



THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE

® "The Official Organ of the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F&AM of Alabama."

VOLUME IV, ISSUE II

APRIL 2016

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Jimmie Lee Jackson
Wreath Laying Ceremony

51st Anniversary
'Selma to Montgomery
Reenactment March'



BROTHER JIMMIE LEE JACKSON

AN OFFICIAL
PUBLICATION OF
THE M.W.P.H.G.L.
OF ALABAMA

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The Grand Master's Trestle Board



*And we have known and believed the love that
God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth
in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*

1 John 4:16

Also, we participated in the Annual Selma March in commemoration of "Bloody Sunday". The brothers and sisters came from far and near to turn out in masses to help make our presence a success. We had a great time fellowshiping with one another, as well as, participating in the march.

Thanks to all who have participated in our several events. Without you, our success would not be possible.

We are currently in the middle of our regional meetings. They have been well attended and very uplifting, thus far. I encourage all to attend your regional meetings.

Sadly, at the end of this first quarter, we lost one of our beloved Grand Lodge Officers. Right Worshipful Clifton Gullett, Jr., Grand Senior Steward, transcended from this earthly life to eternity. He now resides in that *house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens*. Let us keep the Gullett family in our thoughts and prayers.

Grand Lodge of Alabama keep up the good work! We are off to a great start in 2016. Do your best to encourage others to participate in our programs. May God bless and keep you is my sincere prayer!

Time waits on no man. As we go about our daily lives, the sands of time move swiftly through the hour glass. As I stop to think, I realize that the first quarter of the year 2016 is already a part of the past. Thanks be to God who has brought us safely thus far!

Over the past quarter we have made tremendous strides in improving our beloved Grand Lodge. In January, we along with Miles College, co-sponsored the Annual George French Lyceum Speaker Series on the

campus of Miles College. Congressman and Civil Rights icon, as well as, Masonic brother, John Lewis was the guest speaker. We were privileged to have made Dr. George T. French, President of Miles College, a Master Mason.

We also participated in the celebration of the life and the commemoration of the death of Civil Rights hero and Brother Master Mason, Mr. Jimmie Lee Jackson. We laid a masonic wreath at the gravesite of our slain brother. We must make sure his legacy lives on.

Fraternally,

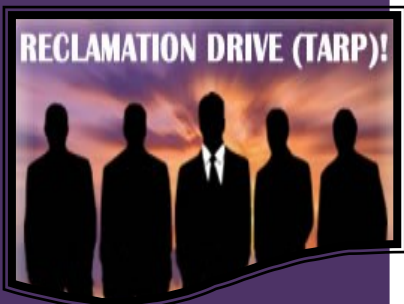
Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.

Most Worshipful Grand Master



PM Herman "Jerome" Glover (50)
Publication Editor

"This program is designed to allow suspended members to reinstate for a more affordable fee."



Message from the Editor

Greetings,

To all the readers and supporters of this Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama titled *The Cornerstone Message*: I would like to take this time to thank all of the contributors to this edition of the Grand Lodge newsletter. I commend you on your good works and taking advantage of utilizing *The Cornerstone Message* to display your good works to the brethren throughout this great jurisdiction of Ala-

bama. This jurisdiction has accomplished great things since the publication of the January edition and you will find them captured within this edition of *The Cornerstone Message*. I have received good reviews, corrections and recommendations from members throughout the Jurisdiction since the distribution of the first *Cornerstone Message* edition as your Publication Editor but as with any endeavor there is always an opportunity for improvement and I solicit your help. When submitting articles for submission,

please include a point of contact with a telephone number in which I may contact you if there are any questions with your articles and/or pictures submitted. As always, I want to encourage all subordinate lodges to continue to support *The Cornerstone Message* and show the brothers throughout the jurisdiction what your lodges are doing in your respective areas to add to the mission of placing Prince Hall Masonry at the forefront in the state of Alabama.

- PM Herman "Jerome" Glover
Publication Editor

Reclamation Drive (TARP)

In an attempt to give suspended Brothers an opportunity to become active again during these tough economic times, our Most Worshipful Grand Master has devised a plan named TARP – Traveling Again Reclamation Program. This program is designed to allow suspended members to reinstate for a more affordable fee.

Members suspended before June, 2002, can reinstate by paying the following:

- \$20.00 reinstatement fee
- \$10.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment (Have two years to pay the remaining \$150.00)
- \$105.00 Total

Members suspended after June, 2002, can reinstate by paying the following:

- \$20.00 reinstatement fee
- \$10.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment (Have two years to pay the remaining \$200.00)
- \$105.00 Total

TARP serves a two-fold purpose: (1.) It gives suspended Brothers a more affordable means of reinstating and (2.) It gives dying lodges a final opportunity to salvage their existence by increasing their numbers before being forced to close or merge. Our Grand Master has extended a challenge for the members of this jurisdiction to go out and reclaim our lost Brothers. TARP will be in effect through July 31, 2016.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The

One Hundred Forty-Sixth Annual Communication

of the

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free & Accepted Masons of Alabama

will be held

Monday, July 18, 2016 - Wednesday, July 20, 2016



SHERATON HOTEL

2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Boulevard North
Birmingham, Alabama 35203-1101

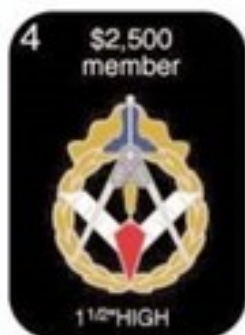
The room rate is \$106.00 + applicable taxes per night

When making reservations ask for the PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE ROOM BLOCK to get our rate. The cutoff date for the \$106.00+applicable tax per night rate is June 30, 2016. So make your reservations now!

For Reservations Call 205.324.5000 or 800.325.3535

Support the Temple Renovation

Most Worshipful Prince Grand Lodge of Alabama Temple Renovation Lapel Pins are still available for new and existing members upon receipt of your donation(s). Collect up to each level. Display your support for the temple renovation!



51st Anniversary 'Selma to Montgomery Reenactment March'

On March 6, 2016, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama was proud to participate in the 51st Annual Bloody Sunday March on Selma. The morning began with a Martin & Coretta Scott King Unity Breakfast. Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq., along with other Grand Lodge Officers and visiting Grand Master Carl Williams (MWPHGL of Ohio) were able to interact and speak with Reps. Terri Sewell and (Bro.) Jim Clyburn (MWPHGL of South Carolina). Rep. Sewell spoke on garnering support for her Voting Rights bill currently before Congress.

