

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

THE GRAND MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD



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But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Isiah 53:5

son of regrowth, resurrection and rebirth, one to grow and improve our cannot help but think of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama. We are in a stage of regrowth and rebirth; a stage of reemergence and renewed interest in this esteemed organization. This organization is presently within the midst of a growth spurt. We are experiencing numerous reinstatements through TARP. We are also fortunate to have a

uring this sea- host of newly raised brothers, as well. gether we will continue beloved Grand Lodge.

> The renewed interest in our Grand Lodge has led to our headquarters hotel for our upcoming Annual Communication having already been booked. This is a growing pain that I welcome. We have just recently secured an overflow hotel. I am looking forward to a very harmonious and productive Annual Communication. I encourage all to attend!

Our Selma March participation was another great success. We were blessed to have hundreds of Master Masons and Eastern Stars to participate in the march. With our presence we continue to make a bold statement about the well-being and relevancy of Prince Hall Masonry within this jurisdiction. Thanks to all who participated.

Our regional meetings were very successful. Every meeting was very well attended and very informative. The brothers are enthused about our progress in this jurisdiction.

As you peruse this publication you will see some of the good works that our subordinate lodges continue to produce within our communities throughout the Jurisdiction of Alabama. It is our duty to help the less fortunate. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers! Let us continue to be involved and aim to get more involved in our community service.

If we can help somebody, as we travel along

If we can help somebody, with a word or song

If we can help somebody, from doing wrong

No, our living shall not be in vain

May God, Our Father, continue to bless each of you and may He continue to bless this magnificent Grand Lodge!

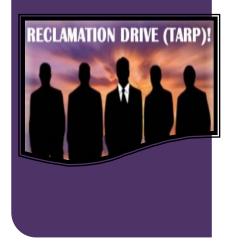
Fraternally,

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.

PAGE 2

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

o all readers and sup- Message. porters of this Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama entitled The Cornerstone *Message*, Greetings:

I would like to take this time to thank all of the contributors to this edition of The Cornerstone Message. I continue to commend you on your good works and taking advantage of utilizing this instrument to display your good works throughout this great jurisdiction of Alabama. This jurisdiction continues to accomplish great things and you will find some of them captured within this edition of The Cornerstone

I do ask you to be mindful of Article Submission Guidelines on the last page of this newsletter. No more than two articles per lodge can be submitted for each edition of the newsletter. Individual pictures should be of good quality in JPEG and not as a collage. Pictures should also capture actions of the event showing the readers your event and not just a group picture of the brothers in the lodge. The write up should be at least one paragraph telling the story of your article to the readers.

The next edition of The Cornerstone Message will be printed and put in your Grand Lodge registration packages for the 147th Annual Grand Lodge Communication in Mobile, Alabama. Therefore, the deadline will be strictly enforced to allow time to publish a quality newsletter for our great jurisdiction.

As always, I encourage all subordinate lodges to continue to support The Cornerstone Message and show everyone throughout the jurisdiction what your lodges are doing in your respective areas to add to the mission of making sure Prince Hall Masonry is 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, 2017.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The

One Hundred Forty-Seventh Annual Communication

of the

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

will be held

Monday, July 17, 2017 - Wednesday, July 19, 2017

the overflow hotel is the



HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN
HISTORIC MOBILE DISTRICT
301 GOVERNMENT STREET
Mobile, Alabama 36602

The room rate is \$109.00 + applicable taxes per night

WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS, ASK FOR THE

MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS ROOM BLOCK to get our rate. The cutoff date for the \$109.00+applicable tax per night rate is June 30, 2017. So make your reservations now!

For Reservations Call 251.694.0100



FRIDAY, SEPT 22

GOLF TOURNAMENT

GOLF TOURNAMENT LUNCHEON

WEEKEND KICK-OFF JAM

SATURDAY, SEPT 23

GAMEDAY TAILGATE
BBQ COOK-OFF & WILD GAME TASTING
MILES COLLEGE CAMPUS
FAIRFIELD, ALABAMA

MILES COLLEGE GOLDEN BEARS VS. MOREHOUSE MAROON TIGERS ALBERT J. SLOAN-ALUMNI STADIUM FAIRFIELD, ALABAMA

SUNDAY, SEPT 24

PRINCE HALL AMERICANISM DAY CHURCH SERVICE



FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOT ADDRESS: 4980 ACADEMY CT, BESSEMER, AL 35022 PHONE: 205.277.1700

ROOM RATE \$87.50_{PN}

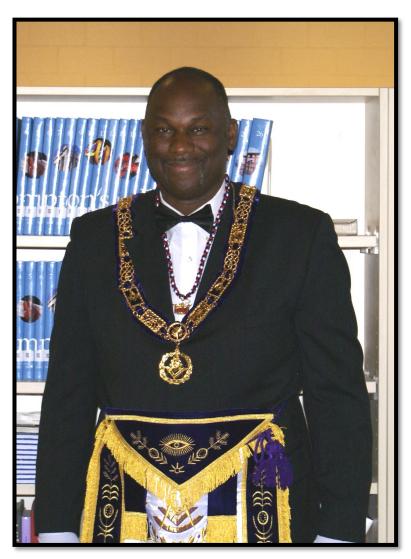
A Message from the Deputy Grand Master

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not easily broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

any said that it was impossible and that planes would never fly. Just imagine if the Wright brothers had actually listened to the criticisms of their dream and passion. Our world of aviation would not be what it is today. Orville and Wilbur Wright became known as "aviation pioneers". A person cannot receive a title of this magnitude, without having a passion for accomplishing his vision. Our Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Honorable Corey D. Hawkins Sr., has established and conveyed his vision to the brotherhood. This vision is based upon the core values of freemasonry and rooted in hard work and dedication to the cause. We encourage all members on the team to be as passionate about their service to the Grand Lodge and freemasonry so that we can complete the task at hand.

The Wright brothers dedicated years of their lives to build the world's first successful airplane, but not without many bumps along the road. Passion is built from the bumps in the road because only those who truly enjoy pursuing their passion will continue to push on. With that being said, we must continue to strengthen our brotherhood and become more dedicated and passionate toward fulfilling the mission of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama.



Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Phillipians 3:13-14

Contributor — RW Robert W. Glenn

52nd Anniversary "Selma to Montgomery Reenactment March"







Update on Temple Renovation



The Celebrated Colored Masonic Temple Building with Proposed Parking Deck Addition

LEGENDARY PRESENCE FASHIONED ONLY BY A LEGACY OF COMMUNITY, SERVICE & CHARITY

♦ Now Accepting New Occupancy Pre-Leasing ◆



SAMPLE TYPICAL NEW FLOOR PLAN

- Large enough to accommodate the needs for 10 or more staffers
- Flexible office arrangements available to satisfy the small professional entrepreneur
- All new infrastructure—Plumbing; Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning; Lighting; Power; Communications; Wi-Fi connections; Video teleconferencing
- Access to shared conference rooms
- Centralized Downtown Location
- Professional Office environment having competitive square foot costs
- Historical setting updated with current technologies
- ◆ ADA— Compliant
- Non-Profit Organizations invited
- We will work with you to customize to your organization's specifications
- Convenient location to Local, State & Federal Court Houses

Support the Temple Renovation



Reserve Your Place in History





Front

Back

The Master's Closet recently unveiled the Temple Renovation 2016 Challenge Coin Project. The project introduced a challenge coin to the community with a depiction of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall F&AM Grand Lodge of Alabama with a full color Masonic and Order of the Eastern Star Emblem. Proceeds from the sales of the coins will go to help renovate the Grand Lodge to its original form of the early 1900's.

Go to: www.TheMastersClosetGifts.com

These Temple Renovation coins are limited editions; Get Yours Today!

From Whence We've Come...

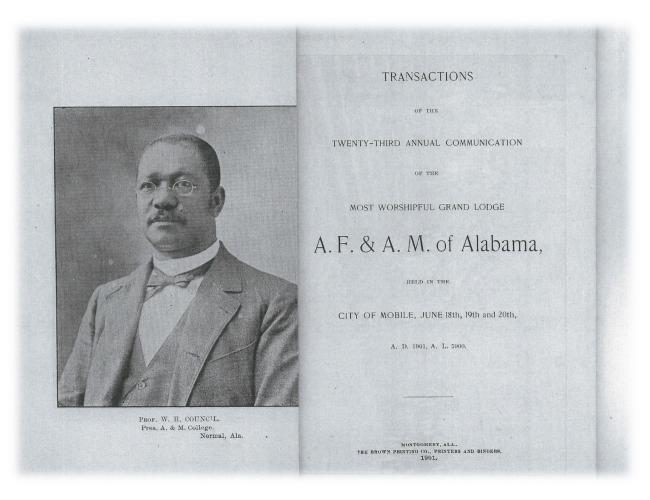
Bro. William Hooper Council

Pro. William Hooper Council was born into slavery in Fayetteville, North Carolina, on July 12, 1849. His parents were both slaves on the Council plantation. When he was five, his father escaped to Canada and tried unsuccessfully to obtain freedom for his family. In 1857, Bro. Council, his mother, and his brother, Cicero, were sold at the Richmond slave market to a trader, who in turn sold them to a planter in Alabama. His two other brothers were sold separately.

When Union troops occupied Chattanooga, Tennessee during the Civil War, Bro. Council and his family escaped through Union lines to the North. He returned to Alabama in 1865 to attend a school for freedmen that had been started by Quakers. He worked and studied for three years before graduating in 1867.

For several years he worked as a teacher in the black public schools in Alabama while moonlighting as a porter in hotels and restaurants. In 1869, at the age of 22, he opened Lincoln School in Huntsville for black children in the region. In addition to his teaching duties, he attended night school where he studied chemistry, mathematics, law and Latin. He was admitted to the Alabama bar but he never practiced law in the state, but accordingly earned the right to be titled, Esquire.

In 1873, Bro. Council would be raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in King Solomon Lodge, No. 4 in Montgomery, which is now King Solomon Lodge No. 7. While there he thrived well as a Brother.



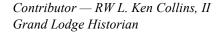
In 1875, the Alabama legislature appointed 26 year old Council as the first principal of the State Colored Normal School at Huntsville, which is now known as Alabama A&M University. The school opened on May 1, 1875 with an appropriation of \$1,000 in the basement of a Huntsville church. The Colored Normal School would train black teachers to work in Alabama's segregated school system and under his direction.

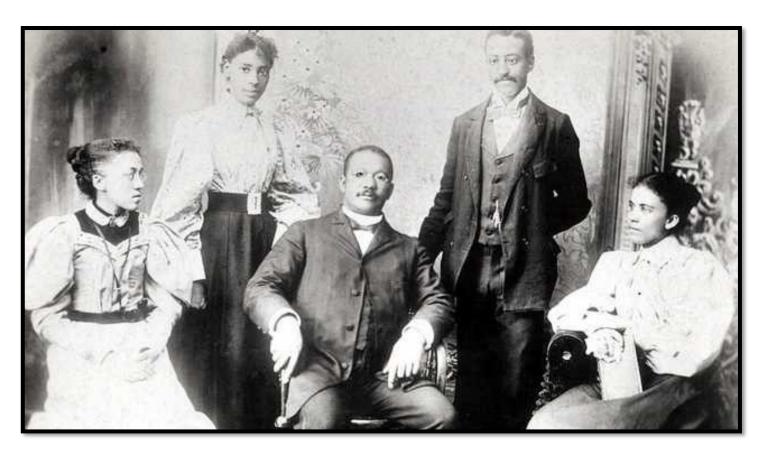
In 1874, Bro. Council, along with many others in the Madison County area chartered Evening Star Lodge, No.4., it would eventually become Evening Star Lodge, No. 6. He held several seats in the lodge and eventually served as Worshipful Master. Later he would also serve as Junior Grand Warden in the Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

In 1877, Council founded the Huntsville Herald, which he published and edited until 1884. The following year he established St. John African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. In 1887, William Hooper Council attracted wide attention when he filed a lawsuit with the Interstate Commerce Commission for being ejected from a first-class coach while traveling on an Alabama railroad. That action later prompted his superiors to relieve him of his duties as president of the State Normal School, only to reappoint him in 1888.

