



THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE

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

VOLUME IV, ISSUE III

JULY 2016

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3rd Annual Prince Hall
Americanism Classic
Weekend

Grand Session
Sponsorships

146th Annual
Communication
Schedule of Events
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FEATURED ARTICLE
BROTHER & CONGRESSMAN
BENJAMIN STERLING TURNER

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

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THE GRAND MASTER'S TRESTLE BOARD



*The crest and crowning of all good, life's
final star, is brotherhood.*

Edwin Markham

“A in’t no stop-
ping us
now”, the
Most Worshipful Prince
Hall Grand Lodge of Ala-
bama is on the move! We
are headed in the right di-
rection. Our membership is
increasing, our visibility is
increasing, our community
service is increasing. We
are living up to our purpose
as Master Masons and as a
Grand Lodge.

As I travel throughout the
jurisdiction I cannot help
but be encouraged by the
enthusiasm and excitement

expressed about the pro-
gress of this Grand Lodge.
It really means a lot to see
brothers who are motivated
to roll up their sleeves and
go to work to help improve
this great Grand Lodge.
Brothers, we are in this to-
gether. We are only as
strong as our weakest link.

The Most Worshipful
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of
Alabama has a very storied
history filled with many
rich traditions. I challenge
all to help make our be-
loved Grand Lodge the best
that it has ever been.

God Almighty has blessed us with a precious jewel. We have an affluent history to uphold. The standard has been set very high. We are standing on the shoulders of those forefathers who shared a vision of prosperity and perfection for our beloved Grand Lodge. We have an obligation to fulfill. We are obligated to continue to chip off the rough edges of this Grand Lodge and make it as near a perfect ashlar as possible so that one day our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren can apply the working tools that will have been passed down to them to build upon this sure foundation.

As we approach our 146th Annual Communication, let us enter with malice-free hearts and with our eyes fixed on Him. Let us conduct the business of this esteemed Grand Lodge with respect and decorum. Remember to do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

I offer a hearty congratulations to all newly elected Worshipful Masters and Officers of our subordinate lodges. You play a very important role within this organization. I challenge each of you to give your best and to uphold the rules, regulations and edicts of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama.

Finally, let us remember the importance of the trowel to the speculative mason. It is to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection; that cement which unites us into one sacred band, or society of friends and brothers, among whom no contention should ever exist but that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who best can work or best agree. Ryunosuke Satoro once said, “Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.” Let us continue to work together and be a shining example of true brotherhood.

May the Grand Architect of the Universe, the All-seeing Eye, continue to keep His arms of protection around us and may He bless our dear Grand Lodge!

Fraternally,

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.

Most Worshipful Grand Master



PM Herman "Jerome" Glover (50)
Publication Editor

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

RECLAMATION DRIVE (TARP)!



Message from the Editor

Greetings

To all the readers and supporters of this Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama titled *The Cornerstone Message*:

I would like to take this time to thank all of the contributors to this edition of *The Cornerstone Message*. I 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 has accomplished great things since the publication of the April 2016 edition

and you will find them captured within this edition of *The Cornerstone Message*.

I have received great reviews and recommendations from members throughout the jurisdiction since the distribution of the first *Cornerstone Message* edition as your Publication Editor but there is still opportunity for improvement and I solicit your help. When submitting articles for submission, please include at least a paragraph about the article as photos alone will not be accepted for the newsletter. Also include point a of contact with a tele-

phone number so that I may contact you if there are any questions with your articles and/or pictures submitted.

As always, I want to encourage all subordinate lodges to continue to support *The Cornerstone Message* and show 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, 2016.

ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY
VS TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

ASU STADIUM
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

SEPTEMBER 23rd - 25th 2016

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

**3RD ANNUAL PRINCE HALL AMERICANISM CLASSIC
WEEKEND**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2016

REGISTRATION

GRAND MASTER'S CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT

RIVERBOAT CRUISE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

REGISTRATION

PRINCE HALL AMERICANISM CLASSIC TAILGATE

BBQ CONTEST AND WILD GAME TASTING

PRINCE HALL AMERICANISM CLASSIC GAME

VIP PACKAGE HOSPITALITY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

PRINCE HALL AMERICANISM DAY CHURCH SERVICE

HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS:

HOMewood SUITES BY HILTON

1800 INTERSTATE PARK DRIVE

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36109

1-334-272-3010

\$119.00 PER NIGHT

GROUP CODE: MWP

RESERVATIONS DEADLINE: AUGUST 31, 2016

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 ◆



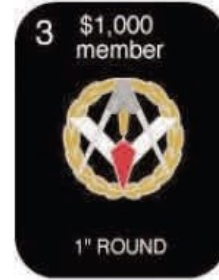
SAMPLE TYPICAL NEW FLOOR PLAN

- ◆ 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

Most

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



THANKS TO OUR 146TH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION SPONSORS

DISTRICT NO. 5, JIMMY FARMER, G.D.D.
\$1,300.00

NEW BEGINNING LODGE NO. 970
\$1,135.20

POMPEY & POMPEY, P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
\$900.00

BRO. ARTIS (A.J.) MCCAMPBELL
\$500.00

TUXEDO LODGE NO. 431
\$400.00

MAGNOLIA LODGE NO. 218
\$300.00

BRO. BOBBY SINGLETON
\$250.00

BRO. MARVIN WIGGINS
\$250.00

BRO. COLLINS PETTAWAY, JR.
\$250.00

BRO. DONALD MCMILLAN
\$250.00

Your financial support will assist us in providing an exceptional Annual Grand Lodge Session for our members to attend. The generous support of people like you makes it possible for our organization to continue the legacy of making good men better and to aid in making the community a great place to live.

