

ALABAMA SUPPLEMENT

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FROM THE APARTMENT OF THE GRAND PRELATE EQUALITY

There are few things that modern Western society idealizes more than the equality of all mankind: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.” This has not always been so. Ancient Roman society (and most others of the time) valued just the opposite, believing that the firm foundation of all human society is the hierarchy of rank. Pliny the Younger wrote to his friend Calestrius Tiro, who had just finished a governorship and had sincerely tried to show kindness to people of all social levels. Pliny said that in spite of doing so, he congratulated him on “the way in which you preserve the distinctions of class and rank; once these are thrown into confusion and destroyed, nothing is more unequal than the resultant ‘equality.’” When we install a Senior Warden we say, “[The Level] reminds us that, although divisions among men are necessary to preserve subordination, no eminence of station should make us forget ... that in all our Masonic associations we are on a Level.” When a Brother receives the 33° in the Scottish Rite he is reminded that his decorations and awards are not badges of glory for services rendered, they are a solemn promise of further and greater services yet to be rendered. As Knights Templar we need to heed this same admonition. Although we have attained a high level in York Rite Masonry, it is not so that we may be admired by those “beneath” us. It is so that we may climb even higher in order to be better enabled serve those who are in greater moral and spiritual need, and thus better to serve our Lord and Savior, to whom they are every bit as precious as we are. For those who are on a high level it is very tempting to think like the ancients, that we are better than others, and that this is the natural order of things. It is not. As servants of Christ we must always remind ourselves that He called common men, not the high and powerful, to be those closest to him. When we finally stand before the Great White Throne we will all be naked of any worldly honors, and will all stand equally before him on the Level.

Sir Knight Richard R. Losch, KCT
Grand Prelate

GRAND CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider this: God has made the one as well as the other. (Ecclesiastes 7:14 NIV)

Companions, the times of our lives are much like the rose—sweet and soft as well as sharp and thorny. When we take a rose and touch its soft, silky petals, admire its beauty and inhale its sweet scent, must we not also accept its thorns and the pain we may feel when we grasp its stem in the wrong way? So, too, in our lives, we may enjoy pleasure and plenty, just as we may endure hardship and tribulation. In times of joy and in times of sorrow, we should be grateful for the presence of our eternal God who dwells both within us as well as all around us. We must accept our lives as we accept the rose, both its beauty and its thorns, and trust in our Eternal Father to provide happiness in the good times and fortitude when times are tough.

George Marshall, Jr., PGHP

Grand Chaplain, Grand Chapter RAM of Alabama

HUNTSVILLE COMMANDERY NO. 7 INDUCTS FOUR

At a special meeting on Tuesday, August 24, at 6:30 p.m. Huntsville Commandery No. 7 was opened in ample form by PGC George Marshall, Jr., and the Sir Knights present conferred the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross (IOORC) and the Order of Malta (OOM) on four candidates: Companions Zach Wade, Benny Ledford, Josh Wilson, and Charles Cozelos. The IOORC Sovereign Master was George Marshall, Jr., PGC, KGT, and the OOM Prior was Jared Webster. This was a new team for the OOM. The Eminent Commander, SK Jason Crowe, welcomed the newly inducted knights and several members and new knights spoke for the good of the Order. The meeting was closed in ample form at 9:05 p.m. by PGC Marshall.