Bro. Council would continue his work by working with a group of Blacks, to include, Booker T. Washington and Past Grand Master Dr. S.S.H. Washington, to influence the legislature to have Black protections in the 1901 Constitution. Their efforts were for naught, as the imposition of Jim Crow was consecrated in the State Constitution.

On April 9, 1909, following a long illness, William Hooper Council died in Huntsville at the age of 61. He was given a Masonic burial and was mourned by many throughout the country.





Message from the Grand Medical Registrar

reetings:

"I did not have sexual relations with that woman." "Man will never fly." "You are still as good as you were 30 years ago." Secrets and lies have been with us throughout our history. Some are just considered innocent; others foolish. Some are even necessary, but some are deadly. HIV is allowed to persist because of the secrecy and lies that surround it. I hope to convince you that this infection is preventable, not necessarily by mere abstinence, but if we remove the secrecy, we can help with prevention.

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is a smart virus. When it enters our blood system, it goes into the cells that are supposed to be fighting it (CD4 cells) and uses those cells to multiply. The main way this virus is contracted in the United States is through sexual relations and IV drug abuse.

Before we all bristle up and say, "That can't happen to me," let's look at some of the high-risk groups for contracting HIV as listed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC states that these groups include: MSM (men who have sex with men), IV drug abusers, and people living in the South! Did you grasp the last one? Just because you live in the south in the U.S., you are at high risk for acquiring HIV! That is because HIV is more prevalent in southern states, when compared to other areas of the US. There is also an increased prevalence of poverty and a relative decrease in physicians in this same area. There are studies which suggest that these factors contribute to the higher occurrence of HIV in the South.

HIV can thrive in our bodies for years without causing symptoms. However, when a person is first infected with HIV, he/she may exhibit a viral syndrome. There are generally vague symptoms associated with this condition such as fever, fatigue, muscle aches, and a rash – all very common and non-specific. These symptoms are very easy to overlook and they usually clear without any treatment. Much of the time, these symptoms do not occur or are not remembered. Afterward, there may not be any symptoms of HIV for months to years.

As this virus is allowed to multiply un-checked (no treatment), the number of infected CD4 cells increases and the immune system weakens and becomes unable to fight off other infections. Those other infections take the opportunity to infect a person with a weakened immune system, thus they are called opportunistic infections. The person consequently develops AIDS which is caused by HIV. These infections can cause symptoms including weight loss, fevers, chills, rashes, cough, and severe fatigue.

The good news is that HIV is now a treatable infection. Note that I did not say it was curable; but it is treatable. Once a person is treated and the virus is controlled, the chance of passing on the infection is very low. The treatment has progressed so much in recent years that, for a lot of people, the infection can be controlled with one (1) pill a day. But the treatment is only effective if you know that you are infected. That is why the CDC recommends that all adults between the ages of 15 and 65 years of age, as a part of routine screening, be tested at least once in a lifetime. It may need to be more often if there are risk factors for acquiring HIV such as high-risk sexual activity, IV drug abuse or living in areas like the South with a high prevalence of HIV. But again, the first test is recommended regardless of risk factors.

If all persons infected with HIV can be diagnosed and treated, the number of newly infected people will decrease. Most new infections are contracted from people who don't know that they are infected or are not on treatment. We can also offer people one pill a day to prevent HIV if they are uninfected but are at very high risk for getting infected. This group includes: partners of infected people, people who have multiple sexual partners, people who have unprotected sex with people whose HIV status they don't know, or people engaged in other high risk sexual activity.

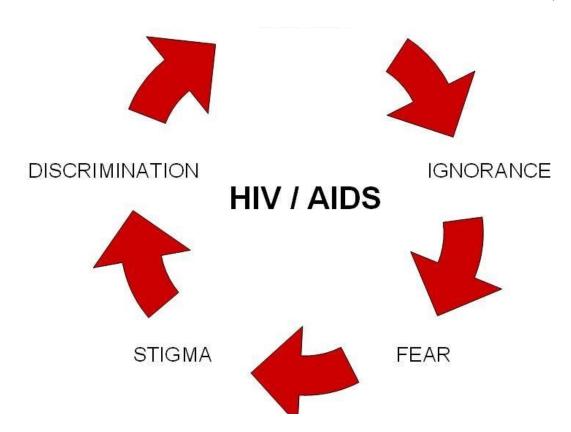
People living with HIV often have to live their lives under a veil of secrecy because society makes many judgments on what it thinks these people are doing. But know that HIV is not confined to any one group of people, any specific gender, color, or sexual orientation. One in 300 people are living with AIDS in the U.S., and the numbers are higher in the South. Therefore, there is a high probability that you know someone living with this infection. If you found out that your friend, neighbor, or cousin was infected, would that change the way you think about him/her? Do you know for sure that you are not infected? Love saves lives. People living with HIV need your love and support, not stigma, fear and secrecy.

This secret can kill. Know your HIV status. Know that if you have ever had an episode of unprotected sex, then you are at risk. The only zero risk from sexually acquiring HIV is to never have sex. Know your partner's status. Don't keep this a secret, at least not from yourself.

Free testing is available at Montgomery Advocacy and Outreach (MAO) Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon on Friday. Results are available in 20 minutes and no blood is required.

Call 1-800-510-4704 for further information.

Guest Contributor — Marguerite J. Barber-Owens, M.D. Medical Advocacy and Outreach



Achievements

Brother Robert D. Bryant Appointed as District Court Judge

"...thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." Psalms 23:5

n March 27, 2017, for the first time ever, an African-American donned the robe and rapped the gavel of the district court judge in Marion, Perry County, Alabama. Brother Robert D. Bryant, of Goshen Lodge No. 132, is especially grateful and honored to hold this place in history. To say that he is happy and proud would be the understatement of the century. It is the second time that a Prince Hall mason has held the position. The Honorable Donald McMillan, also a member of Goshen Lodge No. 132, preceded Bryant. His election to the circuit court left the vacancy. Brother Bryant was humbled and excited to be selected and appointed by the Governor of the State of Alabama, the Honorable Robert Bentley, from a very capable and crowded field of candidates following a selection process that lasted months.

