



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

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

November 24, 2021

My Brethren,

In 1863, our great nation was going through a terrible ordeal. As Lincoln described in his October 3rd message, “There have been needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry. There has been waste made in the camp, in the siege and in the battle-field.” Yet with all that was wrong, Lincoln looked to the blessings that existed. The nation was “rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor”, and it had been “permitted to expect a continuance in years with large increases of freedom.” Lincoln observed these pockets of sunlight as “the gracious gifts from the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.”

In his Thanksgiving Proclamation, Lincoln implored the nation to “offer up the provenances justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, but that they do also, commend to His tender care, all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.”

To many of our brethren, 2021 has been a difficult year. There has been financial dislocation and economic fears, jobs lost, a pandemic that continues to hover over our world, old fault lines reopening, dividing neighbor from neighbor, many ill and too many called to the Lodge on High; and yet we still have much to be thankful for. Scientists are working on cures, families and friends are gathering around hearth and home, the unbending and unyielding American spirit is, as always, striving for greatness, and our fraternity continues to shine, thanks to you, my brothers. You are the beacon of Light illuminating the world, bringing love, charity, hope and unity to our great nation.

The officers of the Grand Council of Allied Masonic Degrees of the United States of America and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a joyous and bountiful Thanksgiving, and in the words of Lincoln, as you gather with family and friends, please “offer up the provenances justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings”.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely and fraternally,

*Mohamad Yatim*

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Sovereign Grand Master