

ANNUAL GRAND ASSEMBLY
OPENING AND CLOSING
CEREMONIES



*Property of the Grand Council
of Cryptic Masons
of the State of New York*

Revised July 2025

Grand Council Cryptic Masons **of the State of New York**

THE OPENING OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

M.I.G.M.: **MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND RECORDER,**
CALL THE ROLL.

M. I. Grand Recorder:

(M. I. Grand Recorder calls the full roll and when completed reports.)

Most Illustrious Grand Master, I find at least one of the first three elective officers of this Grand Council, and representatives of at least ten (10) Constituent Councils are present, thereby constituting a quorum.

M.I.G.M.: * **RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE**
GUARD.

R. I. Grand Captain of the Guard:

(Rises, Gives Sign of Fidelity and responds.)

Most Illustrious Grand Master.

M.I.G.M.: **ARE ALL PRESENT SELECT MASTERS?**

R. I. Grand Captain of the Guard:

Most Illustrious Grand Master all present are Select Masters.

M.I.G.M.: **IS OUR NUMBER COMPLETE?**

R. I. Grand Captain of the Guard:

I find at least one of the first three elected officers of this Grand Council, and representatives of at least ten (10) Constituent Councils are present, constituting a quorum.

Grand Council Cryptic Masons **of the State of New York**

M.I.G.M.: *** RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE
GUARD, SEE THAT THE COMPANIONS ARE IN
ORDER AS SELECT MASTERS.

R. I. Grand Captain of the Guard:

Companions, be in order as Select Masters. *<Verify
the room>* Most Illustrious Grand Master, the
Companions are in order.

M.I.G.M.: * RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE
GUARD, YOU WILL SEE THAT THE SECRET VAULT
IS SECURELY GUARDED.

R. I. Grand Captain of the Guard:

Right Illustrious Grand Steward, see that the
Secret Vault is securely guarded and inform
the Right Illustrious Grand Sentinel that the
Most Illustrious Grand Master is about to
open this _____ Annual Assembly of the
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State
of New York. Direct him to take due notice
thereof and guard accordingly.

R. I. Grand Steward:

(Opens door without alarm) Right Illustrious
Grand Sentinel, the Most Illustrious Grand
Master is about to open this _____ Annual
Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic
Masons of the State of New York. Take
due notice thereof and guard accordingly.
(Closes door and raps [*** *** ***] and the
Grand Sentinel answers [*** *** ***])

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R. I. Grand Steward:

Right Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard, the
Right Illustrious Grand Sentinel is at his post and the
Secret Vault is securely guarded.

R. I. Grand Captain of the Guard:

Most Illustrious Grand Master the Secret Vault is
secure.

M.I.G.M.: ***

COMPANIONS ATTEND TO GIVING THE SIGNS.

*(All Companions give the Signs. At the completion of
the signs the Battery is given:*

*M.I.G.M. [*** *** ***], D.G.M. [*** *** ***],*

*P. C. W. [*** *** ***].)*

M.I.G.M.:

COMPANIONS, LET US PRAY.

RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND CHAPLAIN YOU WILL
LEAD US IN OUR DEVOTIONS.

(The Grand Chaplain Recites the Following Prayer:)

PRAYER

R. I. Grand Chaplain:

O THOU SUPREME GRAND MASTER, GRACIOUSLY
PRESIDE OVER ALL OUR COUNCILS, AND DIRECT
US IN ALL SUCH THINGS AS THOU WILT BE
PLEASED TO APPROVE AND BLESS. MAY OUR
PROFESSIONS AS MASONS BE THE RULE OF OUR
CONDUCT AS MEN. MAY OUR SECRET RETREAT
EVER CONTINUE TO BE THE RESORT OF THE JUST
AND MERCIFUL; THE SEAT OF THE MORAL
VIRTUES, AND THE HOME OF THE SELECT. AMEN.

Companions Respond: So Mote It Be.

Grand Council Cryptic Masons **of the State of New York**

M.I.G.M.: RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL, ATTEND AT THE ALTAR AND DISPLAY THE GREAT LIGHTS.

R. I. Grand Conductor of the Council:

(When addressed is at the sign of fidelity and without response, R.I. Grand Conductor of the Council proceeds to the altar, opens the Bible to the 31st Chapter of Deuteronomy, places the Square, Compasses and Trowel on the page beginning the chapter. The Trowel should be in the center of the Square and Compasses. He then resumes his station.)

M.I.G.M.: I NOW DECLARE THIS _____ ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, DULY OPEN.

M.I.G.M.: RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD, SEE THAT THE RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND SENTINEL IS INFORMED

R. I. Grand Captain of the Guard:

Right Illustrious Grand Steward, inform the Right Illustrious Grand Sentinel.

