



THE SUPREME COUNCIL

(MOTHER COUNCIL OF THE WORLD)

ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF FREEMASONRY, SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, USA

November 11, 2024

Greetings:

We approach Veterans Day no differently than we do every year: humbled and grateful for the sacrifices these men and women make in our best interest.

Eight years ago, the Grand Master Elect introduced and launched the Lion and Pillar Lodge of Excellence program at the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. If nothing else good came out of it, many lodges began, including recognition of our Veterans, First Responders, Law Enforcement, Teachers, EMTs, and others who have helped make our country great. I can't begin to describe how good it feels to witness Subordinate lodges and Scottish Rite Valleys in North Carolina recognize our Veterans at their meetings!

Last year, after the Veteran's Day message, I received an email from Illustrious Rick Smith, 33° pointing out that he wished I had included teachers in my annual message. I thanked him. I miss Rick, as he has passed on to that celestial lodge above. I intend to leave no one out, so please accept my sincere apology in advance if I do.

Veterans Day, unlike Memorial Day, is a time to open our eyes, ears, and hearts to those still around us who defend our nation's freedom, keep order in our communities, save lives, and instruct our children so they may have a productive life. Please take the time to thank them as often as you can. One day, it will be too late.


Regardless of your religious or political preference, our Veterans deserve much more than periodic applause because they made, make, and continue to make our country great! Gratitude for and appreciation of our Veterans comes from the "Right/Rite Heart."

As the autumn days are "hastening on," I pray that the echo of freedom with joy and thanksgiving may be heard in our hearts. When we reach the winter solstice and the earth begins to turn back toward the light, may our feasts, festivals, family, and friend get-togethers embrace a new beginning of hope, health, and happiness.

So, "Together we rise!" "Don't forget! Remember the Vet!"

Let's go to work with the Right/Right Heart!

Yours faithfully,


Sovereign Grand Inspector General
in North Carolina 