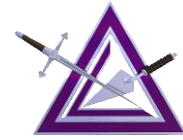


## Grand Master's Message



# Grand Council of Cryptic Masons State of New York



Most Illustrious Donald R. Kunego  
Grand Master 2023-2024

Greetings Companions, Knights, Honored Guests, [Family Members], My Brothers All,

I am honored to offer Fraternal Greetings and Best Wishes to All, on behalf of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York.

I would like to thank all that have provided guidance and support on my many travels throughout my Masonic Journey. And give a Special Thank You to my wife and best friend Lady Bobbie, whose encouragement and support made my Masonic Journey more enjoyable.

Companions, as members of the "Greatest Fraternity", we all share the name that we cherish, "**My Brother**". This name is the **needle** that rests upon **our moral compass** that provides guidance as we travel along the "**Alpha-Omega**" of our Masonic Journey.

My theme is "**Travel Into the Future**". The Grand Council has made a "**Travel Passport**" available to document your Journey in Cryptic Masonry. These Passports were created to encourage travel, cooperation and support while visiting Districts and Councils throughout the state. They will be available at the 200<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly, the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and from the District Deputies.

During the 200<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly, a **Time Capsule** has been constructed and will be available to receive items donated by individuals, Councils and Districts representing Cryptic Masonry. Appropriate items to place in the time capsule would be: coins, hanging Medals, copies of Council Bylaws, and Membership listing, newspaper articles, pictures, etc... Please make every effort to ensure that your District and Council contribute to this historical event.

The Time Capsule will be consecrated and sealed during the **200th Anniversary Celebration** on September 23, 2023 at the Albany Masonic Temple. A special lapel pin has been minted as a keepsake, commemorating the **200th Anniversary Celebration** and will be a gift to those attending. Make your reservations early as you will want be a part of this historic event.

As we continued our Masonic Travels, we made individual plans to "**Travel Into the Future**" whilst seeking "**More Light**". Some have gained "**More Light**" to become a "Companion", a "Knight" or a "Sublime Prince", but we are all united as "**Brothers**".

We are "**Bonded Together**" through "**Integrity**" by being honest and having strong moral principles that unites us with a "**Life Long**" commitment to practice the Tenants of Freemasonry: "Brotherly **Love, Relief, and Truth**".

Your application for your "**Ticket**" to start your Masonic Travels, started with your first Petition. As you took your obligation and signed the By-Laws, you boarded the Masonic Train toward a Life Long Journey to "**Seek More Light**".

During this great adventure, you will have opportunities to choose your path for your "**Travel into the Future**". Some will read, some will watch, some will investigate, some will participate and some take the extra effort to "**Make History**", be the one that creates, the one that makes history. Be a planner, be a doer not just a passenger during your Travels.

During your Travels, take time out to plan your individual strategy to support our Grand Council Charity Fund. The Charity Fund approved programs are: the Parkinson's Disease Foundation, the New York State Masonic Youth Groups, and currently the Children's Tumor Foundation, the Cryptic Masonic Medical Research Foundation [C.M.M.R.F.]. Rest assured that every contribution helps. Also, in addition you can become a member of the Solomon Arch Society, obtain your jewel and wear it with pride.

During your journey, you should always be optimistic. Optimism is just like enthusiasm, it's contagious. So, find ways to create an environment that supports you! Plan your travels with **Optimism, Hope and Confidence** in the **Future**. These qualities will give you "**Faith**" in your ability to succeed as you travel.

The **Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.** said, "**Faith** is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole *staircase.....*". Sharing his optimism can be challenging as we "**Travel into the Future**". We must always remember that we are not alone. Obtaining optimistic support and encouragement from the Brothers around us provides the fuel needed to carry on. **Optimism is just like Enthusiasm, it's contagious**. So, find ways to create an environment that supports not only You, but your fellow Travelers!

During our Travels, Let us remember, honor and respect Most Illustrious Steven A. Rubenstein's theme: "**Honor the Past – Challenge the Future**".

We must continue to **Honor the Past**. The past, obviously, is our history, traditions and memories that we should study, understand and respect.

However, we must also **Celebrate the Present**: The past is a memory; the future is unknown. The present is all we truly have. The present is our time to live and continually create our evolving history.

And, we should always **Challenge the Future**: For some, the future is scary. For others, that unknown is cause for excitement rather than trepidation. There is, to be sure, a practicality in looking to the future. Think, for example of your preparation for advancement in the Craft.... **Planning for the future takes place in the present**.

Always keep in mind that today is the tomorrow you prepared for yesterday.

Preparation and practice will provide us with the knowledge for our "**Travel into the Future**" and ensures that we are prepared for that "**Tap on the shoulder**".....

**Winston Churchill said**, "To each, there comes in their lifetime a special moment when they are figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing...what a tragedy if that moment finds them unprepared for that which could have been their finest hour."

We should keep these words as a reminder to never stop learning and to learn all we can from each task, position or opportunity given in an effort to be prepared to serve the Craft. Be prepared as best you can for whatever opportunity is presented.

This is the only way to ensure that when we receive our "**Tap on the shoulder**", we are prepared for **Our** finest hour.....

Within our Fraternity, our **Grand Line Officers** are the overseers and mentors. Our **District Deputy Grand Masters** are the "**Shepards of the Flock**" accompanied by the **Assistant Grand Lecturers**. They as a District Team, are on the front line and "Running Point" for the Masters and Officers of the Councils. I encourage that whenever possible, the Grand Line Officers, District Deputy Grand Masters and Assistant Grand Lecturers coordinate their "Official Visits" so they can be together. This visitation model will present an opportunity for them and members of the Council visited, to observe and gain "**More Light**" and help identify strengths as well as areas in need of aid or improvement and help identify worthy Companions as prospective future leaders.

During your Travels, always try to have a positive attitude. As **Winston Churchill** said,  
"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference" ....

I want to thank each of you for efforts that you have done and will continue to do for the "**Good of the Craft**" as we "**Travel into the Future**".

On behalf of myself, the Grand Line Elected and Appointed Officers of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York, may the Great Architect Bless us with a safe and productive year and,

**May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,  
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.....**

**May God Bless Our Great Fraternity, May God Bless Our Veterans  
May God Bless You and May God Bless America!**

Zealously,



**Most Illustrious Donald R. Kunego, Grand Master  
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York**