



The Grand Council of the  
**Allied Masonic Degrees**  
of the United States of America

**MOHAMAD A. YATIM, K.G.C.**  
**M.: V.: SOVEREIGN GRAND MASTER**

September 1, 2021

Dear Brethren of the Allied Masonic Degrees,

As you know, the untimely passing of our beloved brother Mike Cecil has left a vacancy in the Grand Council officers' line. Mike and I served together as Grand Superintendents of our respective states before our appointment into the progressive line. Throughout the approximately ten years that I have known Mike Cecil, I have known him to be a man of honor, an exemplary Freemason, and I shall always remember him as such. He will be dearly missed.

Our constitution ARTICLE VII, Section 7 states: "In the event of a vacancy in the elected or appointed Grand Officers, the Sovereign Grand Master shall have the power to advance the remaining Officers and to fill any vacancy created by such advancement with the approval of the Board of General Purposes."

I have intentionally not used my power to exercise ARTICLE VII, Section 7 immediately, out of respect for Mike, his wife, and our brethren, and to allow us all due time to mourn his passing. Furthermore, there was no immediate organizational need to fill the vacancy at the time. However, the work of the Grand Council must go on. Therefore, effective immediately, I exercise my power pursuant to ARTICLE VII, Section 7 and advance all the officers in the progressive line one spot each to that of Senior Grand Warden through to Grand Marshal.

Furthermore, when making an appointment to the bottom of the line, it is my duty as Sovereign Grand Master to do what is best for the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America by considering qualified brothers from our entire Grand Jurisdiction for this important responsibility. This was not an easy task, as there are many worthy leaders who would qualify to serve our Grand Council. With the unanimous support of the members of the Board of General Purposes, Deputy Grand Master Right Venerable Aaron Shoemaker and Senior Grand Warden Right Venerable W. Berry Rigdon, I hereby appoint Right Venerable John A. Bridegroom as Grand Tyler of the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America.

Right Venerable Bridegroom has served Freemasonry with distinction in many leadership roles. He has served the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees of the U.S.A. as the first Grand Superintendent of Indiana from 2016 to 2019. In Indiana, he is the sitting Junior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge, and if elected, he is expected to serve as its Grand Master in 2026. John served the appendant bodies in Indiana as Potentate, Most Illustrious Grand Master of R. & S.M. and presided over several local bodies, including Red Cross of Constantine, Knight Masons, York Rite College, Knights of the York Cross of Honor, and the Allied Masonic Degrees.

On the national level, John was the Provincial Grand Secretary of the Masonic Order of Athelstan from 2015-2019 and received the Grand Rank of Past Grand Banner Bearer. He served as the General Grand Sentinel of the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International from 2017-2020 and received the Grand Order of the Secret Vault. He was also awarded with the Grand Rank of Past Grand Cellar in the Commemorative Order of St. Thomas of Acon.

I have full confidence in Right Venerable John A. Bridegroom, and that his skills, leadership abilities, experience, and general love for the Allied Masonic Degrees will well prepare him to lead our Grand Council in the future.

Sincerely and fraternally,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mohamad Yatim".

Mohamad A. Yatim  
Sovereign Grand Master