

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

# THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE

VOLUME VII, ISSUE II



JULY 2014

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## The Grand Master's Trestle Board



*"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. . ."*  
**Psalms 121: 1-2**

Someone once said, "Time flies when you're having fun." It seems like just a few weeks ago when I was elected and installed the Most Worshipful Grand Master of this esteemed Grand Lodge; however, I am already concluding my first year at the helm. I have been very busy; nonetheless, there is another saying, "It's not work when you're having fun." Yes, I am having fun. I enjoy laboring for this great organization. I thank you for entrusting me with the responsibilities.

Since assuming the position of Grand Master we have made some changes for the good of Prince Hall Freemasonry in Alabama.

Thus far, the Traveling Again Reclamation Program (TARP) has been a huge success. Many of our "out of bounds" brothers have come back into the fold. Please remember, July 31, 2014, is the deadline for TARP. I encourage you to give that extra effort to reclaim brothers as we draw near the deadline.

As I travel throughout this jurisdiction I am constantly greeted by brothers who are excited and energetic about the direction this Grand Lodge is going. I thank you for your support. The success of this Grand Lodge would not be possible without the guidance

of the Grand Architect of the Universe and without your help, aid and assistance. King Solomon could not have possibly built the temple alone. He had to have the guidance of the Almighty, the help of dedicated workmen and good counsel.

Brothers we are the present and many of us are the future of our beloved Grand Lodge. Let us be determined to continuously use our symbolic working tools to shape and mold this Grand Lodge into something that we will continue to be proud to pass down to our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Let us continue to execute the team concept – Together Everyone Achieves More.

As we embark upon our 144<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Lodge Communication let us enter the doors with Our Heavenly Father on our hearts and minds. Let us come prepared to carry out the business of this Grand Lodge in a dignified and harmonious manner. "If God be for us, who can be against us." **Romans 8:31**

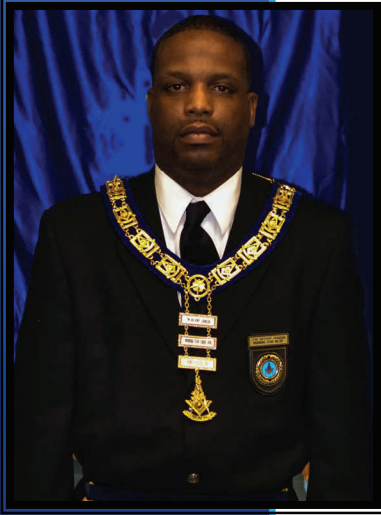
Finally, congratulations to all newly elected Worshipful Masters and Officers of our subordinate lodges. You are the pillars within this organization. I challenge you to give your best and to uphold the rules, regulations and edicts of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama.

I love each of you and I thank you for your support. May the Almighty God, Alpha and Omega, continue to shower you with His many blessings and may He continue to bless this Grand Lodge and Freemasonry worldwide!

Faternally,

*Honorable Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.*  
Most Worshipful Grand Master

# Message from the Editor



PM Anthony Johnson  
Publication Editor

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

## 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*. First, I would like to take this time to thank all the contributors to the first two editions of the *Cornerstone Message* that have been published under our new administration. I have received good reviews from members throughout the Jurisdiction

since the distribution of the first edition in April 2014 but as with any endeavor there is always an opportunity for improvement. As stated in the April edition it is my intent to make this newsletter one that we can be proud of as a Jurisdiction. I solicit your recommendations and/or suggestions to make this newsletter better. Your comments and recommendations can be sent to [cseditor@mwphglal.com](mailto:cseditor@mwphglal.com). I would also like to take this opportunity to com-

mend the Grand Lodge Staff and the subordinate Lodges within the Jurisdiction for a very successful year while moving this Jurisdiction in a positive direction and building upon the foundation that has been previously laid. Your good works have been put on display for all to see through the use of this newsletter.

Lastly, I would like to wish much success to the Honorable Corey D. Hawkins, Sr. and the Jurisdiction of Alabama for a harmonious and productive 144th Annual Communication.

- PM Anthony Johnson  
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 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

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

**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, 2014.



## Our Mission

The mission of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama is to continue the legacy of making good men better through fraternal brotherhood, to aid and assist our widows, orphans, and distressed brothers, and to contribute to the community through service, scholarship, charity and training.



## Grand Lodge Tag: Approved !!!

**Order your**

**ALABAMA PRINCE HALL MASONIC TAG**

**COMMIT TO PURCHASE YOUR NEW GRAND LODGE TAG TODAY!!!**

*(TAG WILL BE PRINTED AFTER 250 COMMITMENTS)*  
*Be one of the First...*

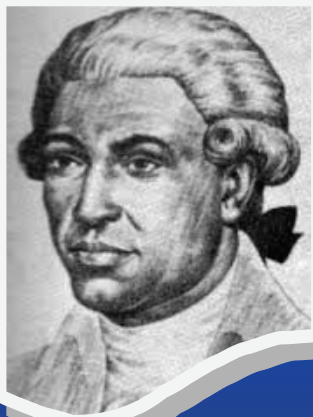
**Go Online Today & Commit**

1. Visit <https://precommit.mvtrip.alabama.gov/UserCommit/Index>
2. Select "Request Plate" UNDERNEATH the Prince Hall Tag photo
3. Follow Instructions, Print the Transmittal Sheet Emailed to you
4. Mail a Copy of Dues Card & Transmittal Sheet to address provided
5. Await email from the State Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) on How to Submit \$50.00 payment

