

Grand Master's Acceptance Speech

Greetings:

First and foremost, giving honors to the Supreme Being, The Grand Architect of the Universe, who is My Lord and Savior. For without him I would not be standing before you today. It is an honor and a blessing that I stand before you today. I am humbled to finally be in this position. I must pay respects to a number of Brothers who wanted to be here to see this day, but God had other plans for them. So, I carry them here in my heart. I like most of you carry a deep affection in my heart for the love of Masonry. That being said, we have quite a bit of work to do. We must start with "That man in the mirror". We must take a closer look at ourselves and adapt a positive attitude of success. Positive thinking breeds positive results. When faced with negativity, take a positive approach and let a Brother know that an upright man stands before him and that you're not trying to hear that negative talk. Like mother use to say, "If you can't say something nice, then don't say anything at all". Let's move forward together towards success and have fun doing it. As I was once told, "if you're not having fun, then you're not doing it right. Let's do it right and the fun will come.

I am most proud to be here accepting this position of Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free & Accepted Masons of Washington and Jurisdiction., Thank you Brethren one and all for choosing me to serve and carry out your desires for the ensuing Masonic year of 2021-2022.

Removing Negative Elements:

We have some serious work to do in our jurisdiction and it is going to take all of us to get the job done. First, if you don't want to be a part of this jurisdiction, then we don't want you to be a part of this jurisdiction. You, the Master Mason has a right to demit and I will assist you in doing so, if it will better our jurisdiction.

For years, there has been a few Brothers that always seem to cause confusion, hate and discontent within our organization. This is my charge to you, if you are one of those Brothers. If you are not here to help us succeed in moving forward, then leave our jurisdiction. I will assist in making that happen.

My charge to all the Brothers who hear the rhetoric is to remind the Brother who continuously spread the mess that you don't want to hear it and encourage them to move on with their disgruntled behavior out of our jurisdiction. This type of un-masonic conduct will no longer be tolerated. It doesn't matter where you live, if

you are a member of Washington Jurisdiction causing confusion, you will be dealt with. We need to start policing ourselves and get rid of this negative element that has found its way into our organization. We must identify and flush out Brothers who are spreading this negative element.

These negative elements are Brothers who live to find fault in everything that is done, because it is not done the way that they would do it or in accordance with their very own Book of Instructions. This is not an attack on change, change is more often than not, good. However, it is the manner in which it has been implemented that causes concerns. Gossip, Rumors, Lies, Personal Attacks, Excessive Consumption of Alcohol and more are but a few of the negative elements that we masons now have to deal with in our Timed Honored Institution.

One's personal agenda does not exceed that of the organization. Regardless of the position held.

I would not be doing the job for which I was elected and installed to do, if I allowed these negative elements to continue throughout my administration. All Grand Lodge Officers will be held accountable for their actions and attitudes. We are here to serve you the Brethren. No one is indispensable or irreplaceable.

Even or most especially with these changing times throughout the world, we must be steadfast in who we are. With all due respect, we are not some Greek Fraternity or other organization. We are Master Masons and must continue to conduct ourselves as such. If you don't know how to conduct yourself as a Master Mason, read the Charge of a Master Mason again for the first time. That same charge which you received after being raised from the Dead Level to a Living Perpendicular upon the square.

Thus, in moving forward, I am appealing to each and everyone of you, the Brethren to assist me in fixing our jurisdiction by eliminating those negative elements. You know who they are and what they do. In your Lodges, Districts and this Grand Lodge, no longer have time for the mess and make that known to the messy Brother regardless of his rank. Let a Brother know not to come at you with that mess. What I am saying to Brothers causing this confusion is to "STOP" and help us to move forward or leave and leave us alone.

If you are one of those Brothers who are here for the titles, remember that the titles don't make you a Master Mason (You missed that class). It is your actions that either makes or breaks you as a Master Mason. Don't call me Brother or shake my hand under false pretenses. Be real with yourself thereby being real with others.

Let's keep our attitudes in check, police ourselves, rid our organization of the negativity and move forward in a most positive direction.

Mentoring our Younger Members:

There is a responsibility from our seasoned Brethren to mentor younger Master Masons to one day assumed their duties. You never know if you will get hit by a bus leaving your position vacant. Teach our Brethren those necessary things needed to carry on when we are gone.

Grand Lodge Officer's Expectations:

Conduct yourselves as upright men and masons. Do your job. Set the example to the world that a Prince Hall Mason stands before them.

We can all accomplish great things. It matters not who gets the credit. This is not a contest. This is about good men becoming better men. All else will fall into place.

Contributions to Charity:

This is what we do and I will continue by endorsing "Renal" Disease. Some know it best as Kidney Disease. Most especially in Children. As you know the children are our future and I am totally committed to our youth groups and education.

In Conclusion:

I want to thank all of you who supported my election to the position of Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. of Washington and Jurisdiction. Know that the task of keeping us on the right track is bigger than any one man. It's going to take all of us. We came this far by faith, it is now time for us to take it to a higher level, one that each of us can be proud to say that I am a Prince Hall Mason and a member of the MWPHGL of WA and Jurisdiction.

Thank you all. Now let's go to work.

MW Gilbert E. McClary, Sr.
49th Grand Master of Masons
MWPHGL of WA & JDJ