From Whence We've Come...

Brother & Congressman Benjamin Sterling Turner

St. Mark Lodge, No. 4

One of the important figures in Alabama politics and also a member of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama was none other than, the Honorable Benjamin Sterling (B.S.) Turner.



Born March 27, 1825, in Weldon, North Carolina, Benjamin Sterling Turner, like many others, was confined the system of chattel slavery. Turner's parentage remains unknown. He was first owned by Colonel Neville Gee and Elizabeth Harwell Gee.

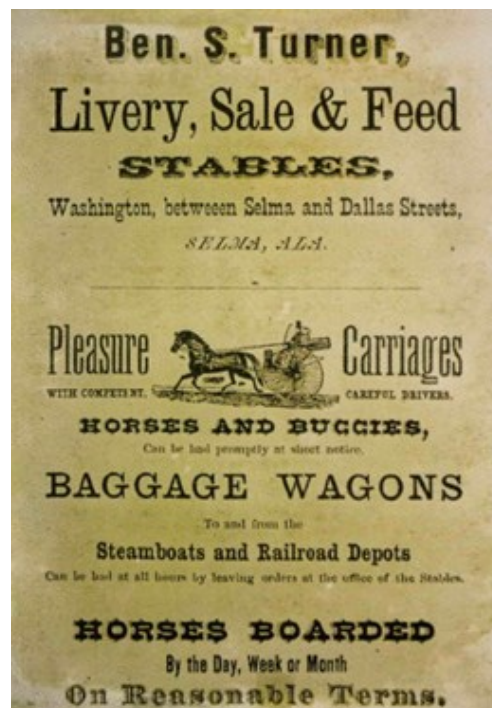
When Turner was 2 years old Col. Gee died and Mrs. Gee later married Mr. Thomas Turner in 1830 and she brought him to Madison County, Alabama. Just six months later, Mrs. Turner would be widowed again on May 2, 1830. Later that year, at early age of 5, Turner was forced to move with Mrs. Turner, to Selma, Alabama to be closer to her children. At an early age, Turner is believed to have received his education from the lessons given to his playmates.

His teen years went by fast, upon becoming a young man, Elizabeth Turner sold Benjamin to Major W.H. Gee (her nephew in-law), to pay off debts. Maj. Gee was an affluent hotel and stable owner who married into the Turner family.

Eight years later, in 1853, upon the death of Maj. Gee, Turner was inherited by Dr. James Turner

Gee, Maj. Gee's son. Dr. Gee held a great amount of trust in Turner. Dr. Gee allowed Turner to earn wages, serve as the manager of the hotel and entrusted him with the upkeep of the livery stable. With his increasing role in the upkeep and management of the Gee House Hotel, Dr. Gee found him invaluable because he would later serve in the Confederate Army from 1861-1865.

By the 1860s, Turner had accumulated substantial wealth and garnered the respect and admiration of both Black and White communities. During the war, Turner is documented as purchasing Confederate War bonds. In 1865, Union Gen. James H. Wilson's troops swept through Alabama and destroyed nearly all of Selma's Confederate munitions plants to include the properties of Turner.



Upon receiving his freedom, he prospered greatly by trying to reestablish what he had lost due to Union forces. In 1867, Turner was appointed as county tax collector, with both Black and White approval. Less than a year later, Turner resigned and entered the race as an Independent for City Council. Turner gained the support of the community when he resigned his seat because the city began paying him, citing that the destitute nature of the community could not afford to pay officials, they should work for free. Afterwards, he assisted in getting Ulysses S. Grant as President.

With persistence, by 1870, Turner regained his wealth and his wealth was valued at \$10,000 (approximately \$188,000 in today's currency). In 1871, Turner was initiated, passed and raised in the masonic lodge in Godfrey B. Taylor Lodge No. 35, under the MWPHGL of Missouri. He served as Junior Warden and Senior Warden of Godfrey B. Taylor Lodge, while under Missouri, St. Mark Lodge No. 1 under Compact Grand Lodge of Alabama and later St. Mark Lodge No. 4, under the Independent Grand Lodge of Alabama.

It was in 1871, that Bro. Turner was elected as the first African-American to serve in the United States Congress from the 1st Congressional District of Alabama. While in Congress, he like others, were met with unspeakable prejudice. To the chagrin of many, it was Congressman Turner that saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of ex-confederate traitors. Congressman Turner offered the Amnesty Act in the 41nd Congress, which failed; however, with his determination and tenacity it passed in the 42nd Congress.

