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FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND BASILEUS



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Brothers,

This is not a midterm election that you should skip.

There is far too much at stake this November to do anything other than vote, and work to get others to do so.

In a time when partisan political divisions roil this great land, those who still cling to our forefathers' dream of equality should take heart in watching the progress of political leaders who have arisen in several states to contest a status quo that seems staunchly opposed to the interests of humanity in general, and minorities, specifically.

The recent confirmation of Judge Brett M. Kavanaugh to serve as an Associate Justice on the United States Supreme Court provided ample and jarring reasons why every vote counts and everyone's voice must be heard.

Kavanaugh's confirmation hearing was tragic high drama that played out before us like a daytime soap opera splashed throughout the cable television landscape. Such outrageous behavior Kavanaugh exhibited during this hearing cast a regrettable shadow of uncertainty and thus challenges the very continued credibility and legitimacy of the high court.

We are reminded that registering to vote is not enough. We must hold true to the numerous sacrifices of countless unseen and unheralded warriors who died to grant us this simple and inalienable right to cast a ballot.

In an ever-evolving age of social media and nonstop cable news, any excuse for not registering and not being informed is unwarranted, illogical and inexcusable.

We need to look no further than Georgia where we are witnessing first hand blatant efforts to suppress votes.

Brian Kemp, Georgia's current Secretary of State and the Republican nominee for governor in November's election, has deliberately stalled more than 53,000 voter applications, the Associated Press recently reported. Kemp's office oversees elections in Georgia.

The report said 4 of 5 -- or about 80 percent -- of those delayed are African-American. Voting rights advocates, including supporters of Stacey Abrams, the Democrat who is vying to become the first black woman governor in American history have raised substantive and legitimate concerns that need to be immediately addressed.

Abrams is among an impressive group of African-Americans seeking to be elected governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General or to the United States Senate.

The candidates for governor for the states of Maryland, Florida, and Georgia include: Ben Jealous, the former head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Andrew Gillum, mayor of Tallahassee, Florida, and Stacey Abrams.

Mike Espy, a former congressman and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture during the Bill Clinton administration, is running in a special election to replace Mississippi Republican Thad Cochran, in the United States Senate.

Sean Shaw, a proud Omega man, is running for Florida Attorney General. Dr. Will Boyd, another proud Omega man, is running for Alabama Lieutenant Governor.

It is not enough for us to say we want change.

Indeed, by casting our votes in significant numbers, we thereby become the positive change that we are seeking.

Let's make history. Vote Nov. 6, and make sure those near to you are eligible to vote, and that they do so as well.

Fraternally,

David E. Marion, Ph.D.
Grand Basileus