

# BE ALL YOU CAN BE

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**T**he phrase “Be All You Can Be” is easily recognized as the former U. S. Army recruiting slogan. I challenge those who desire to maximize their potential to join ranks and strive for personal excellence in what they do. “The Few, the Proud” is another recruiting slogan that points out that not everyone can be a member of the U. S. Marine Corps; only those with dedication and pride may do so. The U. S. Air Force encourages recruits to “Aim High,” while the U. S. Navy offers the charge to potential seamen to “Accelerate Your Life.” These slogans are some of my favorites, although I have not been in the military. They are in my list because those who strive to make themselves and others better have always encouraged me.

There are Brothers who have Accelerated their Lives by active participation in the fraternity of Freemasonry, including all of its appendant bodies. There are others, too, within the ranks of Freemasonry who have heeded the call to Aim High, whether it is to serve their Blue Lodge or laboring in the grand lines of their state’s Masonic bodies. As Freemasons, we are The Few and the Proud, but we must keep asking ourselves: Are We Being All We Can Be? That begins with each of us asking ourselves: Am I Being All I Can Be?

Building upon those principles of reaching for excellence and striving to maximize potential, we as Freemasons understand these qualities are most admirable when we apply them to the cause of making the lives of others better. Whether this is in the lives of our family, our neighbors, our friends, or a complete stranger, we see that they have a need, feel that it is worthy, and attend to it.

In Masonry, the emblem of the beehive is used to teach the lesson of labor and industry. The bee labors not for its own individual wants and desires, but for the good of the hive as a whole. Working for the good of its community and not for itself is the bee’s natural inclination, as it should be for all Masons. Our ancient operative Brethren who built the cathedrals of Europe did so as a collective group. There was no heavy equipment in operation to move the stones and tools, no cranes to lift those large ashlar into their places; it was done with manpower and knowledge. The operative Masons had to rely on each other and not their individual skill or ability alone to construct those beautiful and awe-inspiring edifices that rose towards the heavens. Thus, we should labor as Craftsmen in the world’s greatest Fraternity. We can achieve little on our own, but with the aid of our Brothers, we as Freemasons can do much to build and better the lives of those around us. That is our calling, that is our duty, that is who we are.

Let us be mindful and not grow complacent, but constantly remind ourselves that what we’ve done in the past is not good enough.

I invite every Brother of this great Fraternity to join me in looking into our hearts and asking: Will I be content to just be “good enough,” or will I strive to Be All I Can Be?