

ALASKA SUPPLEMENT



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Anchorage Commandery No. 2, Knights Templar

Commander's Words: SK Jack R. Newell, Commander, Friday December 17, 2010

Are we alert to the truth?

When our Commandery is alert, listening, and enthusiastic to succeed, we will prosper to hold interest of our present Sir Knights and to attract new members for recruitment into our Christian Knighthood.

No institution in all Christendom has a more vital calling than our loyal cadre of Knights Templar. Provided with basis upon the truths and virtues of the Christian religion, Templary should and can attract all Christian Masons to join our ranks.

Has a perceived Christian spiritual decay from those looking in, created a turning away from Masonic and Templar involvement? We should remember and believe that this nation's faith and reverence for God, our creator, The Supreme Architect of the Universe, coupled with spiritual leadership of those that govern, is the strength within our Chapter, Council, and Commandery; especially supporting the continued strength of our Masonic foundation.

By our Blue Lodge, erected to God, providing that first vision of the Great Lights to a Mason, when thereafter, many a new brother sought to understand the hidden mysteries of how this path culminates as an upright and just Christian Mason.

Our leaders and representatives of our Blue Lodge and York Rite Masonic Family should continue to develop a strong personal faith providing a leadership style based on that Masonic Light embracing Christian biblical principles here in the United States. It thus encourages and develops a climate for faith based and spiritual moralities that are allowed to flourish. We talk often of threats or declines to our fraternity, yet seldom initiate the discussion of what is the greatest threat - that of the Christian spiritual decay of our civil Institutions of this great nation, the United States of America."

This decay affects the very fabric of our founding fathers' mosaic, rotting away from the inside out the strengths of our free society, fraternity's Christian brotherly love and friendship, and the extension of that same free society: "our nation's Christian based value system." If I may set up the scene by embracing a Christian spiritual foundation: men, acting on prior instructions from the people's government at Williamsburg on June 7, 1776, delegate Richard Henry Lee, a statesman of Virginia, introduced a resolution into Congress calling for a declaration of independence.

FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to encourage all Sir Knights to submit articles, letters, pictures, or comments for inclusion in this supplement. Articles need to be submitted to me by the 25th of the month for the next issue (February 25th for April issue).

The Congress of the time elected five men to prepare a document claiming nationhood and independence from oppression and tyranny under international law. The five were: Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Robert Livingston, Roger Sherman and Thomas Jefferson. After discussing what form the declaration would take, this committee of five, appointed Thomas Jefferson to write the first draft. The Congress approved the final draft and voted for independence under international law July 2, 1776. Thomas Jefferson believed if this was appropriate to ponder, that it was sufficient to assert certain transcendent truths as self-evident. To Jefferson, God's existence was manifest in creation by the documents produced. Jefferson was not talking about the God of Islam, faith in whom laid the foundation for a different type of social order all together, he meant the God of Israel of the New Testament. Whether Thomas Jefferson himself was a Christian is known only to our God, the Supreme Judge of the Universe, but he did understand the society in which he lived and whom his audience was. Jefferson was addressing Christians. The declaration bore intense resolve and reflected the soul, conscience, and mind of America. This declaration was written with an understanding that man's law cannot be arbitrary, in so required being written with the awareness not to insult the laws of nature and of nature's God, the God of the Hebrews and the generations since to present times. God created men, and created them equal, endowing them with inalienable rights - rights these men, no person, nor government could forfeit. The citizens, better known as "We the People," knowing these rights were endowed to them by their Creator for all generations, unchanging through the ages or political ambitions of the future, this nation's foundations were being forged through guidance of divine providence. America's founding fathers, many of them Masons, understood very well that the principle that faith and freedom are together, not separated and that one cannot or will not survive without the other. Truth and wisdom within the Great Light of Masonry can be known, sometimes so clearly as to be self evident. If we want to instill in our children a deeper reverence for the Christian ideals upon which our nation was founded, let us use occasions and events to teach them about the character of our founders. In the case of Washington, we ought to understand that our first President was not only the Father of our Country, but also a man of profound Christian faith. In today's "anything goes" culture, this intense striving after moral excellence is rare. This is the reason Washington's men were willing to sacrifice for him—even when their cause appeared hopeless. It is also the reason he was later chosen as our first President.

To be continued next month