❖ YOUNGER BROTHERS: PLEASE ASSIST OUR SENIOR BROTHERS WHEN POSSIBLE ❖

*(You may commit to the MWPHGL of AL Tags Anytime  
 Not just during your renewal Month!)*





*"The Prince Hall Americanism Classic gives seasoned Brothers and Sisters an opportunity to pass on some of life's lessons to the young Brothers and Sisters in an informal setting."*



# PHA Day Classic & Grand Master's Testimonial



\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*



PRINCE HALL AMERICANISM DAY CLASSIC  
&  
GRAND MASTER'S TESTIMONIAL WEEKEND  
The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge  
F&AM of Alabama



Texas Southern University

Vs. Alabama State University

Classic Football Game  
Grand Master's Testimonial Dinner  
Prince Hall Golf Tourney

SEPTEMBER 25th - 28th, 2014  
Montgomery, Alabama

\*\*\*Additional Registration Information for this event can be found at [www.mwphglofal.org](http://www.mwphglofal.org)\*\*\*

# PHA Day Classic & Grand Master's Testimonial

## Weekend Itinerary

\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*

Prince Hall Americanism Day Classic Weekend  
Tentative Schedule of Events

Thursday, September 25, 2014  
Grand Master's Reception

Friday, September 26, 2014

Registration

Grand Master's Cup Golf Tourney  
The Grand Master's Testimonial Dinner  
Hospitality

Saturday, September 27, 2014

Registration

Wreath Laying Service for MWPGM Dr. S.S.H. Washington  
Prince Hall Americanism Classic Tailgate  
Prince Hall Americanism Classic Game  
Hospitality

Sunday, September 28, 2014

Prince Hall Americanism Day Church Service

Hotel Accommodations:

Marriott Renaissance Hotel

201 Tallapoosa St.

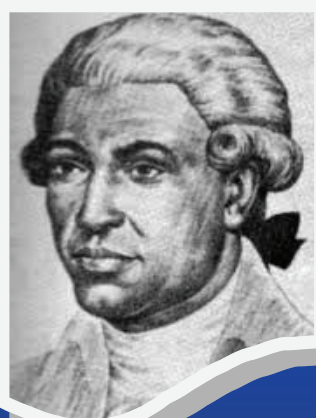
Montgomery, AL 36104

800.468.3571

\$99.00 per night

Group Code: Alabama Prince Hall Masons

Reservations Deadline: August 25, 2014



"No person has ever been honored for what he receives. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.."

- Calvin Coolidge



\*\*\*Additional Registration Information for this event can be found at [www.mwphglofal.org](http://www.mwphglofal.org)\*\*\*

# From Whence We've Come...

## PGM MAJOR Rueben R. Mims

### **A Leader of Men: Civilian, Military and Masonic**

MWPGM Major Reuben Romulus Mims  
1886–1901

MWPGM Major Reuben Romulus Mims was born in July of 1851 (circa) in Aberdeen, Mississippi, to Ms. Lida Lee. Little is known of his early life. His first marriage with his wife Mary F. Williams on March 2, 1876 lasted until her death in 1887. He later married his loving companion Augusta “Gussie” Elizabeth Knight on March 24, 1891. They had one son named Reuben.

Mims became a Master Mason in the year of 1874 under the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted York Masons of Alabama – National Grand Lodge, which later became St. John’s Lodge No. 2.

In 1875, Mims was elected as Secretary and was also appointed as Grand Sword Bearer in the Grand Lodge. In 1878, through the consolidation of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Alabama (Independent) and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted York Masons of Alabama – National Grand Lodge, Mims became a member of Cumberland Lodge, No. 22 and was its chartering Senior Deacon. In 1881, Mims was elected as Junior Warden and in 1883, he was elected Worshipful Master.

In 1885, Mims was elected Deputy Grand Master and subsequently, in 1886, Most Worshipful Grand Master Geo. W. Braxdall stepped down as Grand Master. The Most Worshipful Sovereign Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons of Alabama (now the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free & Accepted Masons of Alabama) elected Reuben R. Mims as its Most Worshipful Grand Master at the ripe age of 35, in 1886.



*MWPGM Major Reuben Romulus Mims*

MWGM Mims became the figurehead of leading and securing Alabama Freemasonry on the national stage. He became close friends with MWPGM William T. Boyd of Ohio. MWGM Mims later served as Vice President of the 1893 Grand Masonic Congress (predecessor organization to the Prince Hall Conference of Grand Masters) behind President, MWPGM W.T. Boyd during the World’s Fair in Chicago, IL.

MWGM Mims held a high standing in the eyes of the brethren around the state. He tried numerous years to step down, by stating he would not seek re-election, only to be nominated solely and by acclamation without a dissenting vote. In 1890, MWGM Mims was elected Right Excellent Deputy Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alabama.



# From Whence We've Come...

## PGM MAJOR Rueben R. Mims

News of Mims political and Masonic success traveled throughout the State. In fact, in April 1888, shortly after a visitation to Olive Branch Lodge, No. 1, in Mobile, Mims was shot in the leg eight (8) times by white attackers while on his horse. He lived through the incident and was further respected as a strong leader with grit.