One of Congressman Turner's major pieces of legislation was his bill that sought to build a new federal building in Selma that would unite the old masters and the freedmen. While Brother & Congressman Benjamin Sterling Turner may not evoke the historical references of Booker T. Washington or Frederick Douglass, the work that he did to ensure that the freemen and ex-confederate traitors would be re-united as a closely-knit community cannot be overlooked.

The Congressman only served one term and went into relative obscurity in later years. He would spend his life as a farmer and passing away without fanfare on March 21, 1894. From property to prosperity was the life of our Brother Freemason, one of the forefather's of Reconstruction in the State of Alabama Congressman Benjamin Sterling Turner.

ANNUAL RETURNS OF SUBORDINATE LODGES,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING, JUNE 21st, 1876.

ST. MARK'S LODGE, No. 1.—Selma, Ala.

OFFICERS.

R. B. Thomas, W. M. B. S. Turner, S. W.
Geo. W. Clark, J. W. Jeff. Richardson, Treas.

Henry Boyd, Secretary.

PAST MASTERS.—W. J. Stevens.

MASTER MASONS

Jeremiah Haralson,	Jno. A. Williams,	Henry Loder,
Silas Robinson,	Henry Calhoun.	Jno. J. Williams,
Jordan Lee,	Philip Smith,	C. H. Mayatt,
Geo. Stollenwerck,	Henry Jones,	Samuel Edwards,
Henry Gill,	Wm. Robinson,	W. H. Blevins,
	Grandison Rodgers,	Anderson Murphy.



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

Message from the Grand Medical Registrar

Greetings:

It is a blessing to once again thank the Grand Architect for allowing us to see another great day. I am going to address two health issues that are important in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. These are just two of many that I am often asked to talk about by my patients. The two health issues are hypertension and body mass index.

Hypertension (high blood pressure) is known as one component of the "silent assassins" with diabetes being the other component. Hypertension is often referred to in this term because it gives no symptoms before it causes major damage. Do not be fooled by what average postmen will tell you. The myths are that "I can tell my blood pressure is elevated because I will become dizzy" or "I will develop a headache." The list goes on and on. I often inform patients that you do not want to wait for these symptoms as these are not useful ways to monitor proper blood pressure control. If you have hypertension and you are relying on these symptoms to tell you when your blood pressure is elevated, then you are playing Russian Roulette with your health. Instead, get into the habit of monitoring your blood pressure on a basis that is established by you and your physician. You may have heard the typical expression to keep blood pressure less than 140/90. These will apply to a majority of people. However proper supervision with your physician will determine the optimal blood pressure level you should maintain.

Eating a healthy diet and maintaining a regularly scheduled exercise regimen will help contribute to proper blood pressure control. If the question is asked do you eat healthy, the response is usually "I believe I am." There are many resources available with today's technology that can guide you in making healthy eating decisions. A vast majority of jobs, in today's world, offer wellness programs that are often underutilized. These programs typically consist of a "wellness coach" that is put in place to help give you advice on healthy lifestyle choices. If you utilize a website to help in making these choices, make sure it is a reputable site. Remember, everything that is on the internet is not necessarily the truth.

Maintaining a low salt diet can also contribute to proper blood pressure control. I ask my patients and especially my hypertension patients about their salt (sodium) intake. The response is "I don't use much salt" or "I only cook with salt and do not add salt to my food." My response is how many of us actually follow a recipe when it comes to flavoring with salt. We tend to salt to taste. Depending on your usage of salt, your salt tasting ability will normally be different from the next person. I can use one of my brothers (family) as an example of excessive salt usage as he will not be offended. He and I went to dinner one night. When our food arrived, he applied so much salt to his potatoes that it was almost impossible to distinguish the two apart. Excessive usage of salt tends to retain fluid that leads to elevated blood pressure along with other health issues. Consult your physician on the proper amount of salt that you should try to maintain on a daily basis.

BMI (body mass index) is the measure of body fat based on height and weight. It's useful to determine if an individual is at a healthy weight. Simply stated in postmen terms it inputs weight in kilograms divided by the square of height in meters. Do not worry, you can look up any BMI calculator on the internet and easily input your weight and height and the calculator does the rest. Underweight BMI is less than 18.5. Healthy weight is BMI of 18.5 to 24.9. Overweight is BMI of 25 to 29.9 and obese is BMI greater than 30. If you have a high muscle to fat ration, this scale can be misleading. This calculator is for adults 20 years and older. For children and teens the BMI calculator for Children and Teens is more appropriate. BMI can be an indicator for diseases such as: a) heart disease b) type 2 diabetes c) hypertension d) sleep apnea just to name a few of the diseases. I remind guys we often judge women on their appearance but fail to reflect on our own body image that is in the mirror. Let us tighten up our belts and strive to utilize healthy lifestyle choices for ourselves and our families.

