



# Chapter Notes

Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas



Spring 2023

Wayne H. Rolf, MEGHP 2022-2023



## ***Integrity***

Recently I read a book written by a retired Navy Seal, Admiral William H. McRaven, "The Hero Code." It might as well been titled "The Masonic Code." He uses ten words to expand his thoughts and experiences to "The Hero Code." First I want to quote his condensed synopsis:

1. I will always strive to be **COURAGEOUS**; to take one step forward as I confront my fears.
2. I will work to be **HUMBLE**; to recognize the limits of my intellect, my understanding, and my power.
3. I will learn to **SACRIFICE** by giving a little of my time, my talent, and my treasure to those in need.
4. I will be a person of **INTEGRITY**; every decision I make and every action I take will be moral, legal, and ethical.
5. I will be kind and **COMPASSIONATE** to at least one person every single day and expect nothing in return.
6. I will never give up on matters that are important to me, my family, my country, or my faith. I will **PERSEVERE**.
7. Whatever job I am given, whatever **DUTY** I am bound by, I will do it to the best of my ability.
8. I will use my unique talent to inspire others to give the **HOPE** that tomorrow will be a better day.
9. I will use **HUMOR** to comfort others, and never be afraid to laugh at myself.
10. No matter how great or small the offense against me, I will try to **FORGIVE**. I will be the victor, not the victim.

Each of these ten words are equally a part of Masonry. Every day a Mason should take time to reflect on these ten works. I am sure it will make him not only a better Mason, but a better man. Each day we are faced with challenges. Take time to reflect before reacting and you will be surprised at the results. In today's fast moving work we seldom put this into practice.

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I reflected on these ten words and found INTEGRITY to be a combination of all the others, but more important, it is the summit of a man and a Mason. Integrity is hard, very hard. Following what you know to be right, the rules, and the law is hard. Why? It is easier to be well liked among your Brothers, it is easier to go along with others, it is easier to get along with others, and it is hard to fight against your natural tendencies. Yes, integrity is hard!

Because good and evil are always present and in conflict, because you are human, and the things in life more often than we want force you and me to be put in untenable positions, it is hard. Yes, we fail occasionally, but when we fail to uphold our integrity, we may have sleepless nights or be sick to our stomach. Yes, integrity is hard!

What makes a man a Mason, or maybe a hero, are their struggles and their ability to overcome those struggles. The path that you struggle may be steep, treacherous, or rough, but to overcome them you must be of good character, trustworthy, honest, and of great faith. No matter how you struggle, the world will still believe, and you will find women, men, and yes Masons of integrity. Yes, integrity is hard!

I think Dwight David Eisenhower, a man of real integrity, said it quite well and clear. "The supreme quality of leadership is unquestionably integrity; without it no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office."

When I think what describes a Mason, I see a man who always strives to be courageous; a man who will work to be humble; who will learn to sacrifice, a man who will be kind and compassionate; a man who will never give up on matters which are important to them, such as his family, his country, or his faith, a man who will persevere; a man who no matter the job given will do it, whatever duty he has is bound by his best ability; a man who will use his unique talent to inspire others to give the hope that tomorrow will be a better day; a man who will use humor to comfort others, and never be afraid to laugh at himself; a man who, no matter how great or small the offense against him, will try to forgive. These are qualities that make integrity in a Mason and in Masonry. Yes, integrity is hard!

Look into yourself, your soul, your conscience and ask yourself if you are the person you want to be? Do you want to be that person and Mason with integrity? Remember, you may be that quiet person who someone calls you his mentor, but may never let you know.

As my term as Grand High Priest comes to a close, I find some of the plans I had did not come to fruition. The time passes so swiftly. It seems every time I was ready to put something into action, there was an obstacle, a fire to put out, or someone needed help. But that is OK. Just maybe the good Lord had other plans for me. When something needs to have your attention, do it. Remember "Let someone else do It?? Don't be that person.

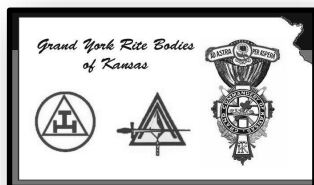


When I look at the future of York Rite Masonry, I see good things happening. The York Rite consists of four bodies, the Blue Lodge of Freemasons, a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, a Council of Cryptic Masons, and a Commandery of Knights Templar. Being a sixty year Mason next year and a forty year in the other three bodies, I have seen the Chapter, Council, and Commandery work together for Masonry most of the time. Not very often does the Lodge work with the other three bodies. This coming year will be different. When you see the plans of our incoming Grand Master you see a new spirit to make Masonry great in the state of Kansas.

God speed thee on thy way and assure thee of success because yes, integrity is hard!

