

2017 Mechanics Day Message



Rt. Hon. Walter L. Benjamin

Most Worshipful Grand Master

**THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE INDEPENDENT UNITED ORDER OF MECHANICS
FRIENDLY SOCIETY, OF NORTH CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA,
ISLANDS OF THE SEAS, AND THE ENTIRE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, INC.**

Greetings:

Once again, we meet as Brothers and Sisters of this Great Fraternal “Order” from around the world on this glorious Mechanics Day, to celebrate and say thanks to the Great Geometrician for guiding us throughout another year.

We’ve come also to pray as families do, and to say thanks to each other, our families, neighbors, supporters and friends, and to celebrate the varied accomplishments we have seen and enjoyed within our Lodges, Chapters, Youth Sectors, Conclaves, Encampments and Districts throughout our communities.

Let’s also continue our prayers for those who are alone, those who are lonely, hungry, sick and shut-in and to give thanks for those who have served, and have gone on to reap their rewards in the Great Celestial Lodge above. “May their souls rest in peace and perpetual light shine upon them”.

Today, on this our 260th Anniversary of the Independent United Order of Mechanics, as we reflect on our accomplishments, I hope it gives each of us the opportunity to evaluate and contemplate on the contributions and commitments we have made, and will continue to make as we travel on our individual Mechanics’ Journey.

Since my elevation as Most Worshipful Grand Master at the 25th Triennial International Convention in October 2016, I have had the privilege of working with a team of Executive Grand Councilors whose goals and objectives encapsulate a fraternal Order that is second to none. At the same time, I have had the opportunity to experience the joy of meeting and conversing with many brethren whose concerns were noted. Overall, it has been a rewarding, humbling and enlightening experience for me. It has given me the opportunity to reflect and

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focus on my own Mechanics journey, the direction of our Mechanics Order and the future of my tenure in office.

Over the years this Organization has had leaders unparalleled to none, some of whom are still with us today. Our **“Ten Points of Light”** which was approved at the 1989 Triennial International Convention, remains the **“Pillars”** upon which all branches of our Order will rest throughout the twenty-first century. It continues to shine a light in all corners of the globe and beckons all of us to play our part for the future of this Order which reinforces the accepted theme of this administration that **“Members Matter Most”**.

As global citizens who share a common bond, we have seen changes throughout all corners of the world which has impacted so many. Nevertheless, the Tenets and teachings of our Order were designed to become interwoven in the fabric of our daily lives, giving us the tools to cope with situations and circumstances.

Technology has advanced at the speed of light, and sometimes even beyond our comprehension; however, in the midst of what may seem chaotic at times, we must never lose faith in the Great Architect who navigates the Universe. Our commitment as members, is to immerse ourselves into the metamorphic cycle of change, just like the butterfly and become good messengers of God’s teachings for the young men and women who will ultimately become the change we want to see in the Order and the World.

And so, on this 260th Mechanics Day Anniversary, I **CALL TO SERVICE, ALL MECHANICS** wherever you are, to re-commit and focus on at least one of the **“Ten Points of Light”** and to work for the enhancement, stability and growth of your Unit. It is said that **“a chain is as strong as its weakest link”** and so we are reminded that with strong Units there will be strong Districts and strong Districts guarantee a strong future for our Order where **“Members Matter Most.”**

Through this medium, I’m compelled to inform you that the Republic of Panama has been decided upon for the location to host our 26th Triennial International Convention. The members of the three Grand Jurisdictions have pledged their support in making this a successful and historic event, so we are asking you to share and begin the savings process. You will soon be provided with reservations and booking information.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of Grand Council we wish to extend our sincere thank you to each member celebrating with us today. To the District Grand Masters, Patriarchs, Venerable Past Grand Masters, District Officers, Illustrative Matrons and Illustrative Grands, as well as all the religious leaders and faith-based organizations that have accommodated us for our worship services on this Mechanics Day, we thank you. Finally, to our members, families and friends who have also joined us in celebrating another milestone, we thank you.

Oh Mechanics Lets Keep on Marching. May the Peace of God be with you All.



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