



Jeff Breault, 32^o, KCCH Honors Banquet Comments November 21, 2015

It is truly an honor and a privilege to have the Knight Commander of the Court of Honor rank bestowed on me. I hope that my thoughts and actions going forward continue to be confirmation of my worthiness of this honor. I appreciate the opportunity to address this illustrious gathering of Masonic leaders on behalf of all of us who were bestowed this honor.

The history and traditions of this fraternity are very important to me. It's even more important to me that this fraternity survive for my children and their children. Albert Pike said "**The true**

Mason labors for the benefit of those that are to come after him, and for the advancement and improvement of his race. That is a poor ambition which contents itself within the limits of a single life. All men who deserve to live, desire to survive their funerals, and to live afterward in the good that they have done mankind, rather than in the fading characters written in men's memories. **Most men desire to leave some work behind them that may outlast their own day and brief**

generation. That is an instinctive impulse, given by God, and often found in the rudest human heart; the surest proof of the soul's immortality, and of the fundamental difference between man and the wisest brutes. **To plant the trees that, after we are dead, shall shelter our children, is as natural as to love the shade of those our fathers planted."**

Brothers, there is an alarm at the door and it MUST be attended to. The way our appendant bodies have operated with their own independent agendas is no longer effectively growing our ranks. We must all start to work together. Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, York Rite and Shrine must be seen outwardly as one strong body, with separate divisions offering different experiences and opportunities for personal growth. United we stand, divided we will most certainly fall. If we all join together, we can more ably preserve not only

our traditions and rites, but our public trappings as well. Lodges should consolidate with other Lodges, become more financially sound and be able to provide a more positive Masonic experience to those who join. Scottish Rite Valleys should join with other Valleys, pooling resources to preserve magnificent buildings like the one we enjoyed today. Shrine Temples should join with other Shrine Temples to consolidate resources and manpower, providing ever more care to those in need.

We all are taught to seek further light in Masonry. I believe that part of that search for light is recognizing when the light has changed from prior generations. Years ago, the chandeliers above our heads may have been lit by gas or candles. Then came the miracle of incandescent bulbs and now LED's. We've adapted to the change and we're all basking tonight under the same great light. Society today moves at a much quicker pace than the past. We should adapt our entrance rites to that pace, to attract more men faster and give them the opportunities for fraternal growth that we have all enjoyed. It's imperative that all Masonic bodies work together and make the changes needed to attract the next generation of men to our ranks. Change is always hard at first. There were those who told Edison he'd never get light out of his lab. **Our fraternity must embrace the future to preserve our past. We cannot sit idly by while our great fraternity crumbles around us. I urge all of us, as Brother Masons, to take up the torch of leadership and march forward, not backward.**

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