His life outside of Freemasonry was one of exemplary civilian and military leadership. As early as 1873, it appears Mims entered politics during Reconstruction. He was listed as a part of the Republican Party's Resolutions Committee. The Committee at that time wrote an endorsement of Governor-Elect David P. Lewis's fiscal policy

In 1882, Mims is again seen active in Republican politics in Mobile's First Ward, as a delegate supporting Gen. James E. Slaughter's bid to become Postmaster General. Mims would later be appointed as mail carrier on January 27, 1882, under the patronage of Gen. Slaughter. Mims would hold this position until his death, even after Gen. Slaughter left office, which lends credence to his capabilities and standing in the local community.

As the end of Reconstruction loomed and the birth of Jim Crow emerged, the State was looking to fill its need for a militia. To answer the call, African-American men signed petitions and made themselves available to serve with Governor Edward A. O'Neal's blessing in the new company in Mobile, which was called Gilmer's Rifles.

Among the first three African-American officers chosen, Mims appeared again amongst the leadership ranks. It is clear with his known background as a skilled, yet, modest politician, he was elected amongst his peers as their leader and commissioned by the Governor and sworn in as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant on August 25, 1883.

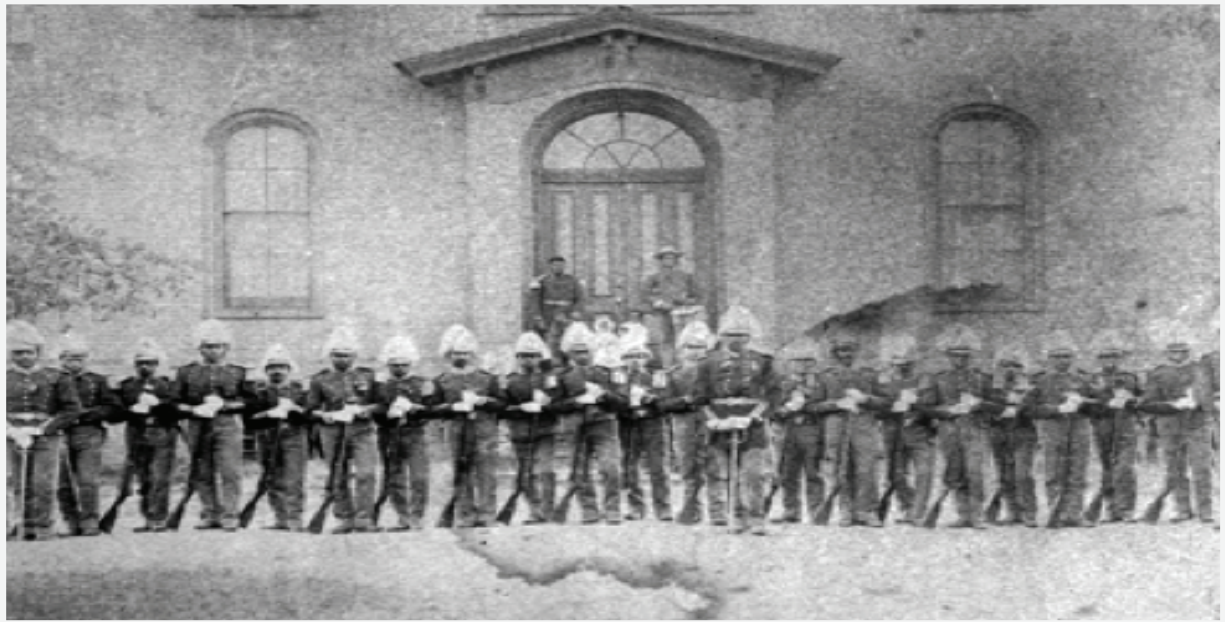


*MWPGM Major Reuben Romulus Mims*

As with his civilian role as a mail carrier, and his work within the Republican Party, his reputation as “engaging politics no more than necessary,” a “worthy citizen,” and “held in high esteem by our people, respected by whites and blacks alike.” Mims' role in Gilmer's Rifles solidified his standing in the community, both African-American and White alike, not only in Mobile, but in political circles in Montgomery, namely in the eyes of the Governor.

On August 11, 1884, Mims was again elected as a leader amongst his peers and became the Company Commander of the Colored Regiment, being sworn in as Captain. With reports on Captain Mims of stellar leadership, he brought about the birth of the Capitol City Guard, Montgomery's African-American Company, in July of 1885.

# From Whence We've Come...



*Members of Gilmer's Rifles*

Typical issues relating to Jim Crow tactics were taking place within the militia. The African-American Guards saw little to no monetary support or supplies. Captain Mims remained an advocate for his soldiers and maintained contact with leaders informing them of his troops needs. While acts of this nature could have been frowned upon coming from an African-American in those times, Captain Mims leadership status remained his ample defense.

In 1895, Captain Mims was elected by his troops and supported by the political and military establishment by becoming Major. Major Mims remained the highest-ranking African-American military officer until the birth of the Tuskegee experiment. Sadly enough, Major Mims and his colored troops saw the Capital City Guard mustered out in 1897.

