



# Grand Council of Cryptic Masons State of New York

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Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Brothers and Sisters all,  
Good Afternoon.

I first would like to thank the Installing Team for their work this afternoon. I would also like to thank Most Illustrious Gary Hutchurson for Installing me during the private Installation earlier. He is the one who convinced me that the Grand Line for Grand Council would be a good fit for me, and he was right. I would also like to thank Most Illustrious Don Kunego, Junior Past Grand Illustrious Master. We were the team of "Don and Dan" these past 2 years. Don said he always considered us a team and I appreciate that. I thank you for your advice, your hard work, and most importantly your friendship. I would like to thank First Lady Bobbie Kunego for Investing me with my Jewel of Office. I would like to also thank my Sisters from the Order of the Eastern Star of the State of NY. As you know, I am currently the Grand Marshal, (at least for another 2 months), for our Grand Chapter of NY. I am sure they have petitions on them if you are interested.

My theme this year is, "*Light the Fire Within.*" My mission this year is a simple one. Continue to motivate positive growth. Not only in membership within our organization but within our own lives. The best investment you can make is in yourself!

I want to create a positive message this year. We have had a lot of negative things happen to our Grand Line in the past and I want to change the attitude for this year. If you start to think that you have bad luck or that you are cursed, then your results will be negative. Instead of saying, "I am cursed", use the term, "I am blessed". You'll get a different result in life. Today, we are blessed to have Companions that have humility and integrity. Especially our Grand Line.

My symbol this year (which is on my pin) is the broken triangle, trowel and Olympic Torch in the middle. The Torch represents positive light, which we as Freemasons know that light equals knowledge. It also represents my athletic background. Motivation will be one of the keys to success. Now, I don't expect you get motivated enough to run a Marathon, like I did (12 of them). But I do hope you are motivated to share the light with other Companions, Brothers, Sisters, family, and friends.

My logo is the Lion, the torch, broken triangle, and trowel. You will see this logo throughout the year. It was designed by a Rainbow Girl. I would like to thank Junior Past Grand Worthy Advisor Allysa DiBartolo for your hard work in making my vision a reality.

My charity this year will be the Lion Campaign, which is a nursing scholarship (The Regina A. Elliott Nursing Scholarship Program) dedicated to my mother who passed away on April 4th. My mom was a Registered Nurse for over 30 years and received her B.S. at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh back in 1972. My Lodge has already started a campaign to raise money, and I would like to continue this endeavor. This will help support College students who are pursuing a degree in nursing but need financial assistance. It is important to support our first responders, yes this includes nurses. If the pandemic didn't teach you that nurses are heroes, then I don't know what will. Soon you will be able to purchase these stuffed lions and those funds will go toward my charity.

I also ask what does Cryptic mean to you? It is interesting that the word Cryptic has 7 letters. Here are what each of the 7 letters mean to me:

**Courage** – It takes courage to accomplish your goals in life. The only failure is the fail to try at all. I encourage each of you to try something new and take chances. You may not get another opportunity to do so.

**Reminiscing** – Two weeks ago I had my 30-year reunion with my high school classmates. Valley Central, class of 1994. It was good to see people I have not seen in years. I know some people may not care about reunions, but you must understand these are people who you shared your life with for a brief period, where at that time you might have shared the most vulnerable or awkward time of your life.

**Youthful** – I do not mean the Masonic Youth Groups; however, you should be supporting them as well. I mean tap into your youthfulness. I had a friend dress up as Barbie to celebrate the movie that came out. A 70-year-old woman dressing up as a doll. My cousin, who taught a class called Psychology through play, said that he had his patients play with toys to see how they react and what effects it had on them. Seeing a grown man, picture it, big guy, scruffy beard, leather jacket, smells like cigarettes, etc., playing with a toy truck. That had to be a site to see. He became more relaxed because he tapped into his days as a youth. So, I encourage you to tap into your youthfulness as well.

**Passionate** – I have seen a rise in deeply passionate companions in recent years when it comes to ritual and getting involved in other Masonic organizations. Follow your passion, it will lead you to great success.

**Timeless** – I'm not talking about the TV show on NBC that lasted only 2 seasons. No, I'm talking about something that is unchanged by time. Our ritual is a good example. Although, there have been changes to our ritual, no matter what organization you belong to. We are doing the same basic things that our ancestors did 100 years ago, 200 years ago, etc. We learn from the past to improve our future.

**Inspiring** – This should be self-explanatory. The basic definition is to cause people to want to

do or create something or to lead better lives. I encourage you to do the same.

**Ceremonious** – we have a lot to celebrate over the years. We just completed our 200th Anniversary, where we had an outstanding celebration back in October. We had Grand Illustrious Masters from other Jurisdictions attend. One of our Companions from my Council came up to me and said, “that was the best Masonic event I have ever attended.” So, let us keep it going, so we have other things to celebrate in the future.

I would like to thank the following organizations for their unwavering support: Hudson River Lodge #309 F&AM, Highland Chapter #52 RAM, Goshen Council #93, Cyprus Commandery #67 KT, Valley of the Hudson, (Scottish Rite – Northern Masonic Jurisdiction), Orange-Rockland Star #286, OES Grand Chapter of NY, Hudson Valley Forest #215 TCL, Tri-Po-Bed Grotto, of course our Masonic Youth Groups, DeMolay, Triangle, and Rainbow, in which I’m an Advisor. I also belong to; I think 8 different invitational bodies which I will not get into. All these organizations, which seem like a lot, all have special meaning to me, and I value each and every one of you who has been there for me.

In Conclusion, I will leave you with this. “Remember, to show courage, reminisce, be youthful, be passionate, be timeless, get inspired, be ceremonious, Fight like a Lion and *Light the Fire Within*”.

Thank you!

Zealously,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M.I. Daniel D. Elliott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Most Ill. Daniel D. Elliott  
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