

## 2012 Installation Address

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, brethren, welcome! We don't often get the opportunity to give a speech to such amazing and wonderful people such as are gathered here this afternoon. Thank you all for being here. You had many other choices on this holiday season but decided to come and support us. We appreciate it

Our sincere thanks go to the installation team:

- Most Worshipful Wordlow, you helped installing us a couple of years ago and yet when I called few weeks ago, you just checked your calendar, and said I will do it. From Master of Tehama No.3 to Grand Master of Masons in California to Master again of your blue lodge, you have inspired and continue to inspire us.
- Worshipful Doug Sleeper, your presence is always a reassurance that we might be doing something right. You are continually in attendance and support this lodge. I will always aspire to be the mason you are.
- Worshipful Ron Charles, Your zeal for Masonry and dizzying amount of knowledge regarding the craft are most impressive. I often times exclude you from my thanks. I guess because I don't find the right word to express to you my gratitude. So for a lack of word let me simply say: thank you.

Let's give to these three gentlemen, a loud round of applause.

Many volunteers contributed to make this happen.

Thank you very much Jeanell Born for the great and inspiring music selection.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to:

- Joe Basham II for stepping up to immortalize this event as photographer
- Robert L. Wade DeMolay for the Flag presentation. You are the future of freemasonry.

- Suzanne and David Huez for the beautiful decoration of the banquet room and Eric Faranda for the catering.
- The Rainbow girl from Camellia Assembly 108 for the warmest welcome to our guests and your help later at the refreshments.
- Spencer and Richel Noss Espinoza, and Zack Basham who helped setting up the banquet room.
- and Sacramento Lodge No.40 for closing the lodge for us after the ceremony.

Please join me in another loud round of applause to all our volunteers.

When I joined this fraternity thirteen years ago, I joined it for the mystique and the brotherly love. I had no designs to be an officer, and I certainly never planned on becoming Master of the lodge and sitting in the east. At the time I joined I didn't even know there were officers in a Masonic lodge. I knew next to nothing about Freemasonry.

Over the years, many of you have inspired me and encouraged me to learn few things here and there, but most importantly I have gained some amazing brothers.

I cannot list you all. We will be here for a long time. In Africa, we have a saying: It takes a village to raise a child. Nevertheless, I wish to take just a few moments to recognize some of those brothers, without whom I would not be standing here before you today.

First and foremost I want to recognize my friend, brother, coach, and mentor, Bob Boulware. You're gone Bob but I know you're watching.

Almost two years ago today, I had the honor and privilege to stand here before you as Master of our lodge. And here we go again.

It all started by Worshipful Rich Wilson who approached me to be Andrew Wilson's Officer. It continued with Worshipful Dick Pullen who had the audacity to put me in his line of officers few years ago. Look gentlemen at what you have made of me. I don't know if I will ever forgive you. My heart is bursting with gratitude.

Our Past Masters, you are that ark which wafts us over our bad times and that anchor which moors us into a peaceful harbor. Thanks for your continued support, inspiration, guidance and your immeasurable contribution to the craft and the life of this lodge. I urge all our new members to emulate you and learn all the rituals as well as you have.

To the 2012 Officers and committees members and chair persons, thank you for accepting your chairs and charges and may this year be a wonderful year for all of us here at Washington Lodge.

Please join me and recognize our Junior Past Master Worshipful David Cameron for his leadership and fine service to the Lodge over the past year.

Our utmost gratitude goes to the Ladies and widows of the Lodge. Some time ago I was at a gathering where a gentleman was assigned to make a toast to the ladies. He rose, and said: "To our ladies, because God created you beautiful and foolish" He went on to say: "Beautiful so men love you and foolish enough so you can love men."

I know ladies, your beauty is timeless and we will always love you. But just as Steve Jobs said to Stanford students in his commencement address, stay foolish and keep loving us and supporting Washington Lodge.

Last but not the least, thank you brethren of Washington Lodge No.20 for honoring me to seat again in the Oriental Chair. Electing me the first time was my greatest honor. Re-electing me makes

me think that I screwed up so badly the first time that you want me to go back and fix what I broke. Thank you for the redemption chance.

The first time was without pressure on ourselves. We knew we had to do our best.

Now you know what we did the first time and what we can do. We will be judged against our own threshold. This makes it harder this time around.

I promise to the best of my abilities to make this year one of renewal of our values. I vow to do my best to deserve the honor you have bestowed upon me this year to sit again in the East.

I will send out as of next week the “Officers Handbook” I have been working on for a couple of weeks now. It summarizes our respective assignments for degrees and our duties for various lodge events,. It lists the various committees, its members and chair persons, lodge activities and schedules. It lays out a set of ground rules we should go by for a consistent and harmonious management of our lodge. Please make comments and suggestions when you receive it before we finalize it.

Along with the “Officers Handbook”, I will send out a draft of our Mission Statement, Vision, and Values for your comments and suggestions so we continue to define and reshape, and align our lodge identity with our ever-changing world

The theme of this year is “Live the Masonic Values”

We need to “Live the Masonic Values” while maintaining and developing friendship, fellowship, enjoyable activities, community involvement, leadership opportunities and perhaps the ability to network with our peers in a prestigious organization.

I challenge each and everyone in this room: masons and non masons alike,

If we live by the three principal tenets of Freemasonry: Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth,

If we practice the principal cardinal virtues: Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice,

If we live by the true Masonic virtues: Silence and Circumspection,

If like with the lamb skin apron, we continually remind ourselves and each other of the essential purity of life and conduct we are seeking,

If you live by these moral virtues while properly and efficiently using our various tools and instruments for the more noble and glorious purposes we are taught,

If you bear in remembrance and exemplify in your daily lives the moral teachings of our emblems, we will be a better family person, better neighbor, citizen, in brief a better person.

If we model the way, if we are living examples of the Masonic vision, if we live it, breathe it, talk about it, practice what we teach, as Gandhi once said, if our lives are our message, we will inspire and cause others to want to be like us, to be masons and become better men and together we will make our communities and our world better places for ourselves and for mankind.

If we can provide that kind of leadership; there is no doubt Freemasonry will continue to be the most dynamic, the most powerful, the most prestigious and the greatest fraternity in the world.

Thank you and I wish all your best holiday season yet.