Throughout his civilian, military and Masonic leadership roles, MWPGM Major Reuben Romulus Mims demanded the respect of all who knew him. On the evening of March 7, 1901, the Masonic brethren and family of Major Mims contacted Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Dr. S.S.H. Washington to attend to Major Mims at his bedside. Upon his arrival on March 8<sup>th</sup>, there was nothing the Deputy Grand Master could do. He later died on March 9, 1901, of kidney failure.

**(GRAND HISTORIAN'S NOTE:** Brothers, be proud that we have standard bearers of African-American history in our ranks within our Masonic Leadership! Take in the information, disseminate it and teach those in our lodges and community.)

**(NOTE:** Special thanks to Bro. Alton Roundtree and Jamer Morgan, III of the MWPHGL of DC. Mrs. Beth Muskat for her extensive work on Gilmer's Rifles and the impact of the African-American militia during the late 1800's.)

*-Contributor RW L. Ken Collins, II  
Grand Lodge Historian*



# Achievements

## Brother Walter Louis Palmer receives the Congressional Gold Medal

On Friday May 23, 2014, Brother Walter Louis Palmer was presented with the Congressional Gold Medal in front of numerous family and friends at First Missionary Baptist Church in Huntsville, Alabama, of which he is a member. The ceremony celebrated the legacy of service and sacrifice of all Marines who earned the Eagle, Globe and Anchor at Montford Point Camp which became the brotherhood now known as "Montford Point Marines".

From 1942 to 1949, approximately 20,000 African-American men enlisted in the Marine Corps at a time when our nation was at war and the country and military services were resistant to integration. After completing an arduous and segregated basic training at Montford Point Camp, North Carolina, these Marines served with honor during a critical period in our nation's history. Montford Point Marines served in some of the bloodiest struggles in the Pacific - Saipan, Guam Tinian, Peleliu, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Some died in these battles; many others continued their service in Korea and Vietnam. Many Montford Point Marines carried their exceptional strength of character and indomitable spirit to their lives outside the Marine Corps, becoming leaders in their communities including Mayors, Ambassadors, educators, lawyers, ministers and doctors. Collectively, Montford Point Marines paved the way for the many thousands of Marines of African-American heritage, men and women alike, who serve our nation today with honor, courage and commitment. On 27 June, 2012, Congress conferred our nation's highest civilian award, the Congressional Gold Medal, on the Montford Point Marines. This fitting honor, of which all Marines are proud, anchors the legacy of these warriors' contributions into both Marine Corps and American history.

Walter Louis Palmer currently is a member of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 in Huntsville, AL and lives with his wife, Janie J. Palmer; they have five children, thirteen grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren.



(L) Bro. Walter Palmer (No. 50) and (R) Lt. Gen. W. Williams, USMC (Ret)



Last two remaining Montford Point Marines

- Contributor PM H. Jerome Glover (No. 50)

# REGION 1

## News and Events from Region 1

### St. John Lodge No. 2 Executes "Operation H.I.M."

The Brothers of St. John No. 2 realized that as men, often times we refuse to go to the doctor for basic check-ups, screening for diseases, and just basic health information. The Brothers decided that there was no better time to show that we care than Father's Day Weekend. On June 14, 2014, we executed "Operation H.I.M." which brought together different health care, community service, and non-profit organizations under the same roof to promote better health amongst the men in our communities.



Members of St. John Lodge No. 2 along with Health Care Professionals

The American Red Cross was on site and collected blood for the blood drive as well as Franklin Primary Health Center providing numerous health screenings to include: cholesterol checks, PSA tests, blood pressure tests, diabetes screening, and so much more. The Brothers also provided refreshments and made sure that each person that came out left in better health or at least better informed. We hope to make "Operation H.I.M." an annual event to be held the weekend before Father's Day.

Feel free to fellowship with us on FaceBook at :

<https://www.facebook.com/SaintJohn2PHA> or via email

[stjohn2pha@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohn2pha@yahoo.com) for future events and information.



-Contributor PM Terrence Anderson (No. 2)



# St. John Lodge No. 2 Fifth Annual “PHAmily and Friends Day” Celebration



*Members of St. John Lodge No. 2 along with children from Mobile, AL and surrounding areas*

The Brothers of St. John Lodge No 2 held their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual “PHAmily and Friends” Day on May 24, 2014, at Tri-centennial Park in Mobile, AL. THIS YEAR WAS BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER! St. John Lodge No. 2 invited friends, family, and the public to bring their kids to enjoy pony rides, inflatable jumpers, outdoor games, the water park, and of course food at absolutely no cost to them. There were 300+ people at this year's event and the Lodge was very pleased with the turn out. St. John's No. 2 invites all Brothers and Sisters to come and enjoy the 6th Annual "PHAmily and Friends" Day during Memorial Day weekend 2015.