In Alabama, district courts are generally the first level of our state trial court system. District court judges preside over matters ranging from civil suits with up to



\$10,000.00 in controversy, juvenile matters involving children alleged to be delinquent or dependent, original jurisdiction of misdemeanors and preliminary hearings of felonies including capital murders.

Brother Bryant's path here would not have been possible without the true and living God, a prayerful and supporting family, and a great education. He received his secondary education from the Perry County School System followed by attending college at Selma University in Selma, Alabama, and then matriculating from the University of Alabama to Miles Law School of Birmingham. His legal career has extended over 15 years and encompassed almost all areas of law.

Judge Bryant said, "I am so blessed to have beautiful family: a wife of over 14 years, an eight year old daughter and a one year old son. I am thankful for all of the well wishes, prayers and encouragement from all the brothers, especially my fellow members of Goshen Lodge No. 132, Jimmie Lee Jackson Holy Royal Arch, Walter Evans Royal Select, Edward Turner Commandery, Abraham Consistory No. 257, and Khedive Temple No. 16." Congratulations to the Honorable Judge Robert D. Bryant!

Bro. Michael Bell, Jr. Awarded Scouting Wood Badge

ro. Michael Bell, Jr., Past Mast of Geometry Lodge No. 410, was awarded his Wood Badge on February 26, 2017. The Wood Badge is the highest level of Adult Scout Leader Training available. It was first presented in England by the founder of Scouting, Baden Powell, and he introduced the program into the United States during a visit in 1936. While it is rich in scouting history and tradition, participants spend six full days and nights learning modern leadership theories from contemporary scholars such as Ken Blanchard (author of the One Minute Manager series of books), Stephen R. Covey (author of The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People and Principle-Centered Leadership), and Spencer Johnson (author of Who Moved My Cheese).



PM Michael Bell, Jr. receiving one of the highest honors in scout leadership. His father PM Michael Bell, Sr. is in the background looking on

These workshops are taught through lecture, group discussion, hands-on exercises, and through the creation of goals that apply the leadership training received. At the conclusion of the course, attendees will have created at least five goals. A counselor is assigned to work with each attendee for 18 months to ensure application of the training they received and the completion of the five goals. Bro. Michael Bell, Jr., stated, "During my Wood Badge training I have learned a deeper understanding of what Scouting is and why we do it. I have learned a better grasp of managing conflict, servant leadership, and different stages of team development and leadership for those different stages, coaching and mentoring, leading change, project planning and leaving a legacy. I have learned and experienced things that will stay with me in Scouting for the rest of my life. What I learned to earn my Wood Badge will make my Scouting Unit, District, & Council stronger. It will also make my other groups, like work, church, freemasonry, and even family, stronger as well." Congratulations Brother Bell!



Contributor – PM William Garrett (410)



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:

Right Worshipful L. Ken Collins, II



B orn in Muncie, Indiana in 1976, he now lives in Maryland and works in Washington, DC but claims his ancestral home of Alabama as his own.

He serves as the R.W. Grand Lodge Historian and Corporate Liaison for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama. He entered Freemasonry in 1996 when he was duped into joining a clandestine order. Years later, he became acquainted with Past Grand Master William O. Jones through his work for both the Grand Lodge and the United Supreme Council. In April of 2008, he was healed, and became a member of Geometry Lodge No. 410. Since then he has devoted himself to combatting clandestine Freemasonry, studying Masonic dogmas, Scottish Rite Masonry and Prince Hall Freemasonry. R.W. Collins would later demit into Golden Square Lodge, No. 340, and fulfill the role of Worshipful Master, as the Lodge was in its rebuilding stage. Later he would become a member of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319, his current Masonic home. Additionally, he serves as one of the Co-Founders/Co-Hosts of the Prince Hall Think Tank.

R.W. Collins is a 33° Scottish Rite Mason (Red Cross Consistory No. 2A) and youngest member to be coronated as a Sovereign Grand Inspector General (Emeritus), by the United Supreme Council Southern Jurisdiction. Within the United Supreme Council, he serves as the Assistant Grand Secretary-General, H.E., and Chairman of the Resolutions Committee and member of the Ritual & Ritualistic Works Committee.

He has been bestowed the honors of Hon. Past Grand Thrice Illustrious Master (Alabama), Hon. Past Right Eminent Grand Commander (Alabama) Grand Honorary Past Most Eminent Grand Master (GEKT, PHA) and Knight Commander of the Temple (KCT, PHA), of which he is humbly grateful. R.W. Collins was created a Noble (Khedive Temple, No. 16) in 2008, and quickly rose through the ranks in the Prince Hall Shriners, where he successfully served as Director of the Public & Media Relations Department, Director and Architect of the National Diabetes Initiative, and Chairman of the Imperial Grievance & Appeals Committee. Lastly, he was honored as an Honorary Past Imperial Potentate and trusted advisor of Past Imperial Potentates Oliver Washington and Homer L. Buchanan. Collins has received numerous titular honors from Governors from the States of Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Arkansas and Kentucky.

Professionally, R.W. Collins serves as VP of Government Relations and Director of Nonprofit and Regulatory Affairs for the EOP Group, Inc. He's served as a professional staff member to Congressional Republican & Democratic Leadership, as Press Secretary/Legislative Correspondent to Civil Rights icon, Bro./Congressman John Lewis, Communications Director for House Republican Conference Chair Congressman Mike Pence and Senior Legislative Assistant/Community Outreach Director for Congressman David McIntosh. R.W. Collins has also served as a trusted advisor to numerous Prince Hall Grand Lodges across the US and served as an appointed officer for Grand Masters of the District of Columbia, with the consent of Past Grand Master William O. Jones.

R.W. Collins is currently writing the history of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama. R.W. Collins completed baccalaureate studies in Biology at Ball State University, and Political Science from Alabama A&M University, professional studies in Public Policy and Public & Community Health Education at the University of Maryland, where is he currently receiving formal training in History.

His pride and joy are his children Lauren, Isaiah, Laurence "Bryce" II, and Lia. He is married to his beautiful wife of ten years, Freda.

Often the person behind the scenes, R.W. Collins has stated many times that he is better suited to work behind the scenes, not in the spotlight. Of all of his fraternal, professional and personal accomplishments, he prefers to be called and known as...just "Ken".



What Makes A Man A Mason?

