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April 1, 2026

To the Companions of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas,

As I write what will be my final letter to you as Most Illustrious Grand Master, my heart is filled with gratitude. It has been one of the great honors of my Masonic life to serve the Cryptic Masons of Kansas in this capacity. To be entrusted with the leadership of this Grand Council is a privilege I have never taken lightly, and I am deeply thankful for the confidence, kindness, and support that so many of you have shown me throughout this year.

This journey has reminded me again and again that no leader serves alone. I am especially grateful for the friendship and cooperation extended to me by my counterparts in the Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery. Their counsel, encouragement, and shared labor have been a constant source of strength. Working together in a spirit of unity and mutual respect has demonstrated the very best of what York Rite Masonry can be. I thank them from the bottom of my heart for their partnership and support.

As we look ahead, I want to encourage every Companion never to lose sight of the vision of One York Rite. While our bodies each have their own beautiful traditions, duties, and lessons, we are strongest when we remember that we are laboring together in a common cause. The ties that bind Chapter, Council, and Commandery are fraternal and deeply Masonic. When we support one another, we strengthen the entire York Rite for generations to come.

My prayer is that we will continue to build bridges rather than walls, with all members of the masonic fraternity. The health and vitality of our Rite depends on our ability to see beyond individual bodies and embrace the greater good of the whole.

Thank you again, Companions, for allowing me to serve. Thank you for your faith, your friendship, and your dedication to Cryptic Masonry.

Gary B. Strout

Gary B. Strout, Ed.S.

Most Illustrious Grand High Master, 2025-2026

Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of Kansas