

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*

Grand Council  
Cryptic Masons  
Of The State Of New York

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**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 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 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 present, constituting a quorum.

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**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.  
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.

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**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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 \*\*\* \*\* 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 ILLUSTRIOUS GRAND MARSHAL,  
PRESENT 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  
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, 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.

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**"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.

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**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.

*(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.



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**Companions Respond: So Mote It Be.**

**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 MASONS  
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 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.*)**