Poem by George M. Free

What makes a man a Mason, O brother of mine?
It isn't the due guard, nor is it the sign,
It isn't the jewel which hangs on your breast
It isn't the apron in which you are dressed

It isn't the step, nor the token, nor the grip, Nor lectures that fluently flow from the lip, Nor yet the possession of that mystic word On five points of fellowship duly conferred.

Though these are essential, desirable, fine,
They don't make a Mason, O brother of mine.
That you to your sworn obligation are true
'Tis that, brother mine, makes a Mason of you.

Secure in your heart you must safeguard and trust,
With lodge and with brother be honest and just,
Assist the deserving who cry in their need,
Be chaste in your thought, in your word and your deed.

Support he who falters, with hope banish fear,
And whisper advice in an erring one's ear.
Then will the Great Lights on your path brightly shine,
And you'll be a Mason, O brother of mine.

Your use of life's hours by the gauge you must try,
The gavel of vices with courage apply;
Your walk must be upright, as shown by the plumb,
On the level, to bourn whence no travelers come,

The Book of your faith be the rule and the guide, The compass your passions shut safely inside; The stone which the Architect placed in your care Must pass the strict test of His unerring square.

> And then you will meet with approval divine, And you'll be a Mason, O brother of mine.

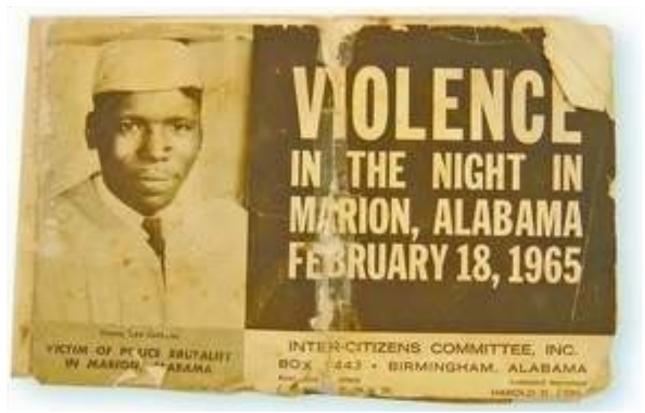
2017 Jimmie Lee Jackson Day Celebration

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."—John 15:3

n Sunday, February 19, 2017, the Perry County Civic League sponsored the Annual Jimmie Lee Jackson Day Celebration of the late Brother Jimmie Lee Jackson who was a member of Goshen Lodge No. 132 in Marion, Alabama. This year marked the 52nd year since that fateful night on February 18, 1965, when Bro. Jackson was shot by an Alabama State Trooper at a peaceful voting rights rally in Marion, Alabama. Eight days later, he died from his wounds. His death inspired another 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.

This year's program theme was "Education Is the Great Equalizer". The Most Worshipful Grandmaster, Honorable Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq. brought greetings. The crowd was treated to a dynamic speech by the program's keynote speaker, Congresswoman Terri Sewell, U.S. Representative from Alabama's 7th Congressional District, Democratic Party. A strong contingent of brothers, from near and far, attended in masonic regalia.

The program is held annually on the third Sunday in February, and generally begins the Bridge Crossing Jubilee.



REGION 2

News and Events from Region 2

Liberty Star Lodge No. 333 Brings Joy to Community Nursing Home

he members of Liberty Star Lodge No. 333 prepared 80 bags of essential items for the men and women at Colonial Haven Nursing Home in Greensboro, Alabama on March 25, 2017. The residents were grateful for the bags of necessities, the songs, and visitation from the lodge members. Liberty Star Lodge No. 333 is dedicated to providing services to those in need. They pride themselves in helping their community and the surrounding areas.

Contributor — WM Andre Hayes, Sr. (No. 333)



REGION 4

News and Events from Region 4

District No. 8 Cornerstone Laying Ceremony

he Brothers of Masonic District No. 8 performed the Masonic Cornerstone Laying Ceremony on March 19, 2017 at the request of Reverend Willie D. McClung, PhD., Senior Pastor of the historical Holt Street Memorial Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, and the Special Dispensation of the Most Worshipful Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq., Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F & A M of the Jurisdiction of Alabama. The ceremony was performed in conjunction with the Annual Men's Day and Building Dedication Program. The speaker for the program was Reverend Dr. W. D. McClung, II, pastor of Emmaus Missionary Baptist Church in Owings Mills, Maryland. The Master of Ceremony was Rev. Willie D. McClung, PhD., Senior Pastor and the father of the guest speaker. The theme of the program was "What Means These Stones" Joshua 4:21 – 24.

Following the Church Services, the members of Masonic District No. 8 Cornerstone Ceremonial Team led by Grand District Deputy, RW Donald R. Parks then formed the procession and performed the full Cornerstone Laying Ceremony. Lodges represented at the ceremony were: St. Mark No. 4, King Solomon No. 7, Tranquil No. 48, Mt. Horeb No. 82, J. H. Green No. 113, Abraham No. 267, R. H. Rice No. 345, Hamilton No. 365, W. T. Woods No. 842, and Parris No. 957.

After the Cornerstone Laying Ceremony was completed the Brothers returned to the assembly hall for a short meeting and a period of training/instruction and were dismissed. Many Brothers remained at the hall for fellowship.

Rev. Dr. McClung and the members of Holt Street Memorial Baptist Church expressed their thanks for the excellent way the ceremony was performed. The District received very positive feedback on the performance of the Ceremonial Team as well as the dress and appearance of the entire entourage of Masons attending the program, dedication, and the Cornerstone Ceremony.





The Cornerstone Ceremonial Team arrives at the site for the Cornerstone Ceremony led by Grand District Deputy RW Donald R. Parks

Rev. McClung places the Time Capsule in place beneath the Cornerstone plaque.

Contributor – RW Donald R. Parks

King Solomon Lodge No. 7 Fulfilling it Masonic Duties

ne indisputable measure of a lodge is its ability to plan and execute meaningful Masonic programs and activities for the brothers to participate. Charity is universally considered a foundational ideal of Freemasonry. Consonant with this ideal, King Solomon Lodge No. 7 has met its Masonic obligation in the relevant quarter.

