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Companions,

I bring you fraternal greetings and trust this message finds you in peace and harmony.

This past August, a small yet resolute band of Cryptic Masons ascended to the very summit of Pike's Peak to inspect our Cryptic Depot. As we stood above the clouds, looking out across the vast horizon, I could not help but reflect on how this tradition mirrors our own Masonic journey. Just as the climb to the mountaintop requires perseverance, unity, and determination, so too does our labor in the quarries. I am pleased to report that the deposit remains in good order, a steadfast symbol of the treasures of faith, fidelity, and fraternity that we are charged to preserve.

In September, I will travel to Texas to attend the Central States Grand York Rite Conference. This gathering provides us with an opportunity to share light, strengthen our bonds, and renew our commitment to the York Rite.

Because my working profession grants me only a limited number of days away, I will be making my official visits in a "regional" format this year—meeting with Companions in the Eastern, Central, and Western parts of our state. Dates and times for each region will be sent to your Council's secretary in the coming weeks.

May the Great Architect guide our steps, steady our hands, and keep us united in the noble work entrusted to us. I look forward to meeting with you on the level in the months ahead.

Fraternally,

Gary B. Strout

Gary B. Strout, Ed.S.

Most Illustrious Grand High Master, 2025-2026

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