

The General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International



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Companions:

This is my last message to you as your General Grand High Priest and it gives me great joy to be accorded this final occasion to add a farewell to all that has taken place these past few days at the 69th Triennial.

The first comment must be to the Triennial Committee who, under the direction of Jeff and Carla Williamson, have given so generously of their time to serve this historic event. Their commitment, dedication and creativity have made this the special event that we had all dreamed about for so many years. The history surrounding this celebration led to the possibilities of so many unique possibilities to pay tribute to our heritage but the inspiration of these devotees has brought to fruition an unbelievable presentation of Autumn in New York that was beyond our wildest dreams. The attraction of the location, the program, the venue and the cause for celebration resulted in an overflow of attendance and participation that amazed us all. Even with these unanticipated throngs of attendees, the Committee members sacrificed their time, their convenience, their rooms, meals and trip tickets in every effort to accommodate the needs of even those who had not registered or who had been unable to transmit advance payments. Never have so few contributed to the satisfaction of so many! We will never know the many stories of service provided by these valiant souls. It is not enough to say thank you but that is all our limited means permits. THANK YOU! MERCI! GRACIAS! ABRAGADO!

The website and facebook will show you pictures of the extraordinary events –

- The tours of Niagara Falls and historic Buffalo
- The Super Excellent Master degree conferred by Columbia Council #1
- The Royal Arch Degree conferred by Ancient Chapter #1
- The Table Chapter with over 250 participants
- The Grand Chapter of New York Training Course
- The General Grand Chapter Introduction to the Capitular Training Course
- The Wedding of the Waters ceremony at the Erie Canal on the 190th anniversary of this historic event in our national history as created by Most Excellent and Governor DeWitt Clinton
- The reception of the flags of almost 90 countries, states and provinces celebrating the universality of the craft under the direction of Larry Gray
- The get acquainted banquet with live entertainment, fun and dancing
- The formal General Grand Chapter session with seven charters granted to new and revived jurisdictions, tributes for devoted service and celebration of the advances made during this Triennial
- The formal banquet with special awards and a demonstration of York Rite Unity.
- The General Grand Council session and special memorial for George Sellars
- Participation in all events by MW Levecque of Michigan and MW Wm. J. Thomas of NY

The highlight for all was the thrill of meeting and greeting Companions from over 30 countries – the special treat of welcoming the delegations from Scotland and Victoria, Australia and just the warm feeling in our hearts as we mixed in such friendly fashion in the best meaning of the word Companion.

There is no way that I can properly express my gratitude to all who have so generously supported and encouraged our TEAM with warm welcomes all over the globe except to say thank you for having given us the chance to serve you and our Royal Craft. May God's richest blessing be upon Louis and Moira Bartrand as they begin their journey into masonic history.

So mote it be!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Edmund Harrison". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Edmund" and last name "Harrison" clearly distinguishable.

Your General Grand High Priest 2011-2014