*- Contributor PM Terrence Anderson (No. 2)*



## REGION 2

### News and Events from Region 2

## Region 2 Has a Productive Meeting

**R**egion No. 2 meeting, which is composed of Districts No. 2 and No. 12, was held on Saturday, April 19, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was held at the Eastern Star Baptist Church in York, AL. The theme for the meeting was "Working Together to Get the Job Done". This meeting was hosted by R. W. John Mayfield, Grand District Deputy for District No. 2 and R. W. Rev. Richard Wilson, Jr., Grand District Deputy for District No. 12. The meeting was very well attended, because the brethren are very eager to support the efforts of our newly elected Grand Master, Most Worshipful Corey D. Hawkins, Sr. Grand Master Hawkins gave very encouraging words to the brethren and encouraged them to spread the same throughout the entire brotherhood. Grand Master Hawkins was accompanied by R. W. William Dean Anderson, Grand Senior Deacon and Operations Manager and R. W. Quinton Burrow, Aide to the Grand Master. The following Grand Lodge Officers, who reside in the districts were also present: R. W. Robert W. Glenn, Deputy Grand Master, District No.2; R. W. Kevin L. Howard, Grand Recording Secretary, District No. 2; R. W. Freddie L. Armstead Jr., Grand Pursuivant, District No. 2, and R. W. Johnny Isaac, Chief of Security/Special Deputy, District No. 12.



*Grand Master Hawkins fielding questions*



*Brothers participating in Devotion*

-Contributor RW Kevin L. Howard  
Grand Recording Secretary

## REGION 3

### News and Events from Region 3

## Region 3 Holds Its Annual Meeting



*Grand Master Hawkins addressing the audience*

The Regional Meeting for Districts Five and Six was held on Saturday, April 26, 2014, at Saint Luke AME Church, Louisville, Alabama. The meeting was very informative and well attended. Grand Master Hawkins was in attendance and brought comments. He expressed concerns with the membership numbers in the region. He stated that each lodge needs to be more aggressive with regard to obtaining and retaining its membership. If lodge numbers are not up to minimum standards, merging should seriously be considered. Grand Master Hawkins encouraged the District Deputies to work closely with the lodges to ensure growth within the organization.

The Grand Master commented on the Bloody Sunday reenactment march. Lodge members from across the state gathered in Selma, Alabama to march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Attendance was abundant; however he expects more for next year's event.

He also informed the Craft about committing to the Masonic Tags.

He provided instructions as to how to pre-order the tags and emphasized that it is imperative that at least 250 tags be preor-

dered in order for the State of Alabama to proceed with the Masonic Tag Campaign.

Grand Master Hawkins also informed the brothers that Prince Hall Americanism Weekend will be in Montgomery, Alabama September 25<sup>th</sup> through September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014. He encouraged the members of Region Three to attend.

The ads for the souvenir journal were discussed. Grand Master Hawkins noted that all lodges should be represented in the souvenir journal. He also emphasized that each lodge should afford its Worshipful Master an all-expense paid trip to the Grand Lodge Communication.

Finally, Grand Master Hawkins discussed the proper attire for all representatives, officers, and Brothers who will attend the Grand Lodge Communication. Everyone should be properly clothed in accordance with the *Authorized Regalia Guide and Dress Code Specifications* to enter the Grand Lodge Session.

Region Three is excited about working together to implement the programs laid out on Grand Master Hawkins' trestleboard. We look forward to helping the Jurisdiction of Alabama move forward.

*-Contributor Brother Rickey Allen (District No. 5)*



*Brothers of Region 3 listening attentively*



# REGION 5

## News and Events from Region 5

### Triune Lodge No. 430 Serving the Community

**T**riune Lodge #430 P.H.A. was recently awarded the Volunteer Group of the Year Award from the Ronald McDonald House. This is the first time any Masonic group has won such an award. Over 30 groups have volunteered at RMDH this year and Triune Lodge No. 30 was fortunate to be considered the best among them.

The members of Triune Lodge No. 430 volunteered at RMDH in several capacities to include assisting with Christmas decorations. There is no greater feeling than knowing you have made a child's holiday season a little brighter.

The brothers of Triune Lodge No. 430 also served as ushers at the Black History Month Program at Zion Star Baptist Church. Rev. Carl Johnson, a member of Triune No. 430 expressed his sincere thanks for our participation. Junior Warden Jay Watson co-wrote a play entitled, "We Come This Far By Faith". We are so proud of his efforts.