Afterwards, approximately 1,100 Brothers and Sisters gathered for staging to participate in the Commemorative March. The Prince Hall Masons were able to come from behind the confines of tiled lodge doors and assemble to support one of our most precious jewels in democracy, the right to vote!

The MWPHGL of Alabama was happy to host brothers and sisters from our sister jurisdictions throughout the country.

Please be sure to attend the 52nd Commemorative March scheduled for Sunday, March 5, 2017.









Message from the Grand Medical Registrar

Greetings Brothers,

It is a blessing to be amongst the living and to once again thank the GRAND ARCHITECT for another day. I am going to address preventive health tactics that affect people with gout. Gout is a condition that can have debilitating effects if not treated properly. Count your blessings if you have not experienced an episode of gout. Many of my patients often state they, “would not wish it on their worst enemy”. As a matter of fact, one of my patients stated that he knew how to end the war. He said, “Drop a case of gout on them and every one of them would give up fighting.”

Gout is the buildup of a chemical substance called uric acid. This buildup can be a result of diet, genetics or inability to excrete urate, the salts of uric acid. These are just a few examples. You may recall gout is also known as the rich man's disease because these were the only people that could afford red meat in ancient times. Therefore, from a diet aspect; red meat, alcohol, fructose sweetened drinks, and seafood can bring on gout symptoms.

Symptoms of gout is typically a painful reddened hot and swollen joint. It can affect other big joints of body such as the knee, elbow, and wrist. These areas are quite painful; therefore, have mercy and understanding if a family member or acquaintances have this condition.

There are treatments readily available for people with gout. I will not get very detailed about the medication treatment because it will be based on that individual's present health status. Please discuss the different options with your physician. Your physician can diagnose gout based on presentation, blood work, x-rays and by testing fluid from the affected joint.

Some dietary effective treatments have utilized black cherries and reduction of the intake of meats and seafood. Also, limiting alcohol, weight loss, and consuming vitamin C have proven to be effective. Coffee is associated with lower risk of gout. Decreasing fructose consumption and treating sleep apnea have shown to be effective in decreasing the occurrence of gout.

Gout is twice as likely in African American males than European males based on studies in the United States. Gout may increase your risk of hypertension, diabetes, kidney and heart problems. If you have gout or know someone that does, please encourage a follow up with a physician because help is available.

If anyone would like a dietary guide on gout, please feel free to contact me for more information.

This article once again is to peak your interest to get help if you have this condition. As always, continue to "LOOK TO THE EAST".

Contributor – RW Dr. Belfondia Pou (No. 772)

From Whence We've Come...

JUDGE RODERICK B. THOMAS

Past Grand Master:

Alabama Compact Grand Lodge

1874-75

"Impartial history can be written only by unprejudiced minds, for even the scales of justice tremble in the presence of bias and unnecessary hatred."

- Rev. G.P. Hamilton



The quote from Rev. G.P. Hamilton summarizes the historic writings that took place on the National Compact – Grand Lodge of Alabama's first Grand Master, Judge and Brother Roderick B. (R.B) Thomas. Should we follow the historical approach utilized by the Confederate historians or offspring of the Confederates, they will paint the foulest portrayal of the life of Brother Thomas.

Born on December 26, 1848, a *Freeman* in Knoxville, Tennessee to a free African-American mother and a white father, R.B. Thomas found himself living in Mobile, Alabama, during slavery as a *Freeman*. Mobile is the location where it is believed that Brother Thomas received his early education.

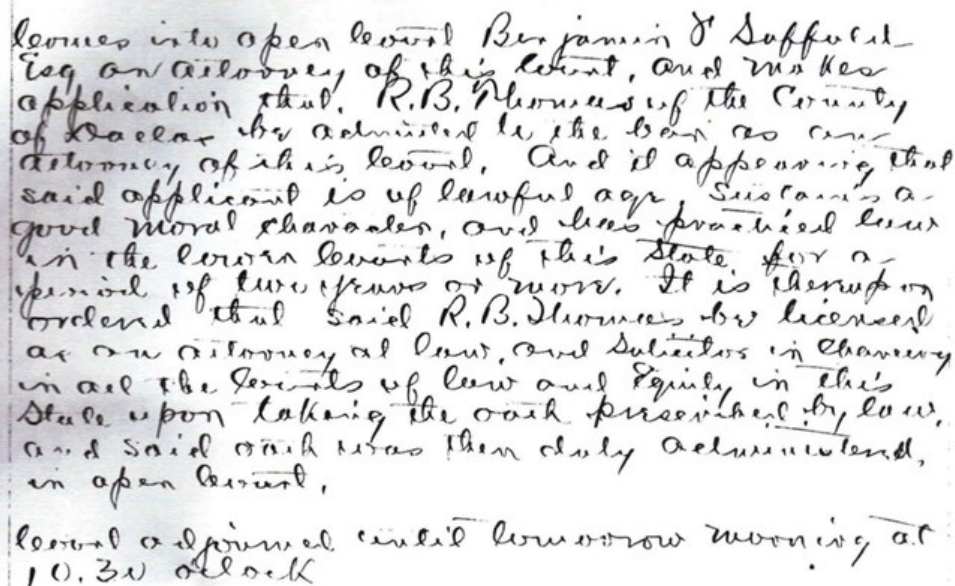
Many Civil Rights historians haphazardly discuss the fight for Civil Rights as merely a modern-day fight; however, when we look closely at the occurrences taking place in Mobile, we find our own R. B. Thomas was in the thick of things fighting the good fight and becoming one of Alabama's first *Freedom Riders*, long before Rosa Parks.

On April 14, 1867, R. B. Thomas was passenger on a streetcar that was awaiting Sunday services to end outside of Government Street Presbyterian Church. Much like the Rosa Parks narrative, Thomas refused the driver's request to get off the car. The Mayor of Mobile, Mitchell Withers attempted to move swiftly and instructed the streetcar driver to unhitch the car from the horses. R. B. Thomas dug his heels in and did not get off and waited a while before joining a group of freedmen standing nearby. When the church services ended white parishioners boarded the streetcar and the driver reattached the horses. Though unsuccessful, news sparked all of the US and other streetcar protests began.

Brother Thomas would find himself working in the law. He served as a police officer in Mobile. During those times, whites found it disheartening to be arrested by African-Americans. None the less, Officer Thomas did his job and did it well.

Later, Bro. Thomas would eventually move to Dallas County. Although documentation is not succinct to identify when Brother Thomas arrived in Dallas County (Selma), it is believed that he arrived after the fall of the Confederacy.

