

**Installation Address**  
**Right Worshipful Brother Grady M. Adams**  
**Grand Master**  
**American Canadian Grand Lodge, AF & AM**  
**Saturday, 19 April 2008**

Most Worshipful, Right Worshipful Sirs, Very Worshipful Sirs, Worshipful Brethren, Ladies, Guests, Brethren all—welcome. Thank you so much for being here this afternoon! It is a joy and a privilege for me to welcome each one of you. I hope that you have enjoyed yourself so far, and that the rest of this evening's events will also be enjoyable.

It is impossible to express exactly how I feel at this moment but I will attempt to do so. I am most honored, pleased and humbled to have been elected Grand Master of the American Canadian Grand Lodge. It took me over 20 years to get to this level in Masonry but what a wonderful trip it has been. To begin, I want to thank some of the brethren responsible for me being elected Grand Master. First, thanks to the members of Alt Heidelberg Lodge 821. They have supported and encouraged me, and are in a large part responsible for my dedication to Masonry. I learned from some of the best. Second, I extend a special thanks to my dear and special friend, R.W. Brother Gerhard Severin and his lady Brigitte. R.W. Brother Gerhard was Grand Master when I was initiated. He raised me to a Master Mason and installed me as Master of Alt Heidelberg 821 on two different occasions. To have him here today as my Installing Grand Master is an honor I will always treasure. I can not thank him enough for what he and the brethren of Alt Heidelberg 821 have done for me. The acquaintances that I have made over the years throughout this Grand Lodge jurisdiction will last a life time. I want to also extend another special thanks to my dear friend and Past Master of Alt Heidelberg 821, Worshipful Brother Paul Tolar, who has travelled from San Antonio Texas to be here today to serve as our Installing Marshall and assist a fellow Texan in being placed into the Grand Master's chair. Brother Paul, we should have done this Texas Style, in cowboy boots and cowboy hats.

Thanks to my Installing Officers, under the direction of Installing Grand Master R.W. Brother Gerhard Severin. You did a superb job of installing all the incoming officers today. Thank you, also, to those brethren who have agreed to serve as officers for the coming year, and to those that have agreed to serve on committees and boards. With this collection of such capable brethren, we are bound to have a great team and a wonderful year.

I want to thank our Immediate PGM John Lonczynski and all the other Past Grand Masters of the ACGL. What a tremendous pool of knowledge, wisdom and support all of you have been to me over the years. I look forward to our continued friendship, and I assure you that I will still need your advice and support during my term as Grand Master.

Thank you to the Conference Committee Chairman, WBro. Paul Litteral, his assistant WBro, James Barrett, and all the brethren of Mystic Tie 1032. You did an outstanding job organizing this communication and making sure everyone's needs were met, which sometimes required making changes on a very short notice. Thank you again for a job well done. Please join me in giving these brothers a round of applause.

My Brethren, my theme for the ensuing year will be " Dealing with Change...Together" Change is eminent and has had a major impact on our Grand Lodge over the past several years. With deployments, reorganizations and the uncertainty of what further changes will occur, has forced us to rethink and reconsider our future. Consolidation in several lodges has been a result of our changing environment. Many other lodges will be forced to consider consolidation to ensure their existence. The current Euro exchange rate is causing a considerable burden on our families and lodges and because of this, many of our civilian brethren have decided to return to the United States. These are factual changes that we must deal with together. A careful plan

must be established to guide us into the future and this will require a team effort by every Mason in this jurisdiction.

Our changing environment will cause us to focus on keeping our fraternity alive by becoming stronger within and by ensuring that we are more visible within our communities. We must demonstrate to our neighbors and other people within our communities that as Masons, we are good men, who follow and live our obligations. That we are dedicated to the general relief of those who are in need and commit ourselves through the way we live our lives and personal sacrifice to the betterment of our society for all.

It is only by keeping our Fraternity strong within our hearts and minds that we can become stronger. We must diligently study those obligations we have solemnly taken upon our sacred altar of Freemasonry. And we must live those obligations, presenting ourselves in our everyday lives as good men and Masons. Then and only then, will we be able to demonstrate the true worth and value of being a member of the most ancient and honorable Fraternity in the world.

Each year, the Grand Master comes before you to outline his plans, programs and ideas for the ensuing year. My objectives for the ensuing year will be in line with my theme,

### **"Dealing with Change – Together"**

In order to be proficient in the Lodge, our Lodge officers and brethren must take pride in the work they perform in the opening and closing ritual. The ACGL has long held a high standard for ritual work. Due to our changing environment, the high standard in some of our lodges has diminished. Once the bar of an unacceptable level of our work has been reached, it is very difficult for us to achieve the level we once held. It takes hard work and commitment to bring it back. As a minimum, I expect the opening and closing ritual work to be performed by those concerned without the use of any printed or written aid in view. This rule is in compliance with Para 2-7, of the ACGL Code. To achieve this objective, I will appoint the Senior Grand Warden to be responsible for the ACGL Lecture System. The Senior Grand Warden with the assistance of the District Deputy Grand Master's and Grand Lectures will evaluate the ritual work, make suggestions, recommendations, and will assist in the training of the officers and brethren to ensure each member becomes proficient. The Senior Grand Warden will provide me a frequent report of the status within the ACGL.