***"There is no greater feeling than knowing you have made a child's holiday season a little brighter."***



*Members of Triune Lodge No. 430 at Black History Month Program*



*WM Eric Gardner (No. 430) receives award*

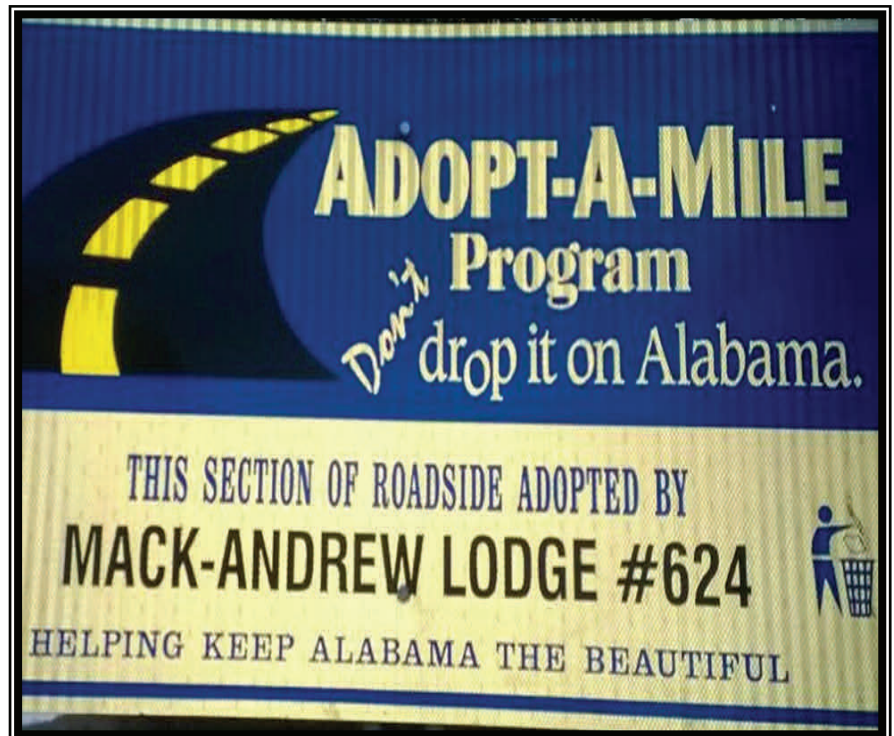


*Brother Johnny Bibb (No. 430) decorating*



## Adopt-A-Mile

On April 5, 2014, the Brothers of Mack-Andrew No. 624 under the leadership of Worshipful Master Charles Motley and Brother Torsay Norris spearheaded a clean-up project of one mile designated by the Department of Transportation as an effort to help keep Birmingham clean. The Brothers who participated were Worshipful Master Charles Motley, Junior Warden Edmond Miller, Treasurer Charles E. Jackson, Secretary Jermaine Marshall, Senior Deacon Lonnie Myricks, Chaplain Daniel Everson, Brother Torsay Norris, Brother Devin Collins, Brother Philip Jackson, Brother Brandon Bell, and Brother Nathaniel Mayo.



*Members of Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624 at Adopt-A-Mile Event*

*- Contributor PM Charles Motley (No. 624)*

# District 14 Lodge of the Year



*Members of Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624*

On June 22, 2014, Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624 was recognized as the District 14 Lodge of the Year. Worshipful Master Lonnie Myricks accepted the award for the lodge at the annual St. John's Day Celebration at First Baptist Church of Ensley in Birmingham, Alabama. The criteria for the lodge of the year award are ritualistic proficiency, support of lodge programs, community involvement, self-improvement and masonic knowledge. The criteria is reviewed and determined by: District Deputy A. Derek Bowman, Assistant District Deputy Dudley Williams, and Assistant District Deputy Dwight Coleman. Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624 participated in several community service projects, which include donating \$500.00 to South Hampton Elementary School to assist in the day to day efforts of providing various education and activities of the students. The Brothers of Lodge No. 624 donated Thanksgiving dinners, Christmas dinners, toys and gift cards to deserving families. Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624 participated in feeding the residents at the local Jimmie Hale Mission facility for the homeless and men recovering from drug addiction on two occasions. The Lodge also sponsored an Easter Sunday basket and dress for a child on Easter Morning. Finally, in an effort to keep Birmingham clean, Mack-Andrew Lodge No. 624 participated in regular clean-ups with the Adopt-a-Mile program.

*- Contributor PM Charles Motley (No. 624)*



# Grand Lodge of Alabama Welcomes

## Charles V. Hendley Lodge No. U.D.



On April 26, 2014, the Honorable Most Worshipful Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., presided over the healing of a lodge of Progressive Free and Accepted Masons. Members of St. Peter's Lodge No. 12, P. F. and A. M. led by the State Grand Master of Magic City Grand Lodge, Progressive Free and Accepted Masons petitioned the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama for membership.

The healing took place at Tuxedo Lodge No. 431, in Fairfield, Alabama. Brothers from all over the Jurisdiction attended the healing. To give the lodge a PHA brand in the Alabama Jurisdiction, Grand Master Hawkins named the lodge in honor of the late Past Grand Master Charles V. Hendley who served as Grand Master of Alabama from 1936 to 1967.

Brothers who petitioned the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama are as follows: Joseph Godwin, Worshipful Master; Eric Jones, Senior Warden; Michael Dawson, Junior Warden; Johnny Pearson, Treasurer; Allen Caine, Secretary; Key'on Giles, Senior Deacon; Joshua Denmark, Junior Deacon; Reinard Smith, Senior Steward; Rodney Square, Junior Steward; and Joshua Petty, Tyler

We welcome the Brothers of Charles V. Hendley Lodge No. U.D. to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama. We look for big things to come from you for many years.



*Grand Master presenting dispensation to WM Joseph Godwin*



*Grand Master addressing the Craft*



# REGION 6

## News and Events from Region 6

### Northeast Alabama Celebrates St. John's Day

On June 22, 2014, the Northeast Alabama Worshipful Masters Council, conducted their Annual St John's Day Program at Big Shiloh Baptist Church in Madison, AL. Also attending the program were the OES Chapters of District No. 15. The dignitaries in attendance were RW Andrew J. Fuller, Grand District Deputy, (District No. 17) RW George Ball Jr., Grand Marshal, Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Alabama, PM Robert Langford Past Grand Senior Warden. Bro. Calvin Miller, Grand Associate Patron, Mizpah Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Jurisdiction of Alabama, Sis. Mamie Jones Grand District Deputy, Order of Eastern Star (District No. 15).