Bro. Thomas' life in public service took off quickly and 1870 marked the year that he was first elected as clerk of the Criminal Court of Dallas County. In 1874, he was elect-



ed Judge of that same court. This election would make him the first duly elected African-American judge in the State of Alabama. In 1875, only a year later, it marked the birth of Jim Crow and the General Assembly would begin its Machiavellian tactics and would abolish Judge Thomas' court and created a new court that would not have an African-American as the presiding officer. On December 17, 1876, Bro. Thomas became one the earliest documented African-Americans to be admitted to the Alabama Bar.

In 1873, he was appointed by the city council to develop a plan for the Selma railroad. As a result, he devised a plan that would make him Commissioner for the railroad. Tantamount to his service as a police officer, Bro. Thomas would serve as secretary of the Central City Fire Company No. 2.

Bro. Thomas is believed to have been raised into the mysteries of Freemasonry in 1872-73, in Godfrey B. Taylor Lodge, No. 35, under the M.W. Grand Lodge of Missouri, FAAYM. In 1873, he's found as Worshipful Master and also deputized as District Deputy Grand Master for District 10, which oversaw Godfrey B. Taylor Lodge.

On May 14, 1874, Godfrey B. Taylor Lodge, No 35, of Selma (Missouri FAAYM), St. John's Lodge, No. 41 (Missouri FAAYM and defector from the Independent GL of Alabama) of Mobile, St. Mathew's Lodge, No. 8 of Eufala (Georgia FAAYM) met in a convention to organize a new Grand Lodge and Bro. R.B. Thomas was elected as Chairman and would be elected as their first Grand Master.

The later details of life after 1878 are sparse as he's later found in Little Rock, Arkansas practicing law with the well-loved first black Judge Mifflin W. Gibbs. MWPGM Thomas would later die of a heart attack on November 16, 1887. He was given honors by the Arkansas Supreme Court.

MWPGM Thomas exemplified the determination of public service, education and thrift to maneuver through those tumultuous times. As we review his life's work we have to salute him with a, *Job well done!*

Contributor — RW L. Ken Collins, II
Grand Lodge Historian

“The Boy From Troy” Returns to Alabama

In keeping with the theme of active community involvement, MWPHGL of Alabama has been working hard within the community. On February 22, 2015, under the direction of Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins Sr., Esq., the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama in a collaborative effort with Miles College worked to bring Congressman John Lewis of Georgia back to his native state of Alabama. This was done as part of Miles College’s Third Annual George T. French Lyceum Speaker Series.

Congressman Lewis was born in Troy, Alabama, and affectionately became known to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as “The boy from Troy” after he wrote a letter and met with King to detail his denial of acceptance into Troy University. This was only one of the events that led Lewis to becoming a major participant in many activities during the Civil Rights Era where he fought to end segregation in the South. Lewis later moved to Nashville and became an activist challenging many of the unfair practices in the Jim Crow South.

Lewis held many important roles before becoming a Congressman. Early in his life, Lewis was a board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference becoming one of the major figures in the Civil Rights Movement organizing activities for the Freedom Riders, civil rights activists who rode buses into the South to challenge the un-lawful treatment of African-Americans.

Congressman Lewis was made a “Mason at sight” under the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia. Although a Georgia Mason, Congressman Lewis has been repetitively involved in interacting with the Grand Lodge of Alabama. His ancestral ties have not been forgotten by his Brethren in Alabama.

As a part of the French Lyceum lecture series, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama was utilized for our connections with political figures and our involvement within the community. This project among others, such as the annual Bloody Sunday Reenactment commemorating the life of Bro. Jimmie Lee Jackson is a testament to our support of not only the Civil Rights Movement then, but also our continued platform of being a visible structure within our community.



Grand Master Hawkins and Congressman Lewis

Congressman Lewis' passion could still be felt in the message he delivered as he focused on the importance that Miles College played in the lives of many and the importance of being comfortable in your own skin. Lewis also emphasized the importance of voting. He stated, "People gave blood for the right to vote." The messages were heard loud and clear. After Lewis' fiery words, members of the Grand and OES held a voter's registration drive where over 50 students of Miles College registered to vote during the event in Fairfield, Alabama. A highlight of the day was making of Dr. George T. French, President of Miles College, a "Mason on Site. This was a great day and a great step in fostering a great relationship with Mile College.

Contributor — Bro. Kelvin Luster (No. 319) and R.W. Ken Collins (No. 319)



“Maybe we will emerge as a model for the rest of the world. It may take a little time, but we've got to keep pushing, and never give up, and never lose hope.”





Achievements

Most Worshipful Hawkins Elected Southeast Region President

On Saturday, January 16, 2016, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. and A. M. of Alabama and the Mizpah Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star hosted the Southeast Region of the Conference of Grand Masters and the Southeast Region of the Conference of Grand Matrons and Grand Patrons meetings at the Hilton Perimeter Park in Birmingham, Alabama.

A highlight of the meeting was the election of our very own Grand Master Hawkins, by his peers, to the office of President. Other officers elected were Most Worshipful Bruce James (Georgia) as Vice President, Most Worshipful Walter Gulley, Jr. as Treasurer, and Right Worshipful Lamont Banks (Tennessee) as Secretary.

The Southeast Region is composed of the Jurisdictions of Alabama, the Bahamas, the Caribbean, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Its motto is “One Voice”.

Congratulations Grand Master Hawkins on your ascension to the office of President! We look forward to great things from the Southeast Region.



Grand Master Hawkins and other elected officers being sworn in



(Left) From left to right: MW Leslie M. Dean (BHS), MW Walter Gulley, Jr. (FL), MW Arvin W. Glass (TN), MW Corey D. Hawkins, Sr. (AL), MW Maurice F. Lucas, Sr. (MS), MW Colonel Branford (CAR), MW Bruce James (GA)



(Right) Southeast Region meeting attendees

Contributor — RW Godfrey Johnson (No. 75)

In The Spotlight

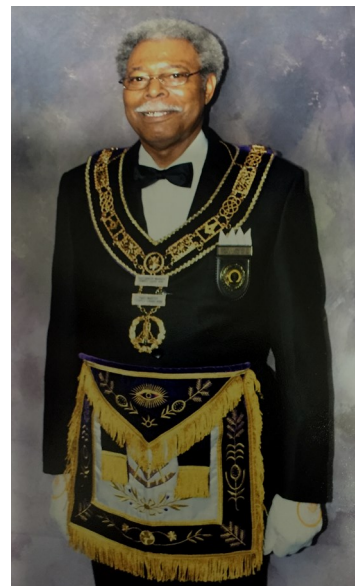
Each quarter the MWPHGL of Alabama will place one of our worthy brothers In The Spotlight. The worthy brother placed In The Spotlight this quarter is:

Past Grand Senior Warden Robert L. (Bobby) Langford, Sr.

