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Most Excellent Grand High Priest
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What If??

Companions:

Recently my lady Jackie and I visited relatives in Massachusetts. We took advantage of our time to visit some wonderful dining establishments and toured some of the usual tourist spots. One excursion took us to Boston and one of the many places we stopped to see was a reenactment of the Boston Tea Party. As you enter you are given a card of a person who was a participant of the event. The card I received was of a Masonic Brother who was a member of the Sons of Liberty. The Sons of Liberty was largely made up of Freemasons but not in its entirety.

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Grand High Priest - What If??

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This little card of a Mason whose name is unimportant put my mind on a journey of "What If". His actions and the actions of all the Sons of Liberty were the catalyst that put these patriots on their path to the American Revolution making it one of the most important moments in our country's history. This one little moment in time started a revolution of independence that is still enjoyed by you and me today.

Ask yourself "What if it never happened? What would our country look like today? Would we live in a free country or would we live under a tyrannical rule?" The bravery and courage of those patriots formed a bond that started a revolution. This group formed largely by Freemasons was upset with the Stamp Act of 1765 which basically was the reason for the motto for their resistance – "NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION".

The Sons of Liberty were formed in August of 1765 in Boston and later forming other committees in New York and other colonies to oppose these new taxes. Then on December 16, 1773 the Sons of Liberty held their most famous act of rebellion to date by climbing aboard British merchant ships and dumping the taxed tea into the Boston Harbor. Again the Sons of Liberty mostly made up of Freemasons makes you ask the question "What if they had not acted? Where would we be today?"

I ask you companions to be my Sons of Liberty! I ask you "What if? What if we do nothing and continue to see our numbers spiral down the drain? What if we do what has always been done? Are you willing to be patriots in our organization?" Ask yourself "Do I want the York Rite to succeed?"

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Grand High Priest - What Iff??

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Do I want it to grow and prosper or am I just going to do nothing and watch it die?" I know what the answer should be but I want to know if you are willing to act? Are you willing to get off the couch and visit our Blue Lodges and teach our fellow Brothers about the York Rite? One individual cannot do much but collectively our York Rites Sons of Liberty can be successful in our new revolution to create a strong and viable organization that will last us well into the future. Be my patriots! Do not settle for the "status quo". Please help me by getting out and spreading the word.

As we enter our season of Thanksgiving I would us all to offer up a prayer for our fraternity. Give thanks for those patriots who offered up their lives to make our country the best in world. Thank our veterans and military for their sacrifices and service. These are our modern day patriots! We are a blessed nation and should all feel honored to be here. Be thankful that we don't have to say "What if" because we are the result of our Sons of Liberty's labors. Let us not have to say "What if" about our fraternity. Join me in our revolution and make us grow.

Fraternally,

Randy Gilless, MEGHP



A “Golden” Opportunity in 2022

Any Companion/Sir Knight Suspended for Non-Payment

Will be Reinstated for only the 2022 Dues

Of His Local Bodies

Immediately upon being installed into their respective offices, the heads of the Grand York Rite in Arkansas issued Edict No. 1 for the Grand Chapter and Council, and General Order No.1 in the Grand Commandery:

Every Chapter, Council, and Commandery is directed to waive all the usual reinstatement fees, requiring only the current year’s dues (2022) to reinstate any Companion or Sir Knight who has been suspended for non-payment.

If this applies to you, please consider this one-time opportunity to get back into the York Rite. This opportunity will expire at the end of 2022.

Keep in mind, that under normal circumstances, the Digests require the bodies to collect the back dues owed, and the current year’s dues, if a man has been suspended less than one year. After the first year, the amount required for reinstatement is usually the same, but can be all of the back dues not paid. So, you can see what a great opportunity this is.

Companions, do you know of a brother who is in this situation? Reach out to him today, and make him aware of this chance to “get right” with the York Rite.

See your local Secretary/Recorder for the specifics of this directive.

Most Illustrious Grand Master

William Ronald Frizzell

2022-2023

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Treasure the Experience

Companions,

One of the great privileges I have had in my Masonic career has been the honor of presenting a little recognition to Mason who deserve a great deal more. My first action and honor after being installed as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas was to present my father with a certificate for his 70 years of being a Master Mason. Recently, I had another opportunity to be part of a recognition of my dad as the York Rite bodies of Pine Bluff recognized him for his 70 years of membership in the York Rite. Of course, both occasions were very special. (see page 7)

For those who know my dad, you know that he hasn't been able to be as active in Masonry as he would like due to working two full time jobs all of his working career, raising my sister and me which was a chore in itself, and providing for his family. Although he may not have been as active as he would like, I have realized over the years and especially since becoming a Mason myself of what a true heart he has for Masonry and how Masonry has impacted how he has lived his life.

While reflecting on my dad's experience I am reminded of what a real treasure we have in our older brothers. By older, I mean our brothers who have been Masons for many years and those which may be older but haven't been Masons for very long.

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MIGM - Experience

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Both are real treasures because of the years of experience they possess. Their Masonic experiences and life experiences are both priceless.

I saw something on social media recently which when you think about it is sad. It talked about what a loss of history and experience occurs when an elderly person passes away. How true this is. One of the blessings I have had over the last few years while spending time with my dad is all of the stories and experiences, he has shared with me. Nothing has meant more to me than the time I have had listening to him reflect on his life.

We all, especially our younger Masons, are missing a true blessing if we don't take advantage of any opportunity to spend time with our elder brothers. Take the time to spend some time talking with someone older. They will enjoy it and I guarantee you will come away a better man. If it is knowledge you seek, I really can't think of a better way to gain it than spending time with those who have traveled this long and narrow path.

Fraternally,

William R. "Ronnie" Frizzell

M.: I.: Grand Master



Pine Bluff Ice Cream Social

On Friday evening, August 19, 2022 the three presiding Grand York Rite officers and the Grand Master of Masons in Arkansas gathered with some 40 other Companions, Sir Knights, Brothers, friends and their ladies to celebrate seventy years of York Rite membership, and cool off with some ice cream.



RE GC Charles Ferguson, ME GHP Randy Gilles, MWGM Boyd Freeman, Horace Frizzell, MIGM Ronnie Frizzell

Companion William Horace Frizzell, better known as “Daddy” as he is called by MI Grand Master Ronnie Frizzell, was honored by his son, and the other Grand officers present with a plaque from the York Rite bodies of Pine Bluff recognizing his 70 years of faithful membership.



More Work



GHP Randy Gilless confers the RA Degree at Iris 151 on June 27.



PGHP TJ Henwood confers all four Degrees at Ananias 156 on July 23.