*Contributor – RW Dr. Belfondia Pou
Grand Medical Registrar*

Achievements

District No. 14's Master Mason of the Year

Bro. Ivan Sanders from Pride of North Birmingham No. 319 was recently recognized as Master Mason of the Year by District 14. Bro. Sanders serves as the Junior Warden of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge and has been instrumental in several initiatives including support for Susan G. Komen, Crohn's disease, the march to end violence in West End and the organizing of the "Sight for Sore Eyes" benefit concert. Pride of North Birmingham No. 319 would like to congratulate Bro. Sanders on all of his accomplishments!



Bro. Ivan Sanders (right) pictured with Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins.



District No. 14's Lodge of the Year

On June 26, 2016, Pride of North Birmingham No. 319 was recognized as Lodge of the Year by District 14. Pride of North Birmingham No. 319 has been instrumental in several initiatives including Ronald McDonald House, Freedom Manor, the march to end violence in West End, voter registration drives, and assisting the Grand Lodge & Miles College at the Third Annual French Lyceum Series featuring Congressman John Lewis. Pride of North Birmingham No. 319 will continue striving towards our goal of being a positive representation of our Grand Lodge and embodying our beliefs of faith, hope and charity.



W.M. Timothy L. Sanford (first row/center) with members of Pride of North Birmingham No. 319

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama
146th Annual Communication

~ SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ~

Sunday, July 17, 2016

7:00 a. m. - 12:00 a. m.	Vendors.....Birmingham Ballrooms Prefunction
12:00 p. m. - 12:00 a. m.	Grand Lodge OfficeBirmingham Coatroom

Monday, July 18, 2016

7:00 a. m. - 12:00 a. m.	Grand Lodge OfficeBirmingham Coatroom
7:00 a. m. - 8:00 p. m.	RegistrationBirmingham Coatroom Foyer
7:00 a. m. - 12:00 a. m.	VendorsBirmingham Ballrooms Prefunction
7:00 a. m. - 4:00 p. m.	Health FairBirmingham Ballrooms Prefunction
8:00 a. m. - 1:00 p. m.	Trustees MeetingBirmingham Ballrooms 1 and 5
8:00 a. m. - 6:00 p. m.	Choir RehearsalEast Meeting Rooms I - J
8:00 a. m. - 6:00 p. m.	Committee MeetingsEast Meeting Rooms F – G
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Worshipful Master’s Certification..... Main Ballrooms 3,4,7,8,11,12
1:00 p. m. - 3:00 p. m.	Trustees LuncheonBirmingham Ballroom 9
3:00 p. m. - 6:00 p. m.	WorkshopBirmingham Ballrooms 1 and 5
5:00 p. m. - 7:00 p. m.	Holding Room.....Birmingham Ballrooms 2, 6, and 10 Cross Hall
6:00 p. m. - 8:00 p. m.	Welcome Program.....Birmingham Ballrooms
8:00 p. m. - 10:00 p. m.	Meet and Greet.....Birmingham Ballrooms 1, 5, and 9

Tuesday, July 19, 2016

7:00 a. m. - 8:00 p. m.	Grand Lodge Office.....Birmingham Coatroom
7:00 a. m. - 8:00 p. m.	RegistrationBirmingham Coatroom Foyer

***Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama
146th Annual Communication***

***~SCHEDULE OF EVENTS~
(Continued)***

7:00 a. m. - 12:00 a. m.	VendorsBirmingham Ballrooms Prefunction
7:00 a. m. - 4:00 p. m.	Health Fair.....Birmingham Ballrooms Prefunction
8:00 a. m. - 3:00 p.m.	Dignitaries Holding RoomBirmingham Ballrooms 2, 6, and 10 Cross Hall
8:00 a. m. - 5:00 p. m.	Grand Lodge Opening Session.....Birmingham Ballrooms
8:00 a. m. - 6:00 p. m.	Committee MeetingsEast Meeting Rooms F - G
8:00 a. m. - 7:00 p. m.	Chorus RehearsalEast Meeting Rooms I - J
5:00 p. m. - 7:00 p. m.	Dignitaries Holding Room.....Birmingham Ballrooms 2, 6, and 10 Cross Hall
7:00 p. m. - 9:00 p. m.	Lodge of SorrowBirmingham Ballrooms

Wednesday, July 20, 2016

5:00 a. m. - 7:30 a. m.	Past Masters DegreeBirmingham Ballroom 1
7:00 a. m. - 1:00 p. m	Grand Lodge OfficeBirmingham Coatroom
7:00 a. m. - 12:00 p. m.	VendorsBirmingham Ballrooms Prefunction
7:00 a. m. - 1:00 p. m.	RegistrationBirmingham Coatroom Foyer
8:00 a. m. - 1:00 p. m.	Grand Lodge Closing SessionBirmingham Ballrooms