Brother Langford was born on March 13, 1938 in Monrovia, Madison County, AL. He began his early childhood education while attending several rural Madison County Schools. He finished his High School Requirements in 1957, in Berlin, Germany; before graduating from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, at San Juan in 1964. Additionally, he holds a State Certificate of High School Equivalency from the State of Alabama. Including, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Athens State University, Athens, AL.

Brother Langford began his Career with the Military, on January 16, 1956, at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. Upon completion of Basic and Advance Individual Infantry Training, he was stationed in Berlin, Germany and eventually to Fort Lewis, Washington where he participated in "Operation Big-Lift," which moved an entire battalion plus support groups to Europe. It was there, Brother Langford would meet several other soldiers who were Freemasons. Until then, Brother Langford never knew very much about Freemasonry, until one of his fellow soldiers in his platoon got into trouble, by missing formation. One day three Masonic Brothers came to visit the soldier that was in trouble and offered their assistance for the rescue. Brother Langford attempted to leave the room, but, they stopped him, and advised him that he may need to hear this too. They told both Brother Langford and the other Soldier, that they were Prince Hall Freemasons, and that they were experienced in taking care of situations such as his. They asked Brother Langford what did he know about Freemasonry? Brother Langford replied, not very much. Brother Langford listened intensively. The Masonic Brothers explained what Prince Hall Freemasonry is and stated that the soldier was an outstanding soldier they didn't want to see hurt, and that they would take care of this incident, and advised both, (Brother Langford and the other soldier) that, "when you get back on the other side of the pond (the Atlantic Ocean), you need to find someone's Prince Hall Masonic Lodge and get into it." During those days people did not talk to just anyone, especially concerning Freemasonry. This is where Brother Langford would begin his consideration and quest for knowledge of Freemasonry.

In 1964, while stationed in the Caribbean he met a Master Sergeant Edward Woods and Master Sergeant Earl Danby and they became very close friends and both of them spoke very highly to him regularly regarding Freemasonry, emphasizing the importance of Negroes in the military becoming Prince Hall Masons but there was no Prince Hall Masonic Lodges at that time in the area. Brother Langford was notified by the Red that his grandmother was gravely ill, and that, they did not expect her to hold on much longer, and that he needed to come home immediately, if he could. He immediately placed a telephone call to his mother to assess the situation, with her being an Eastern Star he asked her to contact the Worshipful Master of the local Lodge, Lincoln No. 99, about the possibility of him becoming a member, and to see if she could get an application to him right away. He received and completed the application along with the necessary medical/doctor requirement, which was required at that time, and returned it back to his mother as soon as possible via special delivery.



Upon Brother Langford arriving in Madison for his grandmother's illness, when he went to Huntsville Hospital to visit, he discovered that his grand mother had already expired, the same day as he arrived. Since he had fifteen days military leave/vacation, the Worshipful Master, who was then Brother O.B. Toney of Lincoln Lodge No. 99, notified him that he had already obtained a special dispensation, and would give him all three degrees in one night. In March 1964, on a Saturday night, Brother Langford entered the Lodge at 7:00PM and when he left day was breaking and the sun was rising on Sunday morning. It was necessary to give him three degrees in one night because he had to leave and return back overseas.

When Brother Langford returned to Puerto Rico, he was able to let his Masonic Brothers know that he had been raised. Although he had received the degrees, he had not obtained much knowledge. The only reason he received help from his friends is that they knew that he had something that he did not have before he left them. On his off time, he spent time with Brother Woods, Bro Danby and other known Masonic Brothers who would work with him while he continued his quest for Masonic knowledge. He learned his ritualistic work and was taught the history, philosophy, jurisprudence, meaning of Prince Hall Masonry, and parliamentary rules of order; to ensure that he was proficient in the needed Masonic knowledge and aspects of Freemasonry prior to returning back to the United States.

In March of 1970, Brother Langford would be reassigned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina where he met Sergeant First Class (SFC) Otto Morgan, who was a well-educated Freemason, of the Thirty-Third Degree, who would become an incredible Masonic mentor. SFC Morgan had tremendous compassion and became a true and good friend, as well as, Masonic Brother. He would take Brother Langford under his wing and specifically teach Brother Langford specific details and aspects of Prince Hall Freemasonry regarding procedures, including advanced fundamentals of Masonic knowledge and where to look for appropriate Masonic books. In September 1973, he departed for Sattahip, Thailand, "at the Gulf of Siam"; where he was immediately approached regarding helping to organize a Masonic Study Club. While in Thailand, Brother Langford contributed immeasurably to the increase and organization of Siam Military Lodge No. 30 at Bangkok. As the President of "The Midnight Sun Masonic Study Club he had over 50 members." In 1975, After departing Thailand, Brother Langford was reassigned to Fort Gordon, GA with a duty stationed at Fort McClellan, AL where he moved his membership from Lincoln Lodge No.99, to Jackson Pride Lodge No. 662, Anniston, AL, where he served as Senior Warden, and helped increase the membership while raising numerous of Masons. He also helped organize the Fort McClellan Masonic Study Club, at Fort McClellan, AL, where he served as President until departing for Europe.

Brother Langford would eventually return to Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama where his Brother, Rev. Roosevelt Langford, Senior Warden for Temple Lodge No 98, asked him to help and assist him with their Lodge. Brother Langford began attending meetings, providing Masonic instruction and assistance as he served as Lecturer. He organized a Masonic Study Club and presided as President of Temple Lodge No. 98 Study Club, a position he held until being elected Worshipful Master in 1985 where he served until the year 2000. Bro. Langford was elected and served as President of the Madison County Worshipful Master's Council and Assistant Grand District Deputy of District 17; prior to being elected Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden for the MWPHGL of Alabama. In 2002, Brother Langford was elected and served for 11 years until 2013, as Right Worshipful Grand Senior under the patriarch of Grand Master Dr. William O. Jones where he served on many ad hoc Committees, researched and wrote special papers for the Grand Master, for the benefit of the Grand Lodge. He also served as Chairman of the Newly-Elected Worshipful Master's Passing and Education Committee.

