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The General Grand Masonic Congress of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the United States of America Organized 1889 - Incorporated 1926 - Cleveland, Ohio

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PROCLAMATION

**To: The Elected Officers of The General Grand Masonic Congress,
To: The Most Worshipful Grand Masters, Past and Present of The General Grand Masonic Congress,
To: The Past Presidents of The General Grand Masonic Congress,
To: All Executive Officers within the jurisdiction of The General Grand Masonic Congress,
To: All Master Masons within the jurisdiction of The General Grand Masonic**

GREETINGS: *It is indeed an honor to address you as the Twentieth (20th) President as we are preparing to enter our One Hundred and Fourth (104th) Biennial Session of The General Grand Masonic Congress at the Airport Hilton Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in UNITY! Unity is a word that should never be taken lightly, because when we share a common goal of progress to uplift each other and our Congress, it exemplifies UNITY. As we have and continue to travel to the various States and Congress Supreme Session, I implore each of you to continue to remain UNIFIED for the success of our Masonic Order on all levels.*

WHEREAS: *The motto is “Then Saith He unto his disciples. The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest”.
Matthew 9:37-38*

We must never seek to be elected to a position for personal gain; I implore you, my brothers, to seek those positions for the betterment of the organization. If you remain humble on your Masonic Journey, opportunities will be afforded to you.

*Our continual growth is dependent on how we present ourselves to the world **AND THEREFORE;** we become that beacon of light that draws others to us.*

WHEREAS: *Article XI, Section A of The Constitution and By-Laws of The General Grand Masonic Congress states that "Congress shall hold its regular meeting in the month of July Biennially, during each even year, the dates to be decided by the Congress in Session," and*

WHEREAS: *The time and place have been established for the One Hundred and fourth Biennial Session of the General Grand Masonic Congress:*

BE IT THEREFORE KNOWN THAT: *Pursuant to the Laws of The General Grand Masonic Congress, and by virtue of the authority placed in me as President of said General Grand Masonic Congress, I, hereby, Proclaim July 9th through July 17th, 2026, as the dates for The General Grand Masonic Congress to be held at The Hilton St. Louis Airport 10330 Natural Bridge Road St. Louis, Missouri (314) 426-5500. I, hereby, designate Monday, July 13th, 2026, as the official opening date of said Session for the Congress.*

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN THAT: *I hereby Summon all Elected and Appointed Officers of the General Grand Masonic Congress; all Most Worshipful Grand Masters, Past and Present; all Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Masters, Past and Present; all Right Worshipful Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, Past and Present; and all Delegates of the Respective Grand Lodges holding membership herein, to assemble in the city of St. Louis, state of Missouri on aforesaid dates.*

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN THAT: *Pursuant to Article IV, Sections B and C of the Constitution and By-Laws of this Congress, the official delegation of each Grand Lodge may include the following; All Elected Grand Lodge Officers, all Past Grand Masters, all Past Principal Officers of each Grand Lodge, and those Worshipful Masters necessary to give The Grand Lodges a complement of thirty (30) delegates. Only a brother's name*

listed on the "Biennial Delegation Form" and has been certified by the respective Grand Master shall be recognized as an "Official" member of the Delegation of the Grand Lodge. Each Grand Lodge delegation is permitted with a total of thirty (30) votes.

All Master Masons in good standing with their Grand Lodge, and their Grand Lodge in good standing with The General Grand Masonic Congress, may attend the Sessions. Only members of the Official Delegation are entitled to vote.

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN THAT: During the sessions of the Congress, you will hear reports from the General Grand Treasurer and General Grand Secretary along with other committees such as: Ritual committee, National site committee, National Foundation committee and others.

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN THAT: An invitation is extended to The Most Excellent Supreme Grand High Priest of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons: the Grand Master of the Supreme Grand Encampment, Knights Templar; the Imperial Grand Potentate of the Imperial Grand Council A.A.O.N.M.S. of North and South America; the Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council of the 33rd and Last Degree of Freemasonry; and all Emeritus Leaders of these Cognate Branches of Freemasonry, to attend and participate in the proceedings of the General Grand Masonic Congress.