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**Our Mission**

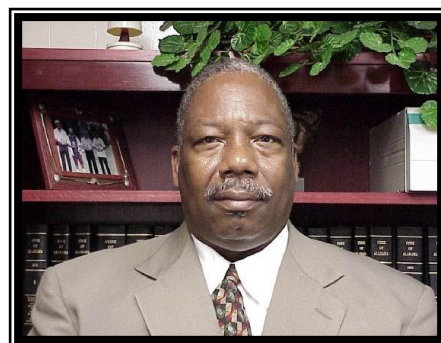
***“The mission of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge,  
Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama is to continue the  
legacy of making good men better through fraternal  
brotherhood, to aid and assist our widows, orphans, and  
distressed brothers, and to contribute to the community  
through service,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

# In The Spotlight

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

## Attorney William M. Pompey

Brother William M. Pompey is the youngest child born to the late Ben and Willie Mae Pompey. Mr. Ben Pompey was a United States Army Veteran and also employed as a United States Postal Service worker. Mrs. Pompey was a loving and dedicated housewife, community activist, and former secretary of the Birmingham Chapter of the NAACP. After overcoming Jim Crow laws and meeting poll tax requirements, both parents became registered voters. They voted in every election during their respective lifetimes. They understood and believed in the power of the vote and community activism; and they instilled those beliefs in their children.



Brother Pompey was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. He was educated in the Birmingham Public School system during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. The bombings, beatings, and many injustices he witnessed inspired him to volunteer and become one of the early students that integrated a local high school. Brother Pompey earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Miles College and Juris Doctorate Degree from Miles Law School. Through his parents' teachings, educational achievements, and life's lessons; Brother Pompey believes in, and works for, equal justice under the law for everyone.

Brother Pompey is the senior partner in the law firm of Pompey & Pompey, P.C., which is located in the heart of the Blackbelt (Camden, Alabama) and in one of the state's poorest counties (Wilcox). Their caseload consists of civil cases, which includes personal injury, wrongful deaths, product liability and criminal, juvenile, domestic relations, property, social security, guardianship & conservatorships, adoptions, deeds, employment law, corporate law matters, etc. providing services throughout Alabama. The firm has also represented municipal governments and corporate clients. Brother Pompey practices law with his wife, Brenda Montgomery Pompey who is a member of Lilly of the Valley Chapter No. 442 OES and they are proud parents of a son, William Maurice Pompey, II who is also a member of Goshen Lodge No. 530. Brother Pompey also serves as Attorney to the Hendley-Mack Grand Commandery, Order of Knights Templar.

Brother Pompey was raised in Steele Scepter Lodge No. 649 in Birmingham, Alabama in 1985 and demitted to Goshen Lodge No. 530 in 2008 where he presently serves as Marshall. He also serves on the Saint John's Day and Repost for Life Committees in his lodge. Brother Pompey presently serves on several committees at The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F&AM of Alabama which include the Grand Lodge Selma March, Public Relations, Corporate Liaison Committee and Prince Hall Americanism Classic Committee since 2014.

Brother Pompey is Vice-Chair of County Chairs for the Alabama Democratic Party, Chairman of the Seventh Congressional District of the Alabama Democratic Conference, and Chairman of the State Judiciary of the Alabama Democratic Conference. He is a member of the Alabama Democratic Party, Alabama Democratic Conference, Alabama State Bar Association, Alabama Lawyers Association, Board of Trustees of Miles College, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity, Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society and Sixth Avenue Baptist Church.



# REGION 1

## News and Events from Region 1

### St. John Lodge No. 2 PHamily and Friends Day

St. John Lodge No. 2 takes their mission statement very seriously, especially the last two words: “charity and training.” Six years ago with this in mind, the lodge came up with the idea of a PHamily and Friends Day with the hopes of providing a safe environment for families to come together and fellowship in outdoor activities focused on the children. Since the original PHamily and Friends Day they have opened this event to the public and provide activities practically all day long. This year’s event was held on May 14th and included free food, drinks, space jumps, several outdoor games, water park games, music, dancing, etc. There was just as much fun for the adults as it was for the children. As always, they thanked all for their participation and assistance, and prayers that transfer from their efforts to the smiles on every child’s face in the years to come.



### St. John Lodge No. 2 City Wide “Stop the Violence” Rally

St. John Lodge No. 2 was invited and pleased to serve the community in a city wide “Stop the Violence” Rally at Figures Park in Mobile, AL on May 28, 2016. It’s a different feeling to see the violence around the world and police killings, but those unfortunate events have spread into our local neighborhoods. The Brothers of St. John No. 2 brought our time and man power to team up with City Councilmen and other local other organizations to give away truckloads of food for homes, free food and drinks, public speakers, vendor booths, and so much more.

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

# REGION 4

## News and Events from Region 4

### Phoenix Lodge No. 428 Youth Scholarship Presentation

**D**istrict 7 hosted St. John's Day celebration on Sunday, June 26th in Loachapoka, Alabama.

The event was held at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. Masonic lodges from Russell, Lee and Macon Counties participated in the annual masonic celebration. O.E.S. Chapters from District 7 and 10 were also there in full force supporting the masonic brothers. Both sides of the pews were filled with brothers and sisters. The program featured devotional singing and a good message by Rev. Anthony Shealey.

