

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS  
STATE CONVENTION

September 16, 1941  
Cumberland

**I**N times like these, when the forces of hatred and aggression have thoroughly upset the peace and security of the whole world, it is a refreshing privilege to come before the members of an organization whose every precept is the direct antithesis of the enmities so prevalent today.

Inspired by the eternal friendship of Damon and Pythias, the Knights of Pythias and its auxiliary, The Pythian Sisters, were founded for charitable and benevolent purposes. Their long and successful history is a consoling argument for the democratic belief that the brotherhood of man can be, and aided by such organizations as yours, actually has been the rule of life for millions of people in this Country these many years.

The example of your organization and of other fraternal organizations in our Country, is continuing and conclusive evidence that there are other factors in the life of mankind than might and brute force. May the time return soon when all the world again will realize the truth of the principles embodied in your ritual!

As the Chief Executive of our State, I am very happy to have the opportunity to extend to the Knights of Pythias and its auxiliaries the appreciation of the people of Maryland, an appreciation based not alone on the high objectives of your Order, but also and more directly upon your well-known achievements in the field of charity and benevolence.

The fact that the members of your Order are persons of the highest standing in community and business life, is a real consideration, of course. However, the crowning quality characterizing the tradition of your fraternity is to be found in the generous and unselfish assistance which your great organization has extended for years to many who would be otherwise helpless and forgotten.

With the Golden Rule as your motto, and such key words as Purity, Love, Equality and Fidelity to inspire you, it is easy to understand the progress your Order has made in achieving its purpose of promoting the moral, social and physical welfare of its members. You may be sure that our people generally, outside of your membership, are well acquainted with your many acts of brotherhood and charity.

It is a fortunate thing, indeed, for this Country that your organization, and similar associations of patriotic men and women, are in existence. Your very membership in the organization proves your devotion to American ideals and principles, for otherwise you could not have secured membership. Your continuation as active members demonstrates that you are "carrying on" the practices of loyal sons of the Nation to the perpetuation of which your organization is committed.