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN THAT: The Most Worshipful St. Matthews Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of the State of Missouri will be the host for the 104th Biennial Session of the General Grand Masonic Congress. In addition, they are responsible for the selection of one individual in their state to receive the General Grand Masonic Congress Humanitarian Award. This award will be given at the Divine Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, July 12, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN THAT: The representation fee for each Grand Lodge shall be seven hundred dollars (\$700.00). This fee is to be paid to The General Grand Secretary, together with the "Representation Report" on or before **March 1st, 2026**. Article XIII of the Constitution and By- Laws of the General Grand Masonic Congress states the consequences for failure to comply with payment of the Representation Fee. Any other arrangements must also be made by that date.

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN THAT: All Master Masons in attendance are requested to pre-register with rates according to "The Package." The cost of the Package shall be **Three hundred dollars (\$300.00)**. No registration badges will be issued except within The Package, **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Remember that all Master Masons must register, even those attending meetings of other Houses. Your badges are to be worn prominently on your person during the Session (Congress, Royal Arch, Knight Templar, Imperial Shirne and United Supreme Council). Receipts will be made available to those who pre-register in order that you may present them for your package. Your individual package will contain Souvenir Book, and your Registration Badge will be used for admission to the following events: Trailmasters/Sunbeam Luncheon, Sunday Dinner, Black and White Ball, Grand Matrons Luncheon and Grand Masters Luncheon. **Late arrivals** are not exempt from the full package price. To obtain a badge, you must purchase the package. Packages are to be paid by **May 1st, 2026**. After **May 2nd, 2026**, the cost of the package will be **Three Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$350.00)**. Should you need extra tickets (individuals not a member of the order) for any Congress event, event prices accompany this Proclamation.

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN THAT: The use of recording devices during business meetings will only be permitted with the expressed written permission of the President of the Congress. Recording devices, however, can be used for special events open to the public, such as the Thanksgiving Service, Grand Matrons Luncheon, Grand Masters Luncheon, Banquets etc.

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN THAT: *The appropriate dress for specific events is as follows:*

Congress Session: *Black suit, black bow tie, white shirt, black socks and shoes, proper Masonic regalia and badge. White shirt, black trousers, black bow tie, and black socks and shoes.*

Trailmaster/Sunbeam Luncheon: *Same as Trailmasters Session.*

Black and White Ball: *Black and/ or White Semiformal Attire.*

Thanksgiving Divine Service: *Full Masonic Attire for Congress Session.*

“Sunday Dinner” ^[OBJ] *Business Casual” attire*

Prayer Breakfast Tea: *Hosted by the Supreme Royal Arch Chapter and Supreme Heroines of Jericho*

Grand Masters/Grand Matrons Luncheon: *Full Masonic Attire without Apron*

State Night Banquet: *Hosted by the Universal Grand Lodge State of Texas. Cost and Attire TBA in separate communication*

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN THAT: *The President is requesting a meeting with all Grand Masters, Past and Present and all male Supreme Heads (only) Friday, July 10, 2026, at 7:00pm. Check with General Grand Secretary upon arrival for the location of the meeting. Your presence is imperative. Masonic dress is not required, however no shorts, tank tops or sandals. The President is requesting all female Supreme Heads (only) to join the meeting at 9:00pm on Friday, July 10, 2026. Check with the General Grand Secretary upon arrival for the location of the meeting. Masonic dress is not required.*

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN THAT: *The official Headquarters for this session shall be The Hilton St. Louis Airport 10330 Natural Bridge Road St. Louis, Missouri 63134 (314)426-5000*

Please make all reservations before May 31st, 2026; the room rates shall be \$135 per night for single or double occupancy. The current guestroom state sales tax rate is 19.34%, which is subject to change and applicable to the room rate totaling \$161.11. Room rates are based on single or double occupancy. One night room deposit is required and is non-refundable. There is a \$100.00 incidentals deposit required; Credit Cards are most advisable or prepaid card. The link for hotel reservations is below.

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=STLHIHF&groupCode=92X&arrivaldate=2026-07-09&departuredate=2026-07-17&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

CHECK-IN TIME / CHECK-OUT TIME:

Our check-in time is 3pm and the check-out time is 12pm. Guests arriving before 4pm will be accommodated as rooms become available. Our Front Desk Staff can arrange to check baggage for those arriving early when rooms are not available and for guests attending functions on their day of departure.