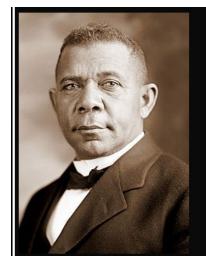
King Solomon Lodge No. 7 produced, in 1901, a Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Jurisdiction of Alabama namely, the Most Worshipful Dr. Samuel Somerville Hawkins Washington, Jr., and which also counts among its membership a recipient of the highly coveted and competitive Alabama Council of Deliberation Sublime Prince of the Year Award, among other things.

Over the past quarter, King Solomon Lodge No. 7 has engaged in the following Masonic activities: The Brothers planned and put into practical effect an enjoyable and charitable fellowship/mixer with the widows whose beloved husbands had held active membership in King Solomon Lodged No. 7 and have sadly moved from labor to refreshment. It is an ancient principle of Freemasonry that Masonic Lodges are expected to offer eleemosynary support for widows of worthy brothers. Thus, pursuant to this Masonic obligation, the Brothers of King Solomon Lodge No. 7 treated the widows to an all-you-can eat lunch at Fried Tomato Restaurant on Atlanta Highway in Montgomery. It was an enjoyable fellowship for which the widows were sincerely grateful.

Additionally, the Brethren organized and led a joint raising of candidates. Both King Solomon Lodge No. 7 and Mount Moriah Lodge No. 97 jointly collaborated and raised three candidates from the Fellow Craft degree to the Master Mason degree. This joint and cooperative Masonic effort is indeed essential to the proper cultivation of true Brotherhood in the Masonic Order.

In furtherance of our Most Worshipful Grand Master's sagacious initiative *Traveling Again Reclamation Program* (TARP), King Solomon Lodge No. 7 reinstated two Brothers. King Solomon Lodge No. 7 intends, in no uncertain terms, to continue on the path worthy of its name as it has done in years past. King Solomon Lodge No. 7 will continue to explore innovative ideas for increasing membership in the Lodge.

Contributor – WM Lionel Macklin (No. 7)



Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome.

(Booker T. Washington)

Hamilton Lodge No. 365 Community Service and Beyond

n February 25th, Hamilton Lodge No. 365 in Montgomery, Alabama visited UAB Children's Hospital, where they delivered coloring books, crayons, bubbles, and friendly smiles for all the kids. The brethren paid for all of the supplies out of their own pockets. When it comes to children, the brothers at Hamilton Lodge No. 365, under the direction of Worshipful Master Loveless Belser, believe that the children are our future. The lodge also visited Grand Master Hawkins where they delivered a scrapbook of all of their community service events from 2016. Hamilton Lodge No. 365 believes in giving back to its community with no plans to stop anytime soon.

Hamilton Lodge No. 365 teamed up with The Sykes Corporation where they helped clean up the Montgomery Zoo by raking and bagging leaves. They also helped to dispense water to people visiting the zoo and also helped to direct visitors to their destinations.



Hamilton Lodge No. 365 also teamed up with The Blueheart Foundation where they helped to provide low-income families with clothes, food, and anything in particular they needed. Brother Brian Smith started this foundation, because he was once less fortunate and promised himself that he would help those in need given his past circumstances.

Contributor – Bro. Brian Smith (No. 365)







Phoenix Lodge No. 428 Celebrates Black History with Mt Olive Primary School

n Friday, February 17th, members of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 and members from Camp Field Joy Chapter No. 690, OES were invited as special guests to the Mt Olive Primary School's Annual Black History Program. The program featured invited guests from the community in all areas ranging from education, fraternities and sororities, and local government. Past Master Timmy Miller spoke to the children on the history of Prince Hall Masons and shared with them black history facts to enlighten their minds. Councilwoman Katie



Epps, member of Camp Field Joy No. 690, also spoke to the children on the history of Eastern Stars. The speeches were well received by the children and the speakers were given a standing ovation!

Phoenix Lodge No. 428 Honors MLK Day of Service

rothers of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 came together to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by cleaning up their one-mile stretch of highway adopted by the lodge. The lodge was recently granted approval to participate in the Adopt-A-Mile highway program and took full advantage of it by working on the MLK holiday. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is the only federal holiday observed as a national day of service – a "day on, not a day off" – and is an opportunity for people from all walks of life to work together to



help solve our most pressing problems. Worshipful Master Carlton Jones issued the call to his craft to come and work on the federal holiday by cleaning up trash and debris that was strewn along the one-mile stretch of highway on highway 165 in Russell County, Alabama. Brothers were more than happy to answer the call by the Worshipful Master. On January 16th, brothers assembled at their Adopt-A-Mile sign and began to walk the stretch of highway picking up any and everything in their path. They walked and talked and laughed as they cleaned the area dedicated to them. The fellowship was special as newly raised Master Masons got an opportunity to see and experience brotherhood. Well Done 428!

Contributor — WM Carlton Jones (No. 428)

REGION 5

News and Events from Region 5

Appreciation for Bro. Melvin Silmon

n January 22nd, Archive Lodge No. 75 hosted a program to show appreciation to Brother Melvin Silmon, a member of Archive Lodge for more than 33 years of continuous service. The event was held at the Lily Grove Baptist Church where over 100 people were in attendance. The lodge presented Brother Silmon with a plaque for his dedicated years of service and declared him Secretary Emeritus. Also, Brother Silmon was presented an empty shopping bag. When the ceremony was over the bag was running over with donations from the attending guests.



Contributor – Bro. Ronald Plummer (No. 75)

Triune Lodge No. 430 Sponsors 3rd Annual Autism Breakfast

riune Lodge No. 430 sponsored its 3rd Annual Autism Breakfast at Hudson K-8 School in Birmingham. The brethren provided the breakfast in order to give parents and teachers an opportunity to engage in important conversations about children living with autism. The Special Education Team and the Administration Team at Hudson K-8 School thanked Triune Lodge No. 430 for its consistent dedication to the community.

