

Date: March 5th, 3008

To: Masters, Wardens and Brothers of the 41st Masonic District:

In response to the comments received from last year's "informal" education program we had concerning Prince Hall, it was obvious similar programs were needed and wanted. It became obvious this was a time where we could sit as brothers in a non-tyled setting and discuss issues important to the future of Masonry.

I spent several months after that meeting trying to come up with an idea for this year's program topic. "What can I do, to help see our organization as a whole grow and flourish in the future," was my main question to myself. The answer was simple; Bring back Demolay. As part of my 2007 report to the Grand Lodge, I reported on how well our meeting went concerning Prince Hall, and made a commitment then to use Demolay as the topic for 2008. Little did I know that incoming Grand Master the Most Worshipful Dave Cash had a similar vision to build the ranks of Demolay in our great state.

When I was a young teenager, Demolay was going strong in this area, and so was the sister organization, the Rainbow Girls. For whatever reason, both organizations seemed to fade away.

As a law enforcement officer and a paramedic, I have gone into the schools recently teaching our youth on the dangers of Methamphetamine. It was alarming to see the hands

raised when I posed the question, “How many of you have used meth, or personally know of someone who uses meth?” No class range from the sixth grade through the twelve was immune from hands being raised. Plus, go to any high school today and you will see an increase in teenage pregnancy.

In today’s culture, if we don’t help our youth find meaningful and moral activities to keep busy, many times the activities they choose on their own have life changing, unwanted, or deadly consequences.

Here is our opportunity to touch the lives of our youth, the opportunity to give them a healthier choice of lifestyle, to prepare them as leaders of tomorrow, **and to plant the seeds which may eventually keep our organization growing for years to come.**

Some famous individuals who were once part of the Demolay include: Paul Harvey, Neil Armstrong, Mel Blanc, Ernest Borgnine, Roy Clark, Terry Bradshaw, Pete Rose, Walter Cronkite, Walt Disney, Buddy Ebsen, Dan Rather, Willard Scott, John Wayne, and the worlds tallest man Robert Waldow. The list goes on to include Governors, Presidents, Congressmen, Astronauts, TV personalities, and at least one WWE professional wrestler.

I ask you to please join me this year in rebuilding Demolay in the 41st Masonic District of North Carolina. Clay Lodge # 301 has graciously agreed to host this important meeting. on Saturday, May 17th at 4:00 PM. Matthew Hunt, Western Regional Governor for the

North Carolina Demolay will be there to provide us with the history of the organization, answer questions, and give us some guidance on getting this resurrected.

I ask everyone who can, please attend this important and educational meeting. Together, we can make a difference.

I'll close with this quote from Judge David Gray Ross who is over the Federal Office of Child Support, and too was a member of Demolay, *"As a young boy who had lost his father, the interest taken in me by the men of DeMolay provided encouragement, leadership, and opportunities which, in hindsight, seem impossible. The vision of the Order of DeMolay kept me focused on the truly important things in life and taught me a morality which remains with me today. As the Director of our Nation's primary support system for America's alienated children, I am mindful of the old adage that says, 'as the twig is bent, so grows the tree.' We must join together to bend our children toward what is right and good and necessary to make them productive citizens of the future."*

<http://www.Demolay.org>

Fraternally and POTS

Jim Hyde

District Deputy Grand Master