The highlight of the evening was District Deputy Morris Tooles', II awards and presentation portion of the program. It was an opportunity for District 7 to present scholarships to three deserving recipients from the three counties of Russell, Lee and Macon. In addition, individual lodges also presented their scholarships to deserving youth. WM Carl Jones took the podium and called his lodge brethren to the front with 5 large ceremonial \$500.00 scholarship checks. One by one the announcement of the recipients was given. Congratulations to those deserving college bound students on receiving the Phoenix Lodge No. 428 college scholarships: Calena Brown, Collin Nelson, Anthonia Oladejo, Walter Pritchett and Raven Rivers. Phoenix Lodge No. 428 has given out over \$16,500.00 in scholarships over the past 10 years. Their annual scholarship fundraising event, "Party with a Purpose", is the key to their success in giving back to the youth.



*Members of Phoenix Lodge No. 428  
presenting 5 scholarships to deserving college bound students*



# Phoenix Lodge No. 428

## Honoring Fallen Heroes That Gave Their All

Memorial Day comes and goes for most people. Some never take the time to realize the true meaning of this solemn holiday. For the brothers of Phoenix Lodge No. 428, they know the full meaning of this special and memorable day. Veterans of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 took this opportunity to join with students from Central High School in Phenix City, Alabama on a collaborative effort to post the American Flag on every headstone at Ft Mitchell National Cemetery. Not only was this a huge community service project but the brothers of Lodge No. 428 had a special incentive for participating in the flag posting on May 28th. Two years earlier, Phoenix Lodge No. 428 performed the funeral and gravesite ceremony for one of their own Past Masters. PM David Hall was laid to rest in Ft Mitchell National Cemetery in 2014. WM Carl Jones and members of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 performed the rites for PM Hall. Now with students joining them in posting the flags on every headstone, the brothers had the opportunity to visit PM David Hall's gravesite. Members from the lodge gathered around his headstone and posted a flag there. WM Carl Jones tasked veteran members and Veteran Liaison Officer Brother Sean Gathers to coordinate this community service event. Veterans from the lodge joined in and participated in the special flag posting for our fallen brother, David Hall. Two years earlier, the lodge went to Atlanta to visit with PM David Hall, who was the oldest living member of the lodge at that time. Less than three months later PM Hall passed away. "This was a huge loss for the lodge and we wanted to show our respect to a great man who embodied the spirit of Masonry", said WM Jones.

Veteran members of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 that participated were WM Carl Jones-retired Navy, Brother Sean Gathers-retired Army, Brother Monte Hundley-retired Army, Brother Felton Harley-Army veteran, Brother Mark Carnes-U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Bro Demetrius Miles and Bro Harvey Stephens also participated in this event.



*Members of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 posting flag on the grave of PM Hall*



*Members of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 and Central High School*

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



# Golden Rule and Opelika Citizens Stand United in a March for Non-violence

On Saturday, June 11, a group of Opelika residents and local officials marched to the Courthouse Square in downtown Opelika to take a stand against violence in the community. Opelika City Councilman Larry Gray, who is an active member of Golden Rule Lodge No. 11, organized the event, and was pleased with the turnout in the inaugural year of the march.

"Violence is a nuisance to all of us here in town, and we came out in big numbers to let everybody know that we're tired of it and we want to do something about it," Gray said. "One voice speaks loud, but many voices speak extremely loud." Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller spoke about coming together as a community. "Whenever something happens in our community, it doesn't matter if it happens in Ward 2 or Ward 1, it is all Opelika," Fuller said. "We're in this thing together in the good times, bad times and in-between times. We've got a bright future ahead of us."

Amie White, a teacher at Opelika Learning Center, said she wanted to march for the kids at her school who do not have someone to talk or interact with in their lives. "I'm marching today for the kids that are on my hallway that are crying because no one is coming to eat lunch with them," White said. "These kids don't have anybody, and the community needs to get out and come together. It's not a black issue, it's not a white issue; it's an issue for everybody to come out and show the kids that we love them and we care about them."

Kari McIntosh, a music teacher at the primary schools in Opelika, said she wanted to help make a difference in the area. I just want to be a part of the change in the community and want to see hearts and lives changed," McIntosh said.





Kim Allen, who recently moved to Opelika, said she wanted to be involved in her community. "I live here, I work here and it's important to this community that we come together and to let everyone know that we do care," Allen said. "A lot of people think that we don't care about what's going on, but we do. It's only a few people that are bringing the negativity to us, but as a whole, we do care."

At the end of the march, Opelika resident Jeremy Gray, owner of Elevate Your Grind, which seeks to improve lives through a mind, body, and soul experience, spoke to the marchers about courses of action to take to end the violence. "Each individual has to find within themselves how can they change this community," Jeremy Gray said. "Without everybody's individual effort, nothing will be done. Once we change ourselves, then we change the community."

This event was sponsored by Golden Rule Lodge No. 11. District 7 and the lodge have partnered with the Mayor and the City of Opelika to make a positive difference in the Historic Opelika Area!