Late Check Out (Based upon availability)

- Charge: \$75 until 3pm
- Charge: 100% of room rate after 3pm

Early Departure

- Charge: One night's room and tax

Requests for handicapped accessible rooms should be made at the time of reservation. A non-refundable deposit equal to one night's stay is required to hold everyone's reservation. A \$100 one-time incidental hold at check-in on each guest's credit or debit card. If/when the \$100 has been used, another \$100 incidental hold will be made. If a guest reserves a guest room within the block and checks out prior to the guest's reserved checkout date, an early departure fee of equal to the balance of the stay will be charged to that guest's individual account. Guests wishing to avoid this fee must advise the Hotel at or before three (3) days prior to arrival. The Hotel will deduct any early departure fees that are collected from any amount you may owe as sleeping room attrition.

BE IT FUTHER KNOWN THAT: The schedule of events for the 104th Biennial Session will be included with your registration package with this Proclamation along with the Congress Session and Grand Lodge registration form. Please govern yourselves accordingly. This Biennial Session will be extremely busy. Therefore, I'm asking each Supreme Head to conduct their respective meeting in a timely manner.

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN THAT:

The General Grand Masonic Congress requests your commitment and participation in our "10 for 10" Fundraiser Giveaway. Each Grand Lodge will receive an allotment total of 250 tickets, with a requested commitment to sell at least 100 tickets:

Ticket price ~ \$10 each

- **First prize ~ \$10,000. Seller of the winning ticket will receive \$1,000**
- **Second prize ~ \$5,000. Seller of the winning ticket will receive \$500**
- **Third prize ~ \$2,500. Seller of the winning ticket will receive \$250**

All ticket sales, unsold tickets and funds must be submitted to Secretary Bradfield no later than May 1, 2026. Additional tickets may also be requested by contacting Secretary Bradfield.

BE IT FURTHER KNOWNN THAT: At the opening of the Divine Thanksgiving Service on Sunday Morning, July 12th, 2026, at 12 noon, we will open with the Posting of Colors. Therefore, I'm asking each Grand Master to be responsible for making sure that the state flag for his respective state is present. The 1st Vice President, Bro. Melton Sisson will oversee the flag ceremony for this service. This was well received at our previous sessions by all that were present. Thank you for your cooperation.

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN THAT: The information for the Fraternal Directory/Souvenir Journal is to be forwarded to the General Grand Secretary, Reverend Brother Norman C. Bradfield at:

**REV. BROTHER NORMAN C. BRADFIELD
224 DARST ROAD
BEAVERCREEK, OHIO 45440
PHONE: (937)520-3472
Nbradfield4230@gmail.com**

****Email is strongly encouraged, and funds can be mailed directly to the address above. ****

Each Grand Lodge, each Grand Master, each Cognate Branch of Freemasonry - Grand and Subordinate, each Supreme Grand Affiliate Body, and every Master Mason is expected to participate by representing their respective Branch of Freemasonry in the Fraternal Directory. The cost of each Directory/Souvenir Journal purchased outside of a Package will be \$10 and can be obtained through Bro. Bradfield. The deadline for participation in the Fraternal Directory and Souvenir Journal is May 31st, 2026. Ads and books must be pre-paid before they go to print. Only books paid for will be available in Missouri.

WHEREAS: *Most states currently have criteria for recognizing a Master Mason of the Year in their state; the Congress will present an award again at this session named the "National Biennial Master Mason Award." For a brother to be eligible for this award, his state must have criteria set up to recognize a Master Mason of the Year in his state. Each Grand Master can submit one name from his state for the "National Biennial Master Mason Award." The name submitted must have been recognized in his state within the previous two years of the current Congress Session. A committee will be established to rank the applications submitted and name one Brother as the "National Biennial Master Mason." The decisions of the committee shall be final.*

WHEREAS: *Each state is encouraged to establish and have an active Trailmasters Fortress. A scholarship program shall be established for our youth. Seeing that charity begins at home and then spread abroad; for a Trailmaster to be eligible to apply for the scholarship, there must be a scholarship program established in their state. Each state will be allowed to forward the winner of their state scholarship contest to the National level for competition. The National Director of Trailmasters shall appoint a committee to conduct the contest. Applications are available from the National Director of Trailmasters. Please adhere to the deadline for the application. Any additional information will come from the National Director of Trailmasters.*

