

Valley of Raleigh - Scottish Rite

2018 Raleigh Spring Class Orator's Remarks

Greetings brothers I would first like to start out today in thanking all the brothers that have given of their time and energy to confer these degrees on us this weekend. I think I can safely say on behalf of this class we sincerely thank you and can't wait to further our knowledge in masonry and that of masonic history.

To me masonry is absolutely universal even though we may be from different social classes, races, religions or even different in our geographical location we can all agree that we are all equal as masons. And no greater representation comes to mind of this to me than that of my grandfather Thomas Earl Wright, who was a member of this valley of the Scottish Rite. My grandfather is the reason that I got into masonry and ultimately here now. He is gone from us now but his memory lives on in the multitude of lives he has influenced throughout the years. So I will have to take you back in time now to his days in the Air Force and one of his many deployments across the world. His masonic journey started in an unique way he was initiated, passed and raised in Taiwan and if that wasn't cool enough his lodge was the only English speaking lodge on the whole island. And here lies the history of that lodge which I have gathered from the webpage of Liberty 7.

Liberty 7 was the first local lodge in Taiwan and it was consecrated November 17th 1956 in the city of Taipei. In Taiwan, the inception of the US Military Assistance Advisory Group in 1951 added to the numbers of masons some of whom came from America, Liberty Lodge, under the Grand Lodge of China was the first one to be informally established in Taipei in 1952, initially under dispensation. Its founding Master was instrumental in obtaining government approval to reconstitute the Grand Lodge of China in Taiwan in 1955. Only four of the Subordinate Lodges were able to be reconstituted in Taiwan in four cities, namely Taipei, Kaohsiung, Taichung and Keelung. The Grand Lodge of China, since moving to Taiwan, received great international recognition. This is seen by the number of jurisdictions having fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge, which have increased from the initial eight to the current 88 including the Irish and Scottish Constitutions (recognized as China in Taiwan) and 49 American Grand Lodges.

So to tie a nice bow on this what other fraternity, organization or entity can claim to be as universal as masonry. When a farm boy from Franklinton, North Carolina can travel half way around the world and be welcomed with open arms in a group that was the same there as when he came back home. And even to us here and now and all future brothers that we can freely travel the world and know that if we should ever need assistance that a brother from a different social class, race, religion or even country will be there for us if we should them. I say to you brothers that no other fraternity, organization or entity can claim these generous principals that we as Masons claim and that is truly amazing.

Again thank you for your time and energy this weekend in making further education in masonry possible for us and being willing to pass on the knowledge to others brothers that was passed to you.

Bro Wright - Spring 2018 Class Orator