Golden Rule Lodge No. 11 also sponsored a Fish Fry Fundraiser in which the proceeds are used for awareness and scholars. Golden Rule Lodge is working to make a difference.

*Contributor — WM Troy D. Booth (No. 11)*





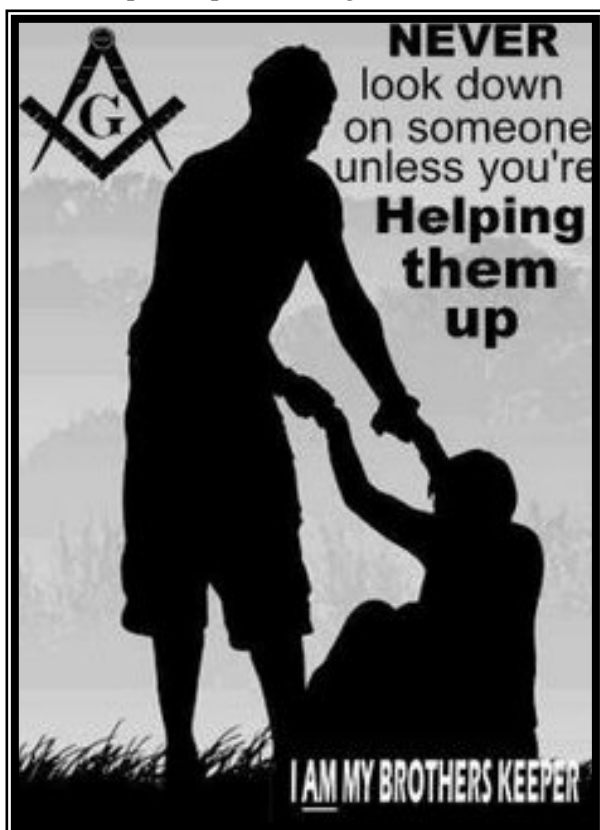
## REGION 5

### News and Events from Region 5

# Pride of North Birmingham Gives For God, For Pride, For Fathers

On June 16, Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319, visited the residents of Freedom Manor, a low income residential facility managed by the Housing Authority of the Birmingham District. The brothers of Pride of North Birmingham paid special tribute to the fathers who reside at the facility. A special Father's Day Dinner was provided for the gentlemen as they were thanked for the roles they have played in the lives of many. The gentlemen were reminded of the positive influences they have had on the hearts and souls of the various people they have interacted with.

Situated in the Civil Rights District of Birmingham, the fathers of Freedom Manor were also thanked for their steadfast and unwavering courage they have displayed while paving the way for many individuals, especially those they have fathered. The dinner was just another way the brothers of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 have continued to keep their promise to give back to the community and those that have given so much before them.



Contributor — Bro. Kelvin Luster (No. 319)

## Team Work Makes The Dream Work With Habitat for Humanity



*And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.  
1Cor. 13:13.*

On April 9th, Brother Micheal McCall of William O. Jones Lodge No. 971 assisted the sisters of Agape Chapter No. 898 OES, where he also serves as Worthy Patron, in a day of community service. The group volunteered to assist Habitat for Humanity in restoring a Birmingham home that was damaged in a house fire. The group assisted with floor installation, tile, vinyl siding and door painting. A great and rewarding time was had by all involved.

*Contributor — Bro. Micheal McCall (No. 971)*

## Triune Lodge No. 430 Runs Race to Donate to Ronald McDonald House

The brothers of Triune Lodge No. 430 have volunteered often for Ronald McDonald House Charities. In fact, Triune Lodge No. 430 was 2014 Volunteer Group of the Year for RMHC. This April, lodge members participated in the “Color Me Rad” Race in Hoover, Alabama. For each participant \$75 went to the RMHC. The lodge has also participated in several other Runs and Christmas events. What an awesome way to serve the community!



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



## REGION 6

### News and Events from Region 6

# District No. 17 Answers the Call During a Water Crisis

On Saturday, June 18, 2016 lodges in the Northeast Region of District No. 17 came together to make donations of water to citizens of West Morgan and East Lawrence counties. During the month of May the Alabama Department of Environmental Management declared the tap water in these counties was unfit for consumption affecting over 10,000 citizens in the area. The contamination of the water was a result of chemical toxins being dumped in the river that served as the main water source for the area. After hearing this news, Grand District Deputy Anthony Johnson called upon the lodges to make donations of water to support those in need. District No. 17 was able to donate over 200 cases of water to help those affected by the contaminated water. Grand District Deputy Johnson stated, "This crisis is in our backyard so we could not standby and do nothing." The District plans to have continued support as long as the crisis exists.