Brother Robert L.(Bobby) Langford retired from Active Military Duty on March 1, 1986, where he served as Sergeant Major in the United States Army. He is married to Barbara Angelika Fialka-Langford of Bingen/Rhineland Pfalz, former West Germany. She is a member of Mizpah Chapter No. 37 OES, and the Order of the Golden Circle. They have four Children; Christy Langford, Nadine Austin, Robert L. Langford, Jr., and Nichol Recker. Brother Langford is also a member of Northeast Alabama Worshipful Masters Council, United Supreme Council, Tennessee Valley Consistory No. 160, J.E. Harris 33rd Club, Al Azhar Temple No. 195 and African Lodge No. 459.

Thank You Brother Langford for all your hard work and service to this esteemed organization.

REGION 2

News and Events from Region 2

Jimmie Lee Jackson Day Commemoration 2016

Fifty-one years ago, our Prince Hall Masonic brother-Jimmie Lee Jackson- paid the ultimate price by dying for our freedom. Every third Sunday in February, an annual commemoration is held in Marion, Perry County, Alabama honoring Bro. Jackson's sacrifice.

This year, prior to the celebration, a reception was held at Goshen Lodge No. 132, the lodge where Bro. Jackson was raised and a member in good standing at the time of his death. Following the reception, a wreath laying ceremony, presided over by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., was held at the gravesite of our martyred brother. Prince Hall masons from near and far and of all degrees, were joined by members of Bro. Jackson's immediate and distant family, as well as members of the community.



At the wreath laying ceremony and the Jimmie Lee Jackson program which followed the wreath laying ceremony, Grand Master Hawkins spoke in

honor of Jackson and his commitment to always recognize Jackson. Following in verbatim is the tribute read at the ceremony:

"Brothers, we stand at the grave of our fallen Bro. Jimmie Lee Jackson. Born on December 16, 1938, in Marion, Alabama. He would spend his childhood years in Marion and after high school he fought honorably in the Vietnam War. Afterwards, he would spend some time in Indiana, and he later returned to his hometown of Marion. Bro. Jackson became a deacon in his church—the youngest one at that time—and fathered a beautiful daughter. After returning home, Bro. Jackson was raised in Goshen Lodge, No. 132, under the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama.

Inspired by the Civil Rights Movement, he also tried to vote for the first time in his life. He made several attempts to register as a voter, but never got past the many hurdles that had been set up to keep African Americans from casting their ballot. Bro. Jimmie Lee Jackson became part of the Civil Rights Movement as a young man.

On February 18, 1965, Bro. Jackson took part in a peaceful night march in Marion, held to protest the arrest of James Orange, a field secretary for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. At the time, nonviolent demonstrations were opposed by the segregationists who held power, here, in Alabama. That night, the town's streetlights were turned off; under the cover of darkness, police and state troopers attacked the protesters with clubs, sending them fleeing in different directions.

While pursued by officers, Bro. Jackson and other demonstrators went into a restaurant called Mack's Café. There, our Bro. Jackson was shot in the stomach by James Bernard Fowler, an Alabama state trooper. Witnesses recounted that Bro. Jackson had been protecting his mother and 82-year-old grandfather from the troopers. Of hearing this action, I distinctly remember a phrase in Freemasonry, which refers to a passage in the Bible, that of John 15:13 that states: "Greater love hath no man than this: than to lay down his life for his friend."



Bro. Jackson was first taken to a local hospital, then sent to a hospital in Selma. He lingered for 8 days before dying from his infected wound on February 26, 1965. He was only 26 years old. He received his masonic rites and his death inspired a voting rights march; the violence at that protest—known as "Bloody Sunday"—made more Americans favor civil rights, and made it possible to pass the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Brothers, I have briefly recounted the life of this Prince Hall Mason, the life of Bro. Jimmie Lee Jackson!"

Following the wreath laying ceremony, the brothers participated in a program honoring Jimmie Lee Jackson at Marion Baptist Academy. The Honorable Michael Blake, New York State Assemblyman and former White House Senior Advisor to President Barak Obama, brought a very inspirational message.

We hope to see all brothers there next year!!!

Contributor — Bro. Robert D. Bryant, Esq. (No. 132)



Brothers of Morrow Grove

Helping their Community

On, February 16, 2016, the brothers of Morrow Grove Lodge No. 800 came together to participate in a community service project by donating canned goods and water to a community ravaged by a tornado in early February. On February 2, 2016, the Sapps Community, outside of Aliceville, was hit hard by a tornado that afternoon. It left a lot of destruction in its wake but no one was seriously injured or killed. The brothers of Morrow Grove pitched in to help the community by donating goods that were sorely needed at the time. "Since our lodge is located so close to the Aliceville community, we felt that it could have been us and we needed to reach out to them. "We never know when our time of need will come," stated Junior Warden Kevin Zanders. The Worshipful Master and one of the lodge trustees delivered the goods to the Sapps Community Center while viewing firsthand the devastation the tornado left. The members were reminded of how important service is and look forward to continuing efforts to make a difference in the lives of those that are less fortunate throughout the community, city, state and the world.



Trustee Terrence Mobley (left) and Worshipful Master Robert Stewart with goods to be delivered to tornado victims.



Trustee Terrence Mobley (right) and Worshipful Master Robert Stewart unload goods at the Sapps Community Center.

Contributor — WM Robert Stewart (No. 800)

Goshen Lodge No. 132

Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt

Children of a few months old to teenagers were excited to hunt for the approximately 1,100 colored eggs along with the numerous plastic eggs, which contained cash and prizes. The children were separated into age groups before the hunting began. The younger children, 0-5 years old, were escorted onto the baseball field by their parents and/or grandparents. The small children were very determined to hold onto their Easter baskets and fill them with the eggs that the lodge members hid for them, while the smaller children needed a little extra help. The older children, from 6 years old to around 15 years old, ran around in search of the eggs in the fenced area behind the Lincoln school. The older children were also accompanied by their parents and grandparents during the hunt for the prize eggs. A great time was had by all who attended.

During the annual Easter egg hunt, members of Goshen Lodge No. 132 donated stuffed animals to the children. Several eggs were donated to a local church for its Sunrise Service Easter Program. Goshen Lodge No. 132 also provided free food and drinks for everyone who attended.