## **Grand Chapter 2023**

The 157th Annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Kansas will be held on May 5, 2023, at the Bluemont Hotel in Manhattan, Kansas. The Grand Chapter will open promptly at 8:00 AM with the public opening and the tiled session will start at 9:00 AM. After lunch, the installation of officers will start at 1:30 PM. All Royal Arch Masons are invited to attend. These sessions are a lot of fun and an opportunity to meet Royal Arch Masons from across the country. More information can be found by visiting the Grand York Rite website at [kansasyorkrite.org](http://kansasyorkrite.org).



## **Order of High Priesthood Conferral**



The Order of the High Priesthood is conferred upon past or sitting High Priests of a constituent Chapter of Royal Arch Masons. All sitting or past High Priests are eligible for admission into the Order. This year's conferral will be at the Grand York Rite Sessions on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 1:00 PM. Please bring your candidates for this conferral. For more information, contact the Grand York Rite offices.

## **2023 General Grand Chapter Triennial Schedule**

The 2023 Triennial session will be held August 12-15, 2023, in Branson, Missouri. The venue for this triennial will be the Chateau on the Lake Resort Spa and Convention Center. Registration starts on Saturday, August 12, 2023, at 1:00 PM. Preregistration is available by visiting the General Grand Chapter's website at [www.ggcrami.org](http://www.ggcrami.org). The business session for the General Grand Chapter will be held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, and starts at 8:00 AM. This is an opportunity for Royal Arch Masons to meet other members from across the world and to see and participate in the triennial convocation of the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International, our sponsoring body.





## ***Upcoming Mark Master and Past Master Degrees***

There will be several opportunities for Masons to receive both the Mark Master Degree and the Virtual Past Master Degree in 2023. This is a unique opportunity afforded to all Master Masons within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Kansas and the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch

Masons of Kansas. On several selected dates throughout the jurisdiction, Master Masons will be able to receive both the Mark Master and Past Master degrees in their entirety. This is an opportunity for each Master Mason to witness the form and peculiar beauty of both these degrees and hasten them on their way to what we as York Rite Masons know are the natural completion of their Blue Lodge degree experience.



MARK MASTER

These conferrals will be held April 22, 2023, in Russell, April 29, 2023, in Burlington, May 20, 2023, in Newton, May 27, 2023 in Junction City, and June 3, 2023, in

Baldwin City. The time for these festivals will start with registration at 8:30 AM and degree conferrals beginning at 9:00 AM. There will be coffee and donuts available, however the degree conferrals should only take approximately three hours so there will be no lunch offered.

If the new Mark Master Masons and Virtual Past Masters desire to continue their York Rite experience, culminating in the Holy Royal Arch Degree conferral, there will be an opportunity to petition and join a local York Rite body near them. The conferrals for the remainder of the Chapter degrees will be held on June 10, 2023. The time and place will be announced at a later date. There will be special one day conferrals for the Council of Royal and Select Masters on June 24, 2023, in Hays and the Orders of the Temple will be conferred in full form on July 29, 2023. The location and times will be announced at a later date.



Take part in this historic opportunity to see the degrees performed in full form with Master Masons who have a genuine interest in learning more about their Blue Lodge degree history experience.



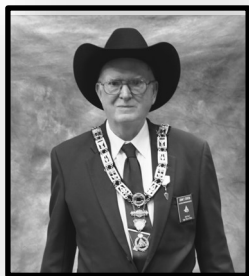
# Council Cliff Notes

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas



Spring 2023

John T. Staton., MIGM 2022-2023



## Loss

For this article I would like to talk a little bit about loss. My Masonic father, the man who recruited me into the Lodge, died on January 16, 2023. Craig Stallwitz showed up at my home in 1995 with a petition and said, "You are going to join the Masonic Lodge No. 365 in Derby." So I did, and that started a very interesting trip through Masonry.

My York Rite mentor Bill Manning died on November 11, 2022. He was always willing to help you learn your degree work and Templar Order parts. We spent many hours at the old church building with Bill teaching me the floor work for the Twelve Man Inspection and the Order of the Temple. Bill got into the grand line for the Commandery and asked me to be his appointment to the line. Unfortunately, he had to drop out of line when this wife, Helen, came down with dementia. SK Dave Bingham was kind enough to carry out Bill's wishes and appoint me to the line.

In 2017, I asked Dennis Taylor to be my Standard Bearer and he eagerly started his journey through the Grand Commandery line. I looked forward to installing him as the Grand Commander of Kansas in May of this year, but it was not to be. Dennis died on January 28, 2023.

If you are an active Mason and travel around Kansas and the United States, you meet many men who will become acquaintances and friends. Your circle expands and your life becomes richer. I would probably never have met the three men I talked about above if not for Masonry. My life was made better by knowing them.

I would like to close this article with the Circle of Friendship. If you do not attend the Grand Council session, you may never experience it.