Contributor — RW Anthony Johnson (No. 50)



# District No. 17 Celebrates

## St. John's Day

On Sunday, June 24, 2016, the Northeast and Northwest regions of District No. 17 held programs to celebrate St. John's Day. The Northeast region held its program at Big Shiloh Baptist Church in Madison, AL. The speaker of the hour was Pastor B. A. Windrow of Olive Missionary Baptist Church (Antioch, TN) who delivered a very inspirational message during the program. Dignitaries in attendance were Grand Trustee Andrew Fuller, Grand District Deputy Anthony Johnson, Grand Worthy Patron Calvin Miller, Grand District Deputy Michele King (District No. 15 OES) and Past Grand Senior Warden Robert Langford. Also present was Frank Langford who serves as Assistant Grand District Deputy. At the conclusion of the program remarks were provided by Grand District Deputy Anthony Johnson and Grand District Deputy Michele King. During his remarks Grand District Deputy Johnson thanked the brothers and sisters for their support in donating water for the citizens of West Morgan and East Lawrence counties affected by the recent water crisis. Deputy Johnson also went on to state the importance of exercising their right to vote, as well as, challenging every lodge and chapter to form voter registration committees during the upcoming election season.

The lodges of the Northwest region held its program at St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church in Florence, AL. Bishop Dr. Will Boyd served as the speaker of the hour. The dignitary in attendance was Grand District Deputy Glenda Reynolds (District No. 16 OES). Also present was Robert Johnson who also serves as Assistant Grand District Deputy. Bishop Boyd's message was very inspiring and truly left a lasting impression on the minds of all those in attendance. Both programs were well attended by the brothers and sisters and we look forward to next year's celebration.



# Keystone Lodge No. 40

## Celebrates 126 Year Anniversary

On Sunday, May 29, 2016, Keystone Lodge No. 40 celebrated its 126th year Anniversary. The speaker, Rev. Lathan Strong of Morning Star Lodge No. 50, preached a spiritual and inspirational sermon from Psalm 127:1 titled, **“The Main Source”**. Rev. Strong launched his sermon expounding on Prince Hall Affiliated (PHA) Masons. He reiterated that we are more than just Masons, we are PHA Masons. Throughout his sermon he challenged the membership as PHA Masons. “Respect of leadership and your time as leader will come at God’s time”. This was also a challenge to all present and not specifically to just the Brothers and Sisters. Rev. Strong talked about the longevity of Keystone No. 40 and the 126 years of service, spiritual remodeling, having the right information to rebuild and the obstacles you may encounter as you rebuild. “When rebuilding, you will find out its more time involved than anticipated, it costs more and there is messiness.” This is true in our Christian and Masonic walk in life. We were reminded through a story of the way that God has blessings/gifts wrapped in store for us that we don’t try to open. Rev. Strong prayed a powerful prayer with Keystone members. As he prayed to remove all negative spirits and demons that can hold us back, he instructed us to put God first in all we do. This was a very encouraging prayer totally inspired by God. The final challenge was, **“I WILL DO MORE THAN...”**

*Contributor — WM Guy R. King (No. 40)*



selfless leader  
humility action  
servant  
leadership  
good-listener open-minded  
ethical role-model



# Obituaries

## Brothers Called Home by the Grand Architect

**B**rother Benjamin E. Beasley, Jr., a resident of Montgomery Alabama, Honorary Past Grand Master, Grand District Deputy and Hall of Fame Inductee, passed away on Saturday, May 21, 2016.

Brother Beasley served the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. and A. M. of Alabama faithfully as Grand District Deputy of District No. 8 for several years until his demise. He was appointed Honorary Past Grand Master in 2014 and inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2015.

He leaves to cherish his memories: a devoted and loving wife of 70 years Annie Bell Beasley; one brother, Hezekiah (Lucille) Beasley, Miami, Florida; two sisters, Mildred Tuck, Orlando, Florida; Cornelia Robinson, Montgomery, AL; two sons, John Douglas Beasley, Alfred Fitzgerald (Tara) Beasley; two daughters, Annie Deloris Frazier, Alma Lanell Beasley Figueroa Thompson (Cardell, Sr.) all of Montgomery, Alabama; one son-in-law, Elbert F. Ellis, Riverdale, Georgia; twenty-five grandchildren, over twenty great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and many friends.



*Brother Benjamin E. Beasley, Jr., Honorary Past Grand Master,  
Grand District Deputy and Hall of Fame Inductee*



# Article Submission Guidelines

*The Cornerstone Message* accepts submissions of articles, flyers, and information of events of general interests to Prince Hall Masons throughout the state of Alabama. *The Cornerstone Message* is published quarterly in the months of April, July, October, and January. Submission of articles and photographs are to be forwarded to the publication's editor via email (cseditor@mwphglal.com). Please include a point of contact and telephone number with each article submission. Articles and photographs become property of the publication and the right is reserved to edit and use the articles and photographs as deemed necessary. Deadline for submissions for the next issue of *The Cornerstone Message* is **5 October 2016**. These articles should include events from **July 2016—September 2016**. Articles are to be submitted with a minimum of one paragraph and using Microsoft Word (Times New Roman 11) and photographs should be of good quality JPEG format and captioned. No more than two articles per lodge can be submitted for each edition. Permission to reprint original articles appearing in *The Cornerstone Message* is granted to all recognized Masonic publications.

## THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE



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