The Lodge would like to thank all members from Taylor's Pride Chapter No. 712 OES, family members and friends for their donations and hard work to make this event a success. Special thanks was given to the parents, grandparents and community for bringing their children to our event. Appreciation was also given to the Lincolniters for allowing Goshen Lodge No. 132 permission to cleanup and use the Historic Lincoln Museum Park for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Contributor — Bro. Tyrone D. Smith (No. 132)



Brothers of Goshen Lodge No. 132 and the Community at the Easter Egg Hunt

Love Banquet hosted by Bright Star Chapter No. 616A OES

Bright Star Chapter No. 616A OES hosted its annual “Love Banquet” Saturday, February 20, 2016 at the Jass Activity Center in Sweet Water, Alabama. It was a festive, enjoyable and well attended event. Members of other chapters and friends made up the audience in attendance. Elder John Dees of Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church served as the Master of Ceremony and youth of the Independent Baptist Church served as the hostesses.

Soft music was played for the opening of the program. Rev. William Curry gave the invocation, Sis. Helen Mc Rand extended greetings, Minister Pricilla Tucker sang a song entitled *Because of Who You Are*, and Sis. Hazel Dixon read an Inspirational Poem, *Still I Rise*, by Maya Angelou.

The highlights of the event were paying special tribute to two honorees, Worthy Patron, James I. Sneed and Worthy Matron, Sis. Mattie Gwinn of District No. 17. They each were presented Plaques of Recognition and bibles from Bright Star No. 616A; Rep. Thomas Jackson sent proclamations from the Alabama House of Representative to be presented to the honorees.

The family of Bro. Sneed surprised him at the initial presentation of his recognition. This, he said was one of the best presents that he could have ever received. Bro Sneed’s grandson Trevone Sneed dedicated a song entitled *When The Gates Swing Open*. Bro. Sneed was recognized for his contributions in Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church where he serves as a member and as a deacon for fifty years. His contributions also extends into the District Primitive Baptist Association where he has held different positions. As a cancer survivor, he participated in the Marengo County Cancer Drives. A young man of ninety-three years, he is active in the York and Scottish Rites Men and Women Houses and the Retired Teachers Association.



Bright Star Chapter No. 616A OES and guests

Grand Senior Warden, Bro. Woodie Pugh of the MWPHGL of Alabama and his wife were special guests in attendance for Sis. Gwinn. With tearful emotion, she expressed her thanks by acknowledging that she had never had anyone to go to such lengths to include her for such an honor. She was recognized because of her leadership in the Eastern Star on the local level where she served as a Worthy Matron of Good Success Chapter No. 403 and Worthy Matron of District No. 17. She extended her love for her family into her professional career. Sis. Gwinn continued it into her career where she worked as a Special Education Teacher. She is also a very talented lady who utilizes her vocal talent to sing in her church and other places upon request. Sis. Gwinn is very active in her church and is also a member of the Retired Teachers Association.

Sis. Gloria Westbrook was honored due to her advancement from Worthy Matron of Bright Star Chapter No. 616A to Grand District Deputy of District No. 17. She was presented a plaque of recognition and a white briefcase with the Eastern Star symbol.

An additional highlight for this festive event was a musical tribute by Worthy Patron, Bro. Jessie Wheeler. He dedicated the song entitled *I Made It* to the honorees.

Sis. Doris Franklin introduced the speaker, Worthy Matron, Sis. Mary D. Andrews of Bethlehem Chapter No. 191 and Treasurer of District No. 17. Her message was taken from Hebrew 11:1 and her topic was entitled *We've Come This Far By Faith*. She expounded on situations where individuals have overcome many obstacles. She related examples of events that occurred in biblical times and even in the lives of people of today. She acknowledged that individuals have been able to overcome many difficult situations because of their faith. At the conclusion of her presentation, Sis. Anna Pope expressed thanks and presented her with a plaque of appreciation.

The program was concluded with acknowledgements and thanks to all in attendance by Bro. Bates and Sis. Harris. Associate Worthy Patron, Bro. James Pope requested Rev. Willie Mc Rand to offer the blessing of the food.

Contributor — Sis. Vera Harris, Worthy Matron (616A)



Rev. and Sis. John L. Dees, of Shiloh P.B.C., District No. 17, Worthy Matron and Patron, Sis. Mattie Gwinn, District No. 17 Worthy Patron, Bro. James Sneed and The RWGSW Woodie Pugh and his wife



Bro. James Sneed, District No. 17, Worthy Patron. Bro. James I. Sneed and family

REGION 4

News and Events from Region 4

Phoenix Lodge No. 428 Easter Egg Hunt

On, March 25, 2016, Phoenix Lodge No. 428 joined with the Sisters of Campfield Joy Chapter No. 690 OES to give the children of Mt. Olive Elementary School an Easter egg hunt. Kids in grades K-3rd were given the opportunity to find as many plastic eggs they could find. Over 1,000 plastic eggs stuffed with candy were donated by Phoenix Lodge No. 428 and Campfield Joy Chapter No. 690 OES. The kids were given time to find all the hidden eggs in each of their classrooms. There was even 3 golden eggs that had \$10 each in them and hidden in each of the three age group classrooms. The children were very excited and overjoyed with excitement.

Initially, the weather appeared to jeopardize the event. With severe rain storms rolling in, the decision to move the hunt indoors was made and the brothers of No. 428 and sisters of No. 690 quickly adapted and began to organize the event for indoors. It proved to be a success! Hats off and job well done to the brothers of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 and sisters of Campfield Joy Chapter No. 690 OES.

Contributor — W.M. Carlton Jones (No. 428)



Members of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 and Joy Chapter No. 690 OES with children of Mt. Olive Elementary School

Hill City Lodge No. 21 gives Burial Service

Worshipful Master Lewis Washington Sr., along with members of Hill City Lodge No. 21 had the honor of giving final rites to Brother Andrew Dwayne Davis from Meridian Lodge No. 33 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Brother Davis's family had requested a masonic burial after bringing his remains back to Wetumpka, Alabama. Several Grand Lodge officers from the Jurisdiction of Indiana participated in the rites. Grand Master Hawkins gave approval for the ceremony to take place. Grand District Deputy Dexter Antonio Madden and brothers in District 10 were more than happy to see Hill City take on the responsibility to offer the Masonic Burial for the fallen brother.

Contributor — WM Lewis Washington Sr. (No. 21)

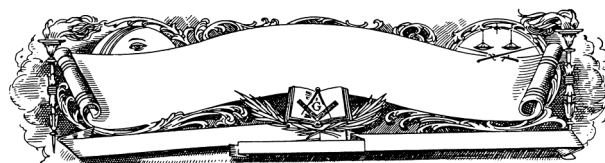


WM Lewis Washington Sr. and Brothers of Hill City Lodge No. 21

Fairfax Lodge No. 876 Conducts Cornerstone Laying Ceremony



Fairfax Lodge No. 876 laid the cornerstone at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Valley, Alabama where Rev. R. L. Carter is the Pastor. This also happens to be the home church of Worshipful Master Jessie Stephens. The brothers were assisted by the District Deputy Dexter Antonio Madden and the event was completed with a fellowship that was enjoyed by all that attended.



