

## 2009 Installation Speech

Ladies and gentlemen, honored guests, brethren, welcome!

It is very rare that I have the opportunity to give a speech. And rarer still to be giving a speech to such amazing and wonderful people such as are gathered here tonight.

When I joined this fraternity seven years ago, I joined 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. I only knew that I had an uncle who died shortly after I was born who was a Mason.

Over the years here at Bestor G Brown, that I have been a member, I have seen good times and bad times for our lodge, and I have learned some important things, but most importantly I have gained some amazing brothers. Now I wish to take just a few moments to recognize some of those brothers, who without which I would not be standing here before you today.

First and foremost I want to recognize R.W. Richard Loveland who unfortunately is no longer with us. Richard was the first Mason from our lodge that I met. He was one of the brothers who signed my petition. He was also one of the kindest and friendliest brothers to me since I joined. Richard's life **was** this lodge. His love for Masonry was unending. His last years, even in his poor health, were dedicated to this lodge. Renting out the lodge to keep our heads above water financially, helping new brothers like me study, paying demolay kids out of his own pocket to help wash dishes and set tables for those that rented the lodge out. He was truly a brother Mason but more importantly he was a mentor and he was my friend. We had many conversations at night when I would drive up to help him with rentals. We would sit in the office and he would help me study my cypher, and answer all my questions about Masonry. I miss those conversations, and I miss him. I will always aspire to be the Mason he was.

Brother Steve Crane. Who is tonight, unfortunately, at Wesley hospital recovering from heart problems. Steve is a brother whose zeal for Masonry is most impressive. Steve learned the cypher faster than anyone I have known since I have been here. Quickly gaining his unlimited card. For years now Steve has been a pillar of this lodge and surrounding area. He is a member of multiple lodges and is a Grand Lecturer for Kansas. He has always offered his time to me and many others and been very supportive in times of need. I cherish him as a brother of this lodge and as a friend.

R.W. David Snyder. For years and years and years and years David has also been a pillar for Bestor G Brown lodge. His attendance is exemplary and he has always been the tome of knowledge for this lodge regarding Masonic information. I respect David, he is always in attendance and supports this lodge with his dizzying amount of knowledge regarding the craft and Masonry as a whole. I urge all brothers to emulate David and learn all the ritual as well as he has. This lodge and myself owe David enormous thanks for his many years of service to this lodge and as a role model for brothers like myself who hope to someday obtain his level of knowledge.

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Brother Dahl Carmichael. For your assistance to me many times the last couple of years I thank you. He has always been a voice of reason for this lodge especially during our bad times. With the best interest of this lodge always foremost on his mind. He has a much firmer grasp of the craft than I and I will for sure call on him to assist me in the coming year from time to time.

To the other brothers who are here tonight, Brothers Gary Mason, whose knowledge of Masonry has inspired me to be more vigilant in learning the craft this coming year, Ollie Beck, whose support for this lodge has been most valued especially for degree work, Brother Bryan Byers, whose shoes will not be easy to fill this year, I wish you and your new family all the best this coming year. And to all the brothers here I promise to the best of my abilities to make this year one of renewal and esoteric change. I thank all of the brothers here tonight and vow to do my best to deserve the honor you have bestowed upon me this year to sit in the east. Thank all of you for braving this horrible weather and being here tonight. And to my officers for 2009, thank you for accepting your chairs and may this year be a wonderful year for all of us here at Bestor G. Brown. Thank you.