WHEREAS: *The General Grand Masonic Congress has established a Supreme King Contest, and this has become a biennial event to take place at each Congress Session. The Supreme King will be crowned at the Missouri state banquet along with the Supreme Queen. Each Grand Lodge may submit one Master Mason to represent their state for the title of Supreme King. The Grand Master of each state will receive rules for the contest by January 15, 2026. Each state that does not have a king contestant is required to submit \$200.00 for this activity along with their representation fee. These funds will be used for scholarships and charity.*

BE IT ALSO KNOWN THAT: *Masonry is known and recognized as a charitable non-profit organization making a difference in their communities and in the lives of its members. Therefore, I'm asking **each** state delegate to come to the 104th Biennial Session prepared to share ten (10) non-perishable items to be given to a food pantry in the state of Missouri during our Thanksgiving Service. These contributions can be purchased upon your arrival. Grand Masters are asked to manage this process for your state. **The M.W. St. Matthews Grand Lodge** will supply the name of the charitable venue and ask that they be present at our service to receive all of the items collected. Therefore, please help us show them that we care.*

BE IT ALSO KNOWN THAT: *We know that you have done a lot at home over the past four years. Therefore, I'm asking each Grand Master to come to the 104th Biennial Session prepared to share with the Congress and other member of Grand Lodges charities they have performed or supported over the past four years. If you have pictures or newspaper articles, please present those as well. We must do a better job of promoting our organizations and letting others know what we do.*

BE IT ALSO KNOWN: *That pursuant to Article II, Section B, Purpose, the General Grand Masonic Congress shall establish and provide for the management and maintenance of a national home... (National*

Headquarters) for the recreational, economic, educational, and general welfare of its members and youth organizations. Therefore, the Congress is accepting best proposals by June 30, 2026, for the National Headquarters to be in your state. These proposals will be presented at this Congress for the selection of a first and second choice (state Grand Lodge). The second choice will be considered an alternative possibility. All proposals shall include municipal tax abatements, property locations, management supports, and additional Grand Lodge and city supports. Please establish constructive communications with your membership, your community at large, and your city/state officials. Blessings to each of you!

BE IT ALSO KNOWN: As President of the General Grand Masonic Congress, it is still my goal to visit each Grand Lodge before the end of my Presidency. If I have not visited your state, please send me an invite to your Grand Session or Quarterly Session so that I can plan accordingly. Since some of our Grand Lodges hold their Grand Session at the same time, it may cause me to visit a Quarterly Session or another event your Grand Lodge/Grand Chapter may be having.

BE IT ALSO KNOWN: That we are excited to welcome all conference registrants, guests and vendors, to St. Matthews Grand Lodge to our 104th Biennial Supreme Session. In any public gathering, there is an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19. The health and safety of our brothers, sisters and guests are a top priority. Leadership believes that it is important to provide relevant information and allow each person to make an informed decision on attendance based on their individual needs, concerns, and expectations. All conference attendees assume those risks in their entirety. Furthermore, all attendees must follow the conditions outlined as well as any policies set forth by relevant governments and the Hilton St. Louis Airport Hotel.

If you have knowingly been exposed to COVID-19, or if you are sick or experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, please do not attend the Supreme Session. The above policy is subject to change based upon the status of the COVID-19 pandemic, per the CDC, State, Federal, and hotel guidelines.

LASTLY: Look with expectancy for more information regarding the M.W. St. Matthews Grand Lodge State Prayer Breakfast and Missouri State Night. More details forthcoming regarding State of Missouri events. I'm asking all brothers and Sisters to support their efforts.

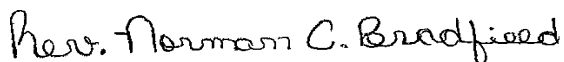
Done this 8th day of December, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Five, in the year of Light, Six Thousand and Twenty-Five. I have caused my hand and the Great Seal of the General Grand Masonic Congress to be affixed, hereto.

I remain; Your Humble Servant,



Illustrious Warren L. Long, 33° - President

ATTESTED BY:



Illustrious Rev. Norman C. Bradfield, 33° - General Secretary

