



## IOWA SUPPLEMENT

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Sir Knights:

As we move into November at least I begin to reflect on the year and the changes it has brought us (good and bad), and naturally our minds turn towards Thanksgiving, and what there is to be thankful about. In this crazy year we call 2020 I know many of us have thought, “what’s next,” almost with apathy as to what the next thing will be that could possibly go wrong. Like many of you, I entered 2020 very optimistically. I was optimistic about our country and the growth and success we have seen. I was optimistic in our Fraternity and hopeful for a rejuvenation of our ideals and our task to make good men better. I was very excited to begin my term as Grand Commander in June, and as you can see from my writings, I had some pretty ambitious goals. All was well in January and February!

But since then there seems to have been a negative cycle of energy consuming us. First COVID and the lockdowns, as well as the economic distress that came along with it. Then the uprisings in many cities across the country. Then the fires. And of course the political underpinnings on both sides of each discussion. During all this, it has been easy to take the mentality of “I’m right, they’re wrong.” “I just want the best for our country and society. The other side just wants to destroy us.”

But as the year comes to a close, I want to admonish all of us to take a different view. What are we truly thankful for? At the end of the day, our Fraternity teaches us a basic understanding, love and compassion for our fellow man. We are instructed to be good husbands, fathers, brothers and upstanding citizens.

As I have been in discussions in my secular life with others, including strangers, and people that identify as “the other side” (interpret that as you may), if you look close enough, the differences aren’t as big as they tend to appear. During the height of the uprising in Louisville, I talked with a few that I know that live there. They all responded and said the uprisings were actually very small and limited in scale. If you looked at the national media, you would have thought the whole city was burning. But these people said it wasn’t even being reported by the local media.

It’s all about perspective.

So as we go into Thanksgiving and begin to close out this year, what perspective are we as Sir Knights taking?

Yes, we can take the perspective that everything is awful. We can lament (and we do) that we still can’t create any new Sir Knights. We can complain about our freedoms being in jeopardy. We can look for the bad and try and see it everywhere.

Or we can be inwardly focused and think about our blessings and be thankful for them. Think about the positive things we do every day to make small changes. And use that energy in how it is reflected in our attitude and how we deal with our fellow man. Perhaps this small change can be a catalyst in instilling a positive mindset in our society. My younger son, who is Master Councilor of his DeMolay Chapter, and I were recently having this discussion. If more people would exemplify the tenants we are taught, I bet the world would look a whole lot different.

So how is your spirit of Thanksgiving going to reflect on others? How will you reflect positively on others?

At least we can be thankful for a quick end to the election advertisements!

Until we meet again in person, I remain

In His Service,