

## **Closing Speech**

### **Grand Sire Archon-Elect**

Good morning, Archons. Although we're at the sunset of this campaign...we're at the dawn of the future. I love the Boulé with its rich history and its focus on relationships. I have visited all five regions and I am energized by the Archons that I've met along the way. I am more motivated than ever to work harder for the prosperity and smart growth of our Fraternity.

I am prepared to lead. I believe that my executive experience is well suited to the task. Most recently, I led the team that reorganized AIG, global insurance giant. I've demonstrated abilities of thoughtful leadership, personal connection, transparency, and collaboration. Additionally, my 35 years in elite Wall Street banks and Corporations have taught me a thing or two that may be helpful in growing the Boulé Foundation and improving our operations. We'll work together in creating a vision that we ALL can embrace.

Should you elect me as Grand Sire Archon, I will be asking you to use power in unprecedented ways. We have everything we need. Seizing the future has been my theme, so.... let's just do it!!!

I believe in a nimble and vigorous Boulé that seizes the future yet reaches back to our original intent. We can recapture the spirit of 1904....and even improve upon it! We should unleash our enormous power for the benefit of our communities, and each other. Wealth building..., networking...shrewd power moves... combined with intimate fellowship and doing all of this on purpose.

Some say that history may not exactly repeat itself, but it certainly rhymes. There are eerie parallels to Post Civil War Reconstruction that should deeply worry us. The same debate we heard this year...rebuilding infrastructure vs protecting our rights happened in 1865 which led to the rise of Jim Crow...which effectively re-enslaved us for nearly 100 years. It is quite apparent that our fraternity has changed... it's bigger and stronger than ever. Likewise, it is imperative that we make good decisions about how and WHEN our voice is heard. We must play a role in cultivating policies that advance our interests... so that we STOP enactment of laws that pull us back toward segregation and isolation.

## Closing Speech Grand Sire Archon-Elect

I remember vividly when my Dad FIRST ran for office back in 1967. For reasons that I still don't quite understand, he took me, his youngest child, along with him when he campaigned by car...the old fashioned way...with loud speakers on top...driving through the neighborhoods he would say "Vote for Bob Douglass, Baltimore City Council, 2<sup>nd</sup> District"...and the words that came back at him were like "nigger", "Uncle Tom" and an occasional egg thrown at us by angry whites who sought to intimidate him.... but he soldiered on.... proud and undeterred. My dad and the brave men and women like him are my inspiration. We owe it to them to answer that challenge that is before us.

Archons, we saw the confederate flag paraded in the capitol in 2021...that flag never made it to Washington in 1865. Will we wait for the threat to come to us before we do something? Might the families of Black Wall Street, in Tulsa, prepared themselves had they known that white resentment would lead to their destruction?

Archons, the "Canary in the coal mine" is coughing, but we the Archons of Sigma Pi Phi are the breath of fresh air. I will leave you with a thought.... by the great American poet, thinker, philosopher....his name is James Brown. He said... "I don't want nobody to give me nuthin. Open up the door, I'll get it myself!!" Brother James had it right. Let's go get it, ourselves. We may have no choice!

Archons, thank you for listening. I'd appreciate your vote and ...together, let's seize the future!