**Contributor*— Bro. Eric Gardner (No. 430)*

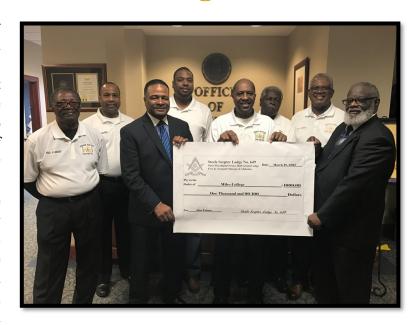






Steele Scepter No. 649 Donates to Miles College

n March 18th, Steele Scepter No. 649 made a special donation to the historic Miles College. For over 30 years the lodge has donated at least \$1000 annually to the UNCF. This year, the Brethren decided to make a direct donation to Miles College to help continue its mission of helping deserving young people receive a quality education. Miles College President, Dr. George T. French, Jr., and Dean of the Chapel and Vice President of Student Life and Engagement, Larry Batie graciously hosted the Lodge during its recent visit. The contributions that Miles College has made to the world are immeasurable, and Steele Scepter was honored to contribute to such an esteemed institution. The donation was funded through their Annual UNCF Banquet, as well as, gifts from family, friends, associates and the brethren at Steele Scepter. Steele Scepter Lodge truly believes that education is the foundation of a well-built life.



Pictured holding the ceremonial check for \$1,000 are (from left) Miles College President Dr. George T. French, Jr., WM James Davis and Dean of the Chapel and Vice President of Student Life and Engagement Larry Batie. Also pictured (from left) are Brothers James "Chick" Henry, Jr., Yohance Prioleau, Marlon Meeks, Roy Thomas and Arthur Rutledge.

Steele Scepter No. 649 Volunteers for the MLK Day of Service 2017

he National Holiday commemorating the life and achievements of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is celebrated as a day of service throughout the nation. On January 16th, the brothers of Steele Scepter No. 649 exemplified this by volunteering to help paint and landscape Barrett Elementary School in the Birmingham City School System. Honda Manufacturing of Alabama sponsored the event and volunteers from far and near came to support this worthy cause.

Contributor — Bro. Yohance Prioleau (No. 649)

REGION 6

News and Events from Region 6

Centennial Lodge No. 19 Partners with the Tennessee Valley Basketball Association

n February 23rd, members of Centennial Lodge No. 19 provided refreshments to little league basketball teams in Florence, AL as part of an ongoing partnership with the Tennessee Valley Basketball Association (TVBA) and the community service department. Children from both the Muscle Shoals Trojans and Brooks Lions basketball teams were treated to halftime refreshments, as well as, end-of-game refreshments along with a few basketball pointers. This program lifts some of the burden from the parents who are already required to put lots of money into the basketball program. The brothers of Centennial Lodge No. 19 are looking forward to continuing this program with the TVBA and working with the football and baseball leagues, as well.



Contributor – WM Joseph Young (No. 19)

Goodway Lodge No. 222 Assists Rose of Sharon Soup Kitchen and Thrift Store



t least twice a month the brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 donate canned goods to the Rose of Sharon Soup Kitchen and Thrift Store located at 2412 Memorial Pkwy in Huntsville, AL. The canned good donations help the soup kitchen feed the 60 plus individuals that they provide free lunch to on a daily basis. One of the staff members relayed to the brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 of how happy she was for our donations as the amount of citizens frequenting the soup kitchen has increased recently and that prior to our donation they were not sure if they would have enough food to feed them!

Contributor — WM Jarvis L. Noel (No. 222)

Pictured here are Goodway's members Bitrell Scott and Past Master Marion Orr, Jr. with one of the staff members from the soup kitchen.

George W. Braxdall Lodge No. 28 Supports Civil Rights

tressing importance of reading, and receiving equal opportunity in education has always been a major objective of the proactive and community conscious leaders in the Decatur and Morgan County area. Brother Curtis Taylor, Senior Deacon of George W. Braxdall Lodge No. 28, and founder of the well-respected multimedia broadcast radio show, "Something 4 the Fellas," has worked tirelessly to bring awareness coupled with knowledge to the community at large. Brother Curtis Taylor was awarded the key to the city in Selma, Alabama at the Jubilee Day Celebration on the 50th Anniversary of the Edmund Pettus Bridge Crossing. Brother Taylor was also a keynote speaker at this very important event. While in Selma, he had the honor and pleasure of meeting the President of the United States, Barak Obama, as well as, various other dignitaries and historical icons.

It was a heartfelt and unforgettable experience for brother Taylor, especially being able to march on Bloody Sunday with the Brethren of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama. One person that he met at that event made this experience even more meaningful. Civil rights icon Linda Lowry, who is also an accomplished author and speaker, known around the world for her personal accounts of the original Bloody Sunday, made time available to talk to brother Curtis Taylor in an exclusive heartfelt interview. From this he was able to convince Linda Lowry to come to Decatur, Alabama to speak at a read-in, which was a collaboration with Decatur Youth Services. This was a Historical moment and will forever be remembered by the Decatur community. In support of Brother Curtis Taylor's accomplishment, the Brothers of George W. Braxdall Lodge No. 28 were present to share this moment. As a member of the Order of Eastern Star, it was even more of an honor when Ms. Lowry recognized her brothers' support and wanted a photo with us.



Contrib-

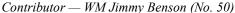
Contributor – WM Xavier Engram (No. 28)

Morning Star Lodge No. 50 Celebrates its 9th Annual Black & White Charity Ball

n March 3, 2017, the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 hosted their ninth Annual Black & White Charity Ball held at the Von Braun Civic Center in downtown Huntsville, Alabama.

This year's charitable contribution was to the D' Aris Love Foundation which is a non-profit organization that focuses on providing financial assistance to young women seeking a career in science, technology or engineering. In addition, this long standing organization also assists with outreach programs in mentoring young women of all ages. Proceeds will support four annual scholarship awards for four high school seniors matriculating to higher education institutions.

The brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 would like to thank everyone for their support in helping to make this Black & White Charity Ball an experience and encounter that will be remembered for years to come. This was a public affair and the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 encourage your organization's continued support.









Morning Star Lodge No. 50 Honors PM and PRWGDD Leonard Allen Jackson



orning Star Lodge No. 50 honored their Past Master and Past Right Worshipful Grand District Deputy Leonard Allen Jackson during the Last Masonic Rites Ceremony conducted on March 24, 2017 at Royal Funeral Home in Huntsville, AL. Lodge members also served as Honorary Pallbearers for his home-going services on March 25, 2017 at First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, AL.