The message of the day was brought forth by Pastor Charles Mitchell of Mt. Olive Baptist Church. The message and music selections performed by the choir were well received by all in attendance. Also during the program two deserving students in the Huntsville area were recognized for academic excellence and was presented scholarship awards by Morning Star Lodge No. 50 and Mizpah Chapter No. 37 OES respectively.



*District No. 17 Lodges of Northeast Alabama*



## Brothers of Evening Star Lodge No. 6 Recognized for 50 Years of Service

On May 16, 2014, the Noththeast Alabama Worshipful Masters Council hosted its 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Banquet. It was at this time that GDD RW Andrew Fuller and Brother Ollie Hatchett were recognized for 50 Years of service to Prince Hall Masonry. Both Brother Andrew Fuller and Brother Ollie Hatchett have been a blessing to Evening Star Lodge No. 6.



*Grand District Deputy RW Andrew J. Fuller*

*-Contributor WM James Lewis (No.6)*

## Morning Star Lodge No. 50 Adopt-a-Mile Community Service Events



*Members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 and Hendley Chapter No. 855*

The Brothers were assisted by members of Hendley Chapter No. 855 OES. After an afternoon of service, the participants refreshed at Applebee's on North Memorial Parkway.

On February 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup>, the Brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 participated in what will become a quarterly effort to clean the neighborhood of the Norwood Housing Community and the sidewalks on University Drive in their Adopt-a-Mile Community Service Event. It's a sad truth, but the trash thrown onto our neighborhood streets really adds up. The Brothers and Sisters can never predict what they're going to find out on the road. From discarded cigarettes and fast food wrappers to beer cans and wine bottles, they have not only seen it all, but they've picked it all up.

*-Contributor PM Jerome Glover (No.50)*



# Morning Star Lodge No. 50 Mother's Day Luncheon

On Friday afternoon of May 2, 2014, the Members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mother's day Luncheon at the Dr. Richard Showers Recreational Center located at 4600 Blue Spring Road in Huntsville, AL 35810.

This event was held in conjunction with a monthly Bingo Game sponsored by the Recreation Center Staff. The mothers were first treated to a fun game of bingo. Then they were served a hearty meal consisting of beef brisket, lemon pepper chicken, barbeque chicken, and grilled chicken with sides of green beans, corn, rice, potato salad, water and pink lemonade. There were also five different types of cakes for dessert. The Lodge served over ninety mothers in all ranging from ages 35 to 90.

All of the mothers in attendance were presented with a single long stem red rose and a card on behalf of the Brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50. The event was well received and the mothers were very appreciative for the recognition. The Brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 look forward to putting on the event again next year.

*-Contributor PM Jerome Glover (No.50)*



*Members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50*



# Red Cross Lodge No. 35 Reaches Out to Students

The Brothers of Red Cross Lodge No. 35, PHA, District No.17, held their 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Outreach to the Alabama A&M University (AAMU) TRiO-Upward Bound Program on June 24, 2014. Red Cross Lodge No. 35 adopted this program 13 years ago under Past Master Charlie F. Lockhart, III as our benchmark outreach for positive support and growth within our community. The students consisted of those who reside and attend target areas; Huntsville City, Madison County, and Madison City Schools and meet the following criteria:

- ◆ A citizen or national of the United States
- ◆ First generation and low-income
- ◆ (*First generation student*: neither parent or guardian graduated from a four-year institution)
- ◆ (*Low-income*: based on taxable income and family size set by the U. S. Department of Education)
- ◆ First generation *or* low-income
- ◆ Has an academic need
- ◆ Has completed 8th grade but not entered the 11th grade
- ◆ Student must have a desire to go to college



*Members of Red Cross Lodge No. 35 serving students*

The Upward Bound Program at AAMU offers a summer residential and an academic component. Participants are required to attend both components until they graduate from high school. The summer residential component is six weeks. Room and board is provided for students to live on the campus of AAMU. The academic component allows students to attend sessions for twenty Saturdays on the campus of AAMU. There are many key components that support the students during the program such as: ACT preparation, financial aid assistance, tutoring in various academic courses, transition assistance from high school to college, cultural excursions, counseling, and various other support elements.



*WM Brent Thompson (No. 35) addressing the students*

Red Cross Lodge No. 35 helps to support the effort of the AAMU TRiO-Upward Bound Program by coming every summer in June and as needed to provide mentoring and leadership tutelage to the young men of the program. Order of Eastern Star Chapter, Silver Jewel No. 508 has come on board to provide mentoring to the young ladies of the program. We fellowship with the students, counselors, and program directors by providing food and drinks for the evening. We are blessed to have an opportunity to provide some positive light to the young people of this program. We have a chance to give life experiences to the students, and provide a real world prospective in academic career paths. There has been various opportunities throughout the years to provide mentoring in positive personal conduct and respect for others in life. Red Cross Lodge No. 35 provides one high school senior student of the program with an academic scholarship towards the post secondary school that they will be attending. The AAMU TRiO-Upward Bound Program has been a pillar of strength within the Huntsville-Madison County and City community for promoting post secondary education, and Red Cross Lodge No. 35 and Silver Jewel No. 508 will continue to support the efforts of the program.

