GRAND COUNCIL
Cryptic Masons
Of The
State of New York

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

Property of the Grand Council Cryptic Masons
of the State of New York
Revised June 2003
THE OPENING OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY


M. I. Grand Recorder:
(M. I. Grand Recorder calls the roll and when quorum is reached then 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 present, thereby constituting a quorum.

M.I.G.M.: * RIGHT ILLUSTRIOS 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 present, constituting a quorum.
M.I.G.M.: *** RIGHT ILLUSTROUS 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. Most Illustrious Grand Master the Companions are in order.

M.I.G.M.: * RIGHT ILLUSTROUS 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:

Companions Respond: So Mote It Be.

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.: RIGHT ILLUSTRIOS GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD, SEE THAT THE RIGHT ILLUSTRIOS 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 *** *** *** answered by the R. I. Grand Sentinel *** *** ***; R. I. Grand Steward opens the door.)
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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 ILLUSTRIOS GRAND MARSHAL,
PRESIDENT THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA WEST OF THE ALTAR.

R. I. Grand Marshal:
*(When addressed is at the sign of fidelity and
Without response, he 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
ALLEGIANC 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, the
R. I. Grand Marshal proceeds to post the Flag
at its proper station in the East, hand salutes,
and then resumes his Station.)*
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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.

"O CANADA"

O Canada!
Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all our sons 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.
THE CLOSING OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY


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.

(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 EARNST 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 PRINCIPAL 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.


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.: RIGHT ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD INFORM THE 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.)