Morning Star Lodge was chartered in 1939. PM Jackson is documented in the lodge history as being a member of Morning Star Lodge since the late 1940's, serving in the Junior and Senior Warden positions. He continued to serve the lodge through the years and in 1981, Brother Jackson was elected to the office of

Worshipful Master. He brought with him the promise to lead the Lodge in the innovative concept of building both manhood and character. He also brought a strong program of studying and training. He stressed the importance of establishing a good public image by attending a Brother's church service each 5th Sunday, sponsoring golf tournaments, supporting scholarship programs and little league sports. In addition, PM Jackson served as RWGDD from 2000 – 2007.

The Masonic Family remembers PM Jackson as a friend and a brother; one of the most gentle, kindest persons you could ever meet. He was "A MASON EXTRAORDINAIRE", "BRIDGE BUILDER"; one who openly shared his

knowledge and prospective. He was a mentor and a role model worthy of emulation; one who expressed love for and commitment to the order. Brother Jackson exemplified what it meant to be a Mason; a teacher and a supporting participator in "Making Good Men Better". He always was willing to help, aid and assist wherever the need existed; because he was softhearted, compassionate and cheerful.

So as PM Jackson's dash now has an end date, we all should be reminded that we too have a date, though it is unknown, we must have faith and believe that while we labor here on this journey, we are fulfilling a life purpose for the will of God.

Contributor — WM Jimmy Benson (No. 50)



Obituaries

Brothers Called Home by the Grand Architect



Brother Leonard Allen Jackson (August 18, 1925—March 13, 2017)

eacon Leonard Allen Jackson (also known as Monk, due to the mischievous ways of his childhood) was born in Colliers (Big Cove), Alabama, to George Daniel Jackson and Willie Pearl Hayes Jackson. He made his peaceful heavenly transition on his mother's birthday, March 13, 2017, at 9:30 p.m. at Huntsville Hospital surrounded by his loving family.

Deacon Jackson loved the Lord, confessing hope in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, at an early age. He joined Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church in Big Cove, Alabama under the leadership of the late Reverend Newman Townsend. He later moved his membership to the First Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Alabama, under the leadership of the late Reverend Horace P Snodgrass where he became a Deacon, a Trustee, and a member of the Senior Usher Board. He continued his Christian journey with the same passion under Reverend Doctor Julius Richard Scruggs when he became pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church in 1977.

Deacon Jackson attended school at Hayes Chapel in the Big Cove Community. He attended William Hooper Council High School in Huntsville, Alabama. He

was drafted into the United States Army in the European Theater for a period of two years and honorably discharged with a rank of Staff' Sargent. Upon his return from his tour of duty as a WWII Veteran, he attended Alabama A&M College, Normal, Alabama where he went on to earn a Certificate in Auto Mechanics.

Deacon Jackson married his high school sweetheart, Gussie Louise Mastin on September 14, 1945, and they shared 71 years of marriage together. Leonard and Gussie quickly became the role models in demonstrating how the "two became one".

Deacon Jackson was active in his community throughout his adult life. He served as the Resident and van driver for the First Missionary Baptist Rural Senior Services Satellite, chaplain of AARP Chapter No. 1023, chairman of Katherine Acres Community Watch, served as Chaplain and Co-Chairman of the Audit Committee in the Fraternal Club Incorporated, Past Master of Morning Star Lodge No. 50, Past President of the Madison County Worshipful Masters Council, and Past Grand District Deputy of District No 17.

Deacon Jackson leaves a legacy of love and precious memories to his devoted and loving wife Mrs. Gussie Mastin Jackson; his daughters, Patricia Jackson Pope and Mrs. Barbara Jackson Blackburn: his son, Mr. Cedric Orr (Susan); his sisters Mrs. Musie Hinds and Ms. Helen Drake; his brother; Mr. Willis Drake; his sister-in-law; Mrs. Evelyn Drake; six grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and his loving, kind and devoted "adopted" children, too numerous to name.

rother Mason Askew, Jr., affectingly known as "Rufus", was born September 23, 1922 to Mr. Mason and Mrs. Sallie Williams Askew. He was preceded in death by his parents; stepmother, Ester Askew; a daughter, Luberta Lewis; a son, Tyrone B. Hubbard and three sisters, Ida M. Jenkins, Marion B. Hubbard and Ruby M. Tate.

Brother Askew was the hub and strength of the Askew family and well respected in the Paul's Hill area of Bessemer were he graduated from Brighton High School. Brother Askew served in the United States Navy, in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Upon being honorably discharged, he returned home and joined Old St. Paul Baptist Church under the late Pastor Alfonzo January, Brother Askew served as Sunday School superintendent, a member of the No. 2 Usher Board and was a member of the Dothan Lodge No. 112, serving for many years efficiently as Lodge Secretary.



Brother Mason Askew, Jr. (Sept. 23, 1922—Feb. 20, 2017)

Brother Askew was employed at the U.S. Pipe Industrial Plant for 25 years and Princeton Baptist Medical Center for 10 years. Following retirement from both jobs, he faithfully worked with Johnson Memorial Funeral Directors for more than 25 years.

Early Monday, February 20, 2017, the Lord called Brother Askew and he answered at his home surrounded by his family. He departed this life of pain and woe to join Christ and his love ones in heaven. He leaves to cherish his precious memories; a devoted nephew, Ralph Hubbard; daughter, Harriet Anderson; one sister, Eva L. Arrington, three grand children, seven great grand children, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, the Old St. Paul Baptist Church family, and a host of friends.



rother John Earl Clark was born May 9,1935 in Birmingham, Alabama. He entered eternal rest on Sunday, January 8, 2017. He was an active member of Imperial Lodge No. 619 until his passing. He was also a member of Khedive Temple No.16 and a 33° Mason in Red Cross Consistory 2A. Imperial Lodge performed his Masonic last rites at the families request and Interment was at Elmwood Cemetery Mausoleum





Brother John Earl Clark (May 9, 1935—Jan. 8, 2017)

Article Submission Guidelines

The Cornerstone Message accepts submissions of articles, flyers, and information of events of general interest 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 25 June 2017. These articles should include events from April 2017—June 2017. 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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Most Worshipful Grand Master

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