

# The Supreme Council

MOTHER COUNCIL OF THE WORLD  
OF THE  
THIRTY-THIRD AND LAST DEGREE

A. GENE COBB, JR., 33°  
DEPUTY IN NORTH CAROLINA



HOUSE OF THE TEMPLE

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ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF  
FREEMASONRY, SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, U.S.A.

## A Memorial Day Message 2024

What is unity? I suppose it depends upon who you ask. A religious or political group will answer differently based on whether one agrees with their position. Two people in a disagreement will define unity based upon what it takes to get others to agree with their point of view. I think we can all agree that sometimes, its good to go to the beach or the mountains or into the forest so we can enjoy the freedom we have to pause, reflect, and remember all the things that make our country so great and so different.

This year, wherever you are, especially at a beach or in the mountains, I want to invite you to remember those who went to a beach in Normandy eighty years ago and never came home. I invite you to remember 24,053 casualties, with 6140 deaths at Iwo Jima in February 1945. Then, pause and reflect on the 58,209 deaths in Vietnam, 36,516 deaths in Korea, 116,516 deaths in just two years of World War 1, and 405,399 total deaths in World War II. Remember first responders, teachers, public safety, and all others who serve so we can be free.

Every year on Memorial Day, I think about these lives who sacrificed everything so we could be free as a nation. My greatest fear is that we will not use the freedom these men and women died for on the battlefield, street corners, or schoolhouses to promote the unity and harmony our country requires to remain strong and vital in the world. The selfless acts of those who serve our nation and lost their lives in the process must be remembered with reverence and respect, and the best way to hold them in the high honor they deserve is not to make America great because they have already done that. Our duty is to keep America great by working together to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States with God's help in every way we can as long ever as we can!

Let us in the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry unite in the cause of human progress, taking this special holiday as the opportunity to rekindle the spirit of unity and harmony our nation so desperately needs, not from forms of religious or political fanaticism but from friendship, morality, brotherly love, and recognition of duty and sacrifice by those who gave it.

Have a safe, happy, reverent, and reflective Memorial Day. If you haven't already, please begin thinking about how to celebrate our 250<sup>th</sup> Year as a nation because of the sacrifices these true patriots made on our behalf!

Sincerely and fraternally,

  
Sovereign Grand Inspector General  
in North Carolina