R. I. Grand Steward:

*(When addressed is at the sign of fidelity and without response, he goes to the entrance of the Secret Vault and raps [*** *** ***]; and the Grand Sentinel answers [*** *** ***]; R.I. Grand Steward opens the door)*

Grand Council Cryptic Masons **of the State of New York**

R. I. Grand Steward:

Right Illustrious Grand Sentinel, the Annual Assembly is open. *(R. I. Grand Steward closes the door, resumes his station and reports.)*

R. I. Grand Steward:

Right Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard, the Right Illustrious Grand Sentinel is informed.

R. I. Grand Captain of the Guard:

Most Illustrious Grand Master your order has been obeyed.

M.I.G.M.:

RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MARSHAL, PRESENT THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WEST OF THE AL TAR.

R. I. Grand Marshal:

(When addressed is at the sign of fidelity and without response, proceeds for the Flag in the West, hand salutes, and then marches with the flag, West of the Altar and remains there for the Pledge of Allegiance and one verse of our National Anthem.)

M.I.G.M.:

COMPANIONS, YOU WILL JOIN ME IN PLEDGING ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF OUR COUNTRY, FOLLOWED BY SINGING ONE VERSE OF OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM.

R. I. Grand Marshal:

(At the conclusion of the National Anthem(s), the R. I. Grand Marshal proceeds to post the Flag at its proper station in the East, hand salutes, and then resumes his Station.)

Grand Council Cryptic Masons **of the State of New York**

M.I.G.M.: COMPANIONS, YOU WILL JOIN WITH ME IN SINGING
"O CANADA" AS A SALUTE OF FRIENDSHIP AND
BROTHERLY LOVE.

M.I.G.M.: * *(Seats the Companions and continues with the
Business of the Grand Council.)*

"STAR SPANGLED BANNER"

Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming;
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O, say does that star- spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

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"O CANADA"

O Canada!
Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!
From far and wide,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
God keep our land glorious and free,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

Grand Council Cryptic Masons **of the State of New York**

THE CLOSING OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

M.I.G.M.: MOST ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND RECORDER, ARE THE RECORDS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASONS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK ASSEMBLED, COMPLETE AND IN ORDER?

M. I. Grand Recorder:

They have been reviewed and are found to be worthy, Most Illustrious Grand Master.

M.I.G.M.: *** COMPANIONS GIVE YOUR ATTENTION TO THE RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND CHAPLAIN. RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND CHAPLAIN YOU WILL LEAD US IN OUR DEVOTIONS.

(The Grand Chaplain Recites the Following Prayer:)

PRAYER

R. I. Grand Chaplain:

ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD, WE THANK THEE FOR THIS HOUR OF FRATERNAL COMPANIONSHIP AND AS WE ARE ABOUT TO DEPART FROM THIS SECRET RETREAT, WE PRAY THY BENEDICTION UPON THE PROCEEDINGS OF OUR ASSEMBLIES. AS WE FACE THE VICISSITUDES OF LIFE WITH OUR FELLOWMAN, MAY THEY SEE IN OUR EVERY MOTIVE THE BEAUTY OF THEE, WHICH SO INSPIRED THE FOUNDERS OF OUR GREAT FRATERNITY, CONTINUE TO INCITE OUR HEARTS TO DUTY AND GIVE US AN EARNEST DESIRE FOR DIVINE WISDOM. ENABLE US BY THY GRACE TO EXERCISE CHARITY, CHERISH HOPE AND TO WALK WITH THEE BY FAITH. AND MAY THAT MORAL PRINCIPLE WHICH IS THE MYSTIC CEMENT OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS EVER REMAIN WITH US AND PROSPER OUR COUNCILS. IN THY GREAT AND SACRED NAME WE PRAY. AMEN.

Companions Respond: So Mote It Be.

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M.I.G.M.: RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND CONDUCTOR OF THE COUNCIL, ATTEND AT THE ALTAR AND CLOSE THE GREAT LIGHT.

R. I. Grand Conductor of the Council:

(Without response he proceeds to the altar and closes the Great Light and resumes his station.)

M.I.G.M.: IN THE NAME OF AND BY THE POWER GRANTED ME AS THE GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF CRYPTIC MASON OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, I NOW DECLARE THIS GRAND COUNCIL DULY CLOSED.

M.I.G.M.: RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD, INFORM THE RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND SENTINEL.

R. I. Grand Captain of the Guard:

Right Illustrious Grand Steward, inform the Right Illustrious Grand Sentinel that this _____ Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York is now closed.

R. I. Grand Steward:

(Without response he proceeds to the entrance of the Secret Vault and opens the door without knocks.)

Right Illustrious Grand Sentinel, the _____ Annual Assembly of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of New York is now closed. *(R. I. Grand Steward leaves the door open and resumes his station and reports.)*

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R. I. Grand Steward:

Right Illustrious Grand Captain of the Guard, the
Right Illustrious Grand Sentinel is informed.

R. I. Grand Captain of the Guard:

Most Illustrious Grand Master your order has been
obeyed.

M.I.G.M.: * *(Dismisses the Companions.)*

(NOTE: * *Symbol denotes raps of the Gavel
or knocks at the door.)*

Grand Council Cryptic Masons
of the State of New York

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