*We have learned that the Circle is emblematical of Friendship. Let us now close our ranks, standing shoulder to shoulder, with arms crossed, and hands warmly clasped, thus welding the Circle of Friendship into an unending chain of fraternal union.*

*While the segments of which this Circle is formed will shortly be dispersed, never to be again so united, still the experience through which we have all passed, to arrive at this place, which none but the Select may enter, ought to bind us together forever and make this Circle more enduring than bands of steel.*

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**Send submissions to Editor Patrick C. Carr, PIM — carrs@cox.net**



## **Loss (Continued)**

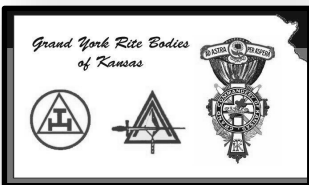
*Then let us , my companions, labor diligently and fearlessly in the cause of truth our allotted time, doing with our might whatsoever our hands find to do, so that when, at the time of the third watch, our work is finished, we may be greeted as select Masters, and be released from our captivity of the flesh, to return over the rough and rugged way to the valley of the shadow of death to our abiding place, eternal in the heavens, there to erect our last and perfect moral and Masonic Temple and adore the Holy One of Israel throughout the endless cycles of eternity. Amen.*

## **Grand Council Triennial**

While the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International will be hosting their triennial convocation, the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International will be hosting theirs as well. The 2023 Triennial session will be held August 12-15, 2023, in Branson, Missouri. The venue for this triennial will be the Chateau on the Lake Resort Spa and Convention Center. Registration starts on Saturday, August 12, 2023, at 1:00 PM. Preregistration is available by visiting the General Grand Council's website at [www.crypticmasons.org](http://www.crypticmasons.org). The business session for the General Grand Council will be held on Monday, August 14, 2023, and starts at 8:00 AM. This session will include the election of our officers for the following three years, so it is important you be in attendance and participate in the business of the body.



## **2023 Grand Council Assembly**



The 156th Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas will be held on May 6, 2023, at the Bluemont Hotel in Manhattan, Kansas. The Grand Council will open promptly at 8:00 AM with the public opening and the tiled session will start at 9:30 AM. The new Grand Council Officers will be installed immediately following the closing of the Grand Council. More information can be found by visiting the Grand York Rite website at [kansasyorkrite.org](http://kansasyorkrite.org).



## Grand Council Degrees for 2023



On Saturday, June 24, 2023, there will be a Grand Council Festival held in Hays, Kansas. This will be an opportunity for those who have received the Chapter Degrees to further their York Rite experience by taking the Cryptic Degrees. We can always use assistance in the degree work. Come out to Hays and assist us in welcoming these new Companions into the Council. More information will be coming in the future concerning these degrees and other exciting opportunities within the Council for 2023. Watch the Grand York Rite website at [kansasyorkrite.org](http://kansasyorkrite.org) and the quarterly e-magazine, *Letters from York*, available for download on the Grand York Rite website each quarter.



### The General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International

Monty J. Glover  
General Grand Master

Stephen A. Balke  
General Grand Recorder

#### A PROCLAMATION FROM THE MOST PUISSANT GENERAL GRAND MASTER

WHEREAS, the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation was incorporated in March, 1986; and

WHEREAS, from 1996-2000 the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation fully funded an endowed Chairmanship at the Indiana University Medical Center, first held by Dr. Keith March, and now currently held by Dr. Michael Murphy; and

WHEREAS, since 2012, the Indiana Center of Vascular Biology and Medicine, chaired by the CMMRF endowment, has been a part of the Cardiovascular Cell Therapy Research Network, funded by the National Institutes of Health, opening the door for further grants and ability to research; and

WHEREAS, the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation is currently researching treatments for abdominal aortic aneurysms, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, heart failure, pancreatitis, peripheral arterial disease, and stroke; and

WHEREAS, CMMRF has created a marrow stem cell treatment of limb ischemia for patients with severe peripheral arterial disease trail which has reduced the need for amputation, the sixth most expensive surgery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in its first four decades, the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation has given the University of Indiana School of Medicine over \$5.4 million and seen that investment return a remarkable progress in the extension of human life; now, therefore be it hereby

PROCLAIMED, by the Most Puissant General Grand Master of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International, as March is the anniversary month of the incorporation of the CMMRF, that March 2023 be designated as "CRYPTIC MASON'S MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION MONTH," and be it further

PROCLAIMED, by virtue of the Grand Master's signature hereunto appended, that each Grand Council and constituent Council under the jurisdiction of the General Grand Council, is encouraged to make a special donation to the CMMRF during the month of March, as their support contributes to the lifesaving measures being undertaken at the University of Indiana.

Signed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, in the Year of our Lord, 2023, and in the Year of the Deposit 3023,

Monty Glover  
General Grand Master

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ATTEST:

Stephen Balke  
General Grand Recorder

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