Degree work must be presented in a manner worthy of the honor we are bestowing. Degree work is one of the most important tasks that we perform. We owe it to ourselves and especially our newly obligated brethren, to provide them the best performance possible. This is one of the most important days in their lives and must be presented as such. Remember, the first impression is a lasting impression. As a minimum, I expect the first section of each degree to be performed by those concerned without the use of any printed or written aid in view. If ritual work is found unsuitable, and improvements are not made, it will become necessary to suspend the Degree Work until the lodge has exemplified all three degrees. Masonic education, studying and practice must be ongoing in our lodges. This is the only way to develop our future leaders. As our brethren depart our jurisdiction and continue their journey into a new jurisdiction, they will represent the American Canadian Grand Lodge and will be judged as such. We do not want to return misinformed and uneducated brethren. Brethren, I charge each and every one of us to continue to work diligently to ensure that Masonry remains an organization that men within our communities will want to join because of what he has observed first hand, the quality of our members.

Due to the decline of the Dollar versus the Euro, the Grand Lodge Finances must be closely monitored to ensure that we are getting the best possible rate available. We have discussed relocation of the Grand Lodge Office in Frankfurt in the past and we must look again at options

for the future. I am appointing the Deputy Grand Master as chairman of this committee to investigate suitable options for the future and how to secure our existence. He will discuss this issue with the other tenants of Krupp Strasse for their input and suggestions. The Deputy Grand Master will be assisted by the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary and other members that are deemed appropriate. Our finances at all levels are very important and must be aggressively pursued.

I will work closely with the Grand Lodge Officers, Lodge Officers and brethren. This is a continuous process and I do not want to start a program without the buy in and agreement of my Deputy, Senior and Junior Wardens. Open Communication at all levels is very important. If issues and concerns arise, please my brethren, inform your DDGM's so that the issues can be brought before the Grand Lodge for discussion and resolution.

With the assistance of our Grand Lodge Webmaster VWBro Patrick Rodriguez, I will keep my schedule and pertinent information on the ACGL Website current. I also ask the lodges to keep their websites current. My brethren, the internet is the way of the future and many of our potential candidates visit our lodge websites to obtain information. If your lodge does not have a website, the brethren should consider it. Get into the world of global communication real fast...

My Brethren, we all agree that our future is in the hands of our children. For this reason, I would like to sponsor the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program (MMSAP). Our Immediate Past Grand Master, RWBro. John Lonczynski is a member of this committee within the Conference of Grand Master of Masons in North America. MMSAP is an intensive three-day training workshop for educators to learn how to identify, intervene with, and create appropriate referrals for students that may be at risk for SUBSTANCE ABUSE, DEPRESSION, SUICIDE or VIOLENCE. We have all read the news of recent school shootings.

This is a tremendous opportunity to help at risk children, not to mention the Public Relations benefit for Masonry. I discussed this program on 2 April 08 with Harvey Gerry, Education Division Chief and Patricia Cassiday, Instructional Systems Specialist for Student Services from Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA). They were very interested in the program. DoDEA will be hosting a District Superintendent Conference on 6 May 08 and Mr. Gerry is preparing a packet of information to give them and he will present the program. I feel confident that the program will be accepted. I will distribute more information as it becomes available. With R.W. John's assistance, a plan of execution will be made to determine the resources needed. I expect a cost of approximately \$6,000.00 and will solicit donations from our brethren and lodges. To assist in the funding of this program, I am offering this beautiful set of Goebel Masonic Figures and will sell raffle tickets until the Semi Annual in November. All proceeds will go to the funding of this program. Please my brethren, assist me in supporting this worthwhile, flagship program to assist our children, in their schools throughout Germany. Depending on the participation and acceptance of the program, we hope to expand it to other enduring communities.

In closing, I again extend my deepest appreciation to each and every one of you for electing me your Grand Master and for trusting me to lead this Grand Lodge to great achievements this year. I also want to thank my wonderful family and all my friends for their support over the years in my Masonic travels. But most of all, I wish to thank my lovely Lady Elfi for her wonderful support and encouragement and for her sacrifice in staying home alone many evenings and days while I attended Masonic functions. I also sincerely thank all of you for your presence here today and for attending this installation. May the Great Architect of the Universe continue to BLESS our Masonic Fraternity, our families, and our military members who, at this very moment, are in harms way. Thank You!

Grady M. Adams, Grand Master