of YOU to ANYONE else...**

> how have you lived up to your sworn obligations?

It is easy to give money or donate a few minutes of your precious time, that really costs you little or nothing, or pay lip service to some professed concepts...

But what have you **DONE**... what have you given... how have you made a difference?

I have shamelessly used Brother Jerry as an example, here, but I think he would not have a problem with my reasons... you see, he is not just a Masonic brother, or just an example, he has been a friend and mentor, and while we are both still on the path, stumbling upon our way, we have a mutual goal, and maybe there are a few of you out there who are trudging along with us...

We aren't going to give up or quit... what about you?

Yours in the Service of Christ,

Sir Knight Douglas Cohen

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