*-Contributor WM Brent Thompson (No.35)*

# Lincoln Lodge No. 99 and Glittering Star Chapter No. 94 OES Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Each year the city of Madison holds an Annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt for children of the area. Lincoln Lodge No. 99 and Glittering Star Chapter No. 94 OES are regular attendees, assisting the city in this event every year. This year, the Lodge and Chapter enjoyed helping the eager children comb Dublin Park with flashlights, hoping to find the best Easter Eggs. Since parents are not allowed on the field during the egg hunt, the assistance is always welcomed by the city, and both bodies are proud to have a good rapport with the City of Madison.



*Members of Lincoln Lodge No. 99 and Glittering Star Chapter No. 94 OES*

## Lincoln Lodge No. 99 Awards Hard Work & Leadership

On May 16, 2014, Lincoln Lodge No. 99 awarded two worthy brothers for their hard work and dedication to our Lodge. Brother Brian Benford (JD) was voted by his brothers as Master Mason of the Year, and Brother William Ray (JW) won the Lincoln #99's leadership award. Both have been instrumental in the lodge's success over the years, helping assist Worshipful Master Laffon Brelland with everything from bringing new candidates to light, to coordinating lodge events.



*Brother Brian Benford, WM Laffon Brelland, and Brother William Ray*



*- Contributor Brother William Ray (No. 99)*



# Obituary



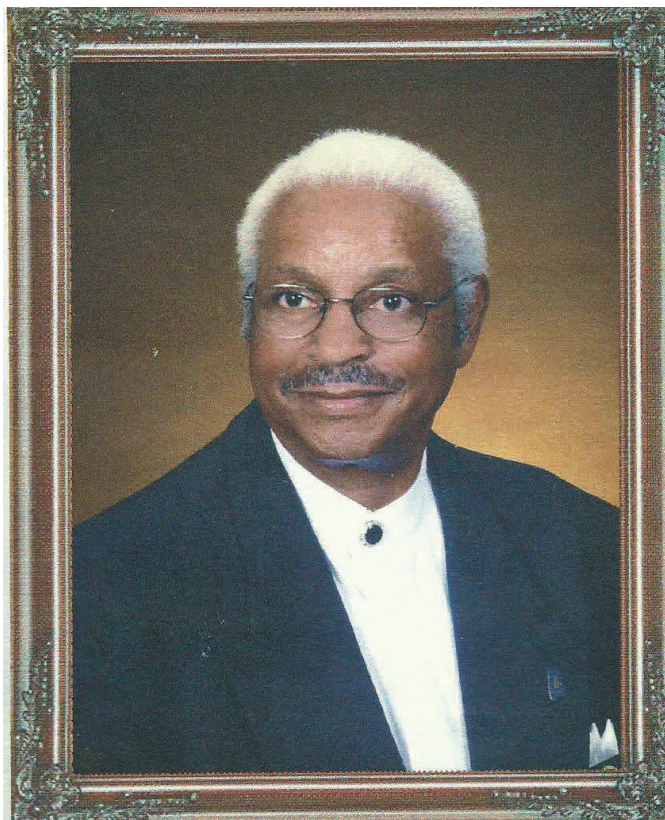
## Brother Called Home by the Great Architect

**D**eacon Lloyd L. Stokes (Retired Sergeant Major) was born to the late Mr. Lloyd L. Stokes and Mrs. Vivian Stokes on May 13, 1934, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. On May 2, 2014, he departed this earthly life in Madison, Alabama for his heavenly home.

Lloyd attended ICS High School in Scranton, PA, J.C. Calhoun State Community College, Decatur, AL, and Athens State College, Athens, AL., where he received a B.S. degree.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army on July 20, 1956, with BCT training at Fort Jackson, S.C. While enlisted, he received many awards and medals which: the Bronze Star-MSM with two OLC's, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal (10th award), NDSM, VSM, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Citation, RVN Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation and the RVN Campaign and awarded the NCOA Minutemen Citation on January 23, 1986. Lloyd served in the Vietnam War (Dusters) and made many stateside tours as well as Germany. He retired from military service at Redstone Arsenal on August 31, 1986.

Lloyd was a member of Morning Star Lodge No. 50, Free and Accepted Masons, Huntsville, AL., Jurisdiction of Alabama. He was also on the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service Board, Alabama A&M University, where he served until his health failed.



*Brother Lloyd L. Stokes (No. 50)*  
*Sunrise May 13, 1934-Sunset May 2, 2014*

His memories will forever be cherished in the hearts and minds of those who loved him so dearly. To hold fast his memories are his loving and devoted wife of 28 years, Angie; two sons, Lloyd Stokes, Jr., and Andre'; one stepson, Delbert; three grandchildren, Nicole, Jackson, and Kingston; one brother, David; seven sisters, Amelia, Lillian, Charlotte, Dorothy, Rita, Linda, and Kathleen. He also leaves a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

# 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). 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 30 September 2014. These articles should include events conducted from July 2014-September 2014. Articles are to be submitted using Microsoft Word (Times New Roman 11) and photographs should be in JPEG format and captioned. No more than two articles per Lodge can be submitted. Permission to reprint original articles appearing in *The Cornerstone Message* is granted to all recognized Masonic publications.

## THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE



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