District 10 Hosts Regional Meeting

On the second Saturday in March, Region 4 celebrated their Annual Regional Meeting hosted by Right Worshipful Grand District Deputy Dexter Antonio Madden and brothers of District 10. A wonderful time was had by all that attended with the sharing of knowledge and information received at the meeting.



Seated on pew from right to left are: GDD Dexter Madden, Grand Master Corey Hawkins, Sr., GDD Morris Toolles (District 7), GDD Benjamin E. Beasley (District 8), GJD Dean Anderson and PM Brady Wilson.



Grand Master Corey Hawkins, Sr. receiving an appreciation award for his hardwork, dedication and support of Prince Hall Masonry, especially in District 10. The award is being presented by the RWGDD Dexter Antonio Madden.

REGION 6

News and Events from Region 6

District No. 17 Conducts Cornerstone Laying Ceremony

On Sunday, March 13, 2016, members of District No. 17 under the guidance of Grand District Deputy Anthony Johnson performed a Cornerstone Laying Ceremony at Keilah Primitive Baptist Church located in Huntsville, Alabama. The ceremony was in conjunction with the Church Dedication ceremony. Pastor Charles Humphrey of Keilah P.B. Church has been a faithful supporter of Prince Hall Masonry in the Huntsville area by consistently opening the doors of his church to serve as a venue for various masonic events and programs for several years. Based on the comments received after the ceremony it was very obvious that because of the performance of the brothers during the ceremony there was a lasting positive impression left on the minds of those in attendance about Prince Hall Masonry. After the ceremony the brothers were invited to partake in a delicious meal with the members of the church and other guests.



Contributor — RW Anthony Johnson (No. 50)



Athelstine Lodge No. 71 Annual Scholarship Banquet

Athelstine Lodge No. 71 supports its community through scholarship donations and enabling the education of our children. On Saturday March 19, 2015, Athelstine Lodge No. 71 held its Annual Scholarship Banquet at the Round Island Creek Missionary Baptist Center in Athens, AL. Bishop Dr. Derek P. Whitlow, one of several black archeologists in the nation, Senior Pastor of Alexandrian House of Praise, Huntsville, AL and President of the North Alabama Worshipful Masters Council, was the guest speaker. Worshipful Master Johnny L. Pryor Sr. and the Craft of No. 71 raised enough scholarship money for two graduating high school seniors in the Athens-Limestone County, Alabama area. The Scholarships will be presented May-June 2016 by Worshipful Master Pryor, SW Tim Irving, JW Mike Wiley and brethren.



*JW Mike Wiley presenting award to
Bishop Dr. Derek P. Whitlow*

Contributor — Bro. Mansfield Scott (No. 71)

Morning Star Lodge No. 50

Adopt-A-Mile Project

Since 2013, Morning Star Lodge No. 50 in Huntsville, Alabama has partnered with the Alabama Department of Transportation's People Against a Littered State (PALS) to coordinate and implement their Alabama Adopt a Mile Program. Alabama PALS provides Adopt a Mile signs for groups wanting to adopt a mile on all Alabama, U.S. and county highways. PALS provides the Lodge and Chapter with bags and safety vests for their adopted state and U.S. highway mile(s).



Recently Morning Star Lodge's Adopt-A-Mile sign was posted by the state on one of the businesses corridors within the city at mile markers 96 and 97 on University Drive.

In addition, Hendley Chapter No. 855 O.E.S. has also adopted a mile at Stoner Field in North Huntsville. Morning Star Lodge No. 50 and Hendley Chapter No. 855 O.E.S. often join forces to clean-up both of their assigned miles.

This project provides another opportunity to give back to our community and allow the public to witness our sincerity about our community's state.

Both Worshipful Master Jimmy Benson and Worthy Matron Angela Brown are extremely excited and pleased with the tremendous support from the lodge and chapter members and the community at large. They encourage others to consider similar projects within their communities.

Contributor — WM Jimmy D. Benson (No. 50)



Obituaries

Brothers Called Home by the Grand Architect

Clifton Gullett, Jr. went from labor to reward on March 24, 2016. He was a lifelong member of Big Zion AME Zion Church. Cliff was a 1977 graduate of Williamson High School and attended Xavier University. He was a former manager for Checkers Fast Food Restaurant.

Cliff was Past Master of Olive Branch Lodge No. 1, past member of Oriental Consistory No. 17, and Palestine Temple No. 18. He also served as a Grand Lodge Officer. He was Associate Patron for Marie Dixie No. 875 O.E.S.

Cliff is survived by his wife Tanya M. Gullett, daughter Latoya (Levet) Jones, Jr., four grandchildren Levet III, Clifton, Rocland and Tara Ann Jones; father Clifton Gullett, Sr.; mother Lillie Porter Gullett, step mother-in-law Joyce McTier; siblings Portia Gullett, Marva (Eugene) Lewis, Sheryl Davis, Marcia Clemons, Shelia Reynolds (Kenneth Harris), Faye (Marvin) Johnson, Erica Gullett, Bridgette Graham; brother Mark Gullett; sister-in-laws Tawandra (Jesse) Walker, Cherryll (Theron) Garner; brother-in-laws Eddie Clemons, David McTier, and John Reynolds II; uncles Frank (Mary) Porter, Lawrence (Evelyn) Porter, Charles (Wanda) Porter; aunts Lula (Dewitt) Dowell, Martha Gager, Donnie Porter; Arthur Davis, Jr. and David Lee (Edith) Davis; Carrie Jackson. A host of nieces, nephews (one devoted Mario Lewis), cousins, family and friends.



*Brother Clifton Gullett, Jr (No. 1)
Sunrise Nov. 17, 1958—Sunset Mar. 24, 2016*

Cory O'Neal Reed departed this life on Sunday, January 3, 2016. He was the younger son born to Johnny E. and Mary W. Reed in Huntsville, Alabama, where he made his life. Cory was a good child but a mischievous little boy, too. He grew up to be a 'big talker,' like his daddy. He was always willing to help others and was a loving person to his family. Educated in the Huntsville City School System, Cory graduated from J. O. Johnson High School. A lover of classic cars, he earned a degree in automotive mechanics from Drake Technical College. At Huntsville Bible College, Cory earned an Associate degree in Christian Education and was very close to earning a Bachelor's degree.

