

GRAND COMMANDERY OF ARIZONA

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SK Chadwick B. Burks, Right Eminent Grand Commander

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What's Right Isn't Always What's Easy

Sir Knights,

It is no secret that contention currently abounds between the Grand Encampment and some Grand Commanderies of various jurisdictions. Questions are being asked and concerns being raised regarding decisions issued by the Grand Master involving the CBCS and the removal of a Grand Encampment officer. Letters, opinions, and even memes are flying fast and furious from both sides; but before being caught up in this unfortunate storm it is very important to reflect upon one of our most important Masonic virtues: Justice.

Hillsborough Lodge #25 (F & AM, Florida) summarizes Justice well as one of the noblest virtues stating, "For Masons, Justice is that standard or boundary of right which enables us to render to every man his just due without distinction. Justice must always dictate fairness, honesty, morality, and neutrality in the treatment of all mankind, more especially a Brother Mason. The exercise of this virtue incites us to act toward others in a manner that we wish they would act toward us." www.hillsborough25.org/masonic_noble_virtues.html) As a side note, Sir Knights, I'd encourage you to follow that web link – there is some excellent material there for a Masonic Education presentation.

Justice is often depicted with a book of the law in one hand and a scale in the other. This indicates that while the "letter of the law" is important, it must always be balanced with fairness and temperance by viewing a situation on a "higher level" than only what is printed in a rule book. Ironically, this "higher level" view is what is being invoked by both sides of the current debate.

In order for us, Sir Knights, to hold fast to our Knightly Virtues and maintain our oaths we must simply do two things: 1) Continue to respect the Grand Master and his office, regardless of your feelings of his decisions, and allow him the opportunity to make his case for the actions he took. 2) Gather as much information as possible, equally from both sides of the argument, and make your decision based on facts, and not emotion, for what you think is the best for Templary as a whole.

If we do the above things, Sir Knights, then our important Masonic virtue of Justice will prevail. Sometimes a “rough and rugged road” is required for Justice to be served, but every one of us is familiar with rough and rugged roads as we’ve all traveled them before.

Take Care and God Bless,

Chadwick Burks
Grand Commander of Arizona

Congratulations to Lady Judith Holley on receiving the Companion of the Temple award from Grand Encampment.

Sir Knight Jed Holley, Senior Warden of Kingman Lodge No. 22 and Eminent Commander of Mohave Commandery No. 13, Knights Templar, pinned the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, USA, “Companion of the Temple” award jewel on his Lady Judith Holley just prior to the Kingman Lodge No. 22 Stated Meeting on September 13, 2021.

(photo courtesy of SK John Huth, Mohave No. 13)



Please send photos and brief news items to the Editor (johnson618@cablone.net) for inclusion in the Arizona online supplement.