Cory earned other kinds of degrees as well. A member of the Prince Hall Masonic Order, Cory earned degrees from the Master Mason Degree to the Royal and Select Master Degree. He was chaplain of Temple Lodge No. 98. Many people recognized and admired Cory's talents. Not only did he sing with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, but also he loved all kinds of music and could aptly discuss it with his seniors. He also enjoyed writing and reciting spoken word poetry. He was known as "High Priest" in the arenas of spoken word poetry, the name a

tribute to his skills. Cory was also a terrific dresser and earned the title "slick dresser."

Cory was a member of Alexandrian House of Worship and Prayer on McCormick Drive, near the intersection of Oakwood and Meridian Street, where Bishop Derrick Whitlow is the pastor. Cory's church and his biological family will always remember him for his sharp wit and sense of humor, for having a good heart to help people, and for his friendly and outgoing spirit. He never met a stranger with whom he could not converse.

Left to cherish Cory's life and memories are his father, John E. Reed (mother Mary W. Reed, deceased); his brother, Johnny E. Watkins (Stella); his two favorite nieces; and a host of friends and acquaintances.



Brother Cory O'Neal Reed (No. 98)

Sunrise May 23, 1978—Sunset Jan. 3, 2016



Staff Sergeant Anthony Pringle epitomized a life of honor, integrity, and service. His life has been filled with love for people, places and God's beautiful earth. He had a smile that would light up the room.

Brother Pringle was born on July 17, 1972 in Meridian, Mississippi as the oldest child to the union of the late Dewitt Pringle, Sr. and the late Joann Timmons Pringle. His son, Anthony Dewitt Pringle also preceded him in death.

He accepted Christ at an early age and later united with Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, AL where he was an active member serving in the security ministry.

Brother Pringle was raised in Meridian, MS and attended Meridian High School. He also attended Meridian Community College where he graduated earning an associate degree in Business in which he also excelled in basketball. Brother Pringle's personality and determination led him to enlist in the United States Army where he served 24 distinguished years in the United States and abroad to include tours of duty in Germany, Korea, Iraq and Kuwait. He retired from active duty on September 30, 2015.



Brother Anthony Pringle (No. 50)
Sunrise July 17, 1972—Sunset March 9, 2016

Anthony had many close friends and associates. All who were acquainted with him knew his love for fishing, grilling, watching the Pittsburgh Steelers, Alabama football and cheering for LeBron James.



Brother Pringle will be remembered for his undying spirit, generosity, strong will and devotion to his family. Left to cherish his memory is his loving wife: Cynthia Pringle of Huntsville, AL; four daughters: Kimaka and Amaria Pringle of Birmingham, AL, Kiara Ravenel of Hampton, VA, Kyandra Ravenel of Huntsville, AL; one son: Kyle Pringle of Birmingham, AL; one sister: Cotina Pringle; one brother: Dewitt Pringle, Jr. of Meridian, MS and a host of other loving family and friends.

Brother Pringle was an active member of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 and Al Azhar Shrine Temple No. 195.

Brother Tommie Lee Madden was born March 10, 1935, in Belle Mina, Alabama. He proudly served his country in the military, retiring in 1973 from the U.S. Army. Throughout his military career he served in various capacities and attained the rank of Sergeant First Class. After retiring from active duty, Sgt. Madden and his family settled in Huntsville, Alabama. He soon began his second career as a Military Instructor at Lee High School. He retired from Lee High School after 25 years, but not before touching and shaping numerous young lives.

For many years, Brother Madden was a Past Master in Pride of Lincoln Lodge No. 817 and an active member of the Al Azhar Shrine Temple No. 195.

Brother Madden was a devoted member and usher at St. James Primitive Baptist Church in Huntsville. He later moved his membership to Taylor's Chapel Primitive Baptist Church, where he continued to serve as an usher and eventually became a Deacon. He faithfully served as a member and officer of the Mallard Creek Ushers Union for 30 years.

Brother Madden is survived by his wife, Parthenia M. Madden, Huntsville; three daughters: Vicki (Earl) Malone of Athens, Vanessa (Harold) Weatherly of Huntsville and LaDonna D. Madden of Huntsville; one son: Stanley Martin of Athens; one sister: Vera Hinton of California; three grandchildren: Christopher, Reagan, and Stanley, Jr., and a host of loving family and friends.



Brother Tommie Lee Madden (No. 817)
Sunrise Mar. 10, 1935—Sunset Mar. 28, 2016

HOPE:

"For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it."

~ Romans 8:24-25

"Faith is not simply a patience that passively suffers until the storm is past. Rather, it is a spirit that bears things - with resignations, yes, but above all, with blazing, serene hope."

~Corazon Aquino

"God puts rainbows in the clouds so that each of us- in the dreariest and most dreaded moments- can see a possibility of hope."

~Maya Angelou

"Any people anywhere, being inclined and having the power, have the right to rise up, and shake off the existing government, and form a new one that suits them better. This is a most valuable - a most sacred right - a right, which we hope and believe, is to liberate the world."

~Abraham Lincoln

"What is true of the individual will be tomorrow true of the whole nation if individuals will but refuse to lose heart and hope."

~Mohandas Gandhi

"Hope is something as important to us as water is to a fish, as vital as electricity is to a light bulb, as essential as air is to a jumbo jet. Hope is basic to life....Without that needed spark of hope, we are doomed to a dark, grim existence."

~Chuck Swindoll

Article Submission Guidelines

The Cornerstone Message accepts submissions of articles, flyers, and information of events of general interests to Prince Hall Masons throughout the state of Alabama. *The Cornerstone Message* is published quarterly in the months of April, July, October, and January. Submission of articles and photographs are to be forwarded to the publication's editor via email (cseditor@mwphglal.com). Please include a point of contact and telephone number with each article submission. Articles and photographs become property of the publication and the right is reserved to edit and use the articles and photographs as deemed necessary. Deadline for submissions for the next issue of *The Cornerstone Message* is **1 July 2016**. These articles should include events conducted from **April 2016-June 2016**. Articles are to be submitted with a minimum of one paragraph and using Microsoft Word (Times New Roman 11) and photographs should be of good quality JPEG format and captioned. No more than two articles per lodge can be submitted for each edition. Permission to reprint original articles appearing in *The Cornerstone Message* is granted to all recognized Masonic publications.

THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE



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