



# THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE

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

VOLUME VI, ISSUE III

JULY 2018

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

148th Annual  
Communication  
Schedule of Events

# AAMU AWARDS GRAND LODGE





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

# THE GRAND MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Editor's Message	2
Prince Hall Americanism Weekend Information	3
P.H.A. Scholarship Golf Tournament Information	4
Temple Renovation Fundraiser	7
Grand Lodge History	9
Message from the Grand Medical Registrar	11
A Blast from the Past	12
Dollars and Sense	14
Achievements	15
In The Spotlight	16
News & Events from Region 4	18
148th Annual Communication Schedule of Events	19
News & Events from Region 6	27
150th Anniversary Celebration Cruise	37
Article Submission Guidelines	39



*Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.*  
1 Peter 3:8-9

Welcome to Mobile, Alabama, the birthplace of homerun king Henry "Hank" Aaron. Just as Hank would swing for the fence when he played major league baseball, so should we as Prince Hall Masons swing for the fence in all our endeavors. As we participate in our 148th Annual Communication, we should take time to reflect on those who had the vision of establishing a Grand Lodge in Alabama and those who, over the years, have built upon the foundation. We should be grateful and should take our obligation to continue to carry this great Grand Lodge onward and upward very serious.

We continue to progress in many areas. Our membership continues to increase. Participation in various events has increased. Interest in the organization continues to blossom. I am very proud of our progress over the last five years. You should be proud, as well.

This year was another successful year for our regional meetings. Many more brothers are coming out and participating, as well as, taking the initiative to be informed. Your participation in our regional meetings is

indicative of the course that this ship is on.

Our next major event will be our Fifth Annual Prince Hall Americanism Football Classic Weekend. The Classic Weekend will be September 14-16, 2018, in Birmingham, Alabama. On this year Miles College will be hosting Fort Valley State University. We will have our Prince Hall Americanism Day Service on that Sunday on the campus of Miles College. I encourage all to come out and participate. Bring your family and friends.

I offer my 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.

As we enter our 148th Annual Communication, I encourage each of you to be of one mind, on one accord, with one goal: To make our beloved Grand Lodge the best it can possibly be. To achieve this goal, we must keep God first. For as long as He is in our midst, we will be successful.

I love each of you and I thank each of you for your unswerving support. May the Almighty Father continue to bless each of you and may He bless our precious Grand Lodge!

Fraternally,

*Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.*

Most Worshipful Grand Master

Front Cover:

Grand Lodge Receives Award from Alabama A&M University



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

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

The first half of the new year is over and I would like to commend the Grand Lodge and subordinate lodges for your renewed enthusiasm. Your good works to start off 2018 have been displayed for all to see through the first two editions of *The Cornerstone Newsletter*. Now is the time to prepare for the rest of the year and launch us into a successful future of growth, stability, and leadership in the Jurisdiction of Alabama.

This year is moving very fast, it has caused me to slow down and remember what is most important in my life. Of course, God and family were the first two things that came into my thoughts. So, I gave a little extra thought to those two. I started with God first and thanked him for all my blessings, then I started thinking who were included in the family I was thanking God for. My beautiful mother was my first thought, then my siblings, their children and then a host of other relatives. I also thought of my father who I wish was still here to pat me on the shoulder and say, "Good job son!" My next thought brought me to my Masonic family, which is so vast in numbers that I

had to go back to God and start thanking him all over again. I hope we all take time to thank God for our many blessings; for with God, all things are possible. I do not want to forget to also thank all of you for being a part of my Masonic Family.

As always, I encourage all subordinate lodges to continue to support *The Cornerstone Message* and show all readers of this newsletter what your lodges are doing in 2018 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)

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

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.

- \$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, 2018.



BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



ALABAMA PRINCE HALL MASONS  
AMERICANISM FOOTBALL CLASSIC  
**WEEKEND**  
SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2018



MILES COLLEGE VS FORT VALLEY

ENJOY THE PHA CLASSIC  
**VIP STYLE**



[WWW.BAMAPHACLASSIC.COM](http://WWW.BAMAPHACLASSIC.COM)

**PLATINUM VIP PACKAGE.....\$105**

GAME TICKET  
T-SHIRT  
TAILGATE  
VIP PARKING  
INSIDE TAILGATE AREA

**GOLD PACKAGE.....\$85**

GAME TICKET  
T-SHIRT  
TAILGATE  
ON CAMPUS PARKING

**SILVER PACKAGE.....\$75**

GAME TICKET  
T-SHIRT  
TAILGATE  
PARKING ACROSS  
BY BAND ROOM

.....  
PRIVATE TENT SPOTS.....\$125  
INCLUDES - TENT & 1 PARKING SPOT

.....  
RV PARKING.....\$125

**ALA CARTE PRICING**

GAME TICKET.....\$20  
TAILGATE.....\$20  
T-SHIRT.....\$15  
PARKING BY BAND ROOM.....\$20



# *P.H.A. Scholarship Golf Tournament*

**18 holes Shotgun Start Best Ball**

*Frank House Golf Course*

*September 14, 2018*

*8:00 a.m.*

*Prizes for Closest to the Pin and  
Longest Drive*

*\$100 Hole Sponsorship*

*\$60 each (2-man teams)*

*Includes 18 holes, cart, and lunch*

*Contact Desmond Thomas - 205-542-5553*

*or*

*Ron Jones - 205-603-5120*

*for more information*



## ***Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama***

Post Office Box 10504 –Birmingham, AL 35202-0504

[www.bamaphaclassic.com](http://www.bamaphaclassic.com)

### **Prince Hall Americanism Classic Scholarship Golf Tournament**

**Golf Tournament to be held on September 14, 2018, at Frank House Municipal Golf Course 801 Golf Course Road Bessemer, AL 35022 (205) 424-9540**

### ***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.**

**We invite you to join us as a sponsor for this event by choosing a sponsorship for (\$100.00) or supporting us through donations of various prizes that will be distributed throughout our tournament. As a sponsor you will be promoting your company or group to enrich our mission and know that we are forever grateful for your contributions.**

**We are anticipating a highly successful and well -attended Golf Tournament. Again, thank you for your support.**

### ***To Become a Sponsor Contact:***

**Chairman: Desmond Thomas**

**Phone: 205-542-5553**

**Email: des104@yahoo.com**

**Co-Chairman: Ron K. Jones**

**Phone: 205-603-5120**

**Email: rkj4life@bellsouth .net**

**Make checks payable to:**

**Prince Hall Legacy Foundation of Alabama**

**319 17th Street North, Ste. 201, Birmingham, AL 35203**

**or**

**Convenient online payments at:**

**bamaphaclassic.com (P.H.A. Classic Scholarship Golf Tournament)**



## ***Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama***

Post Office Box 10504, Birmingham, AL 35202-0504 205-328-9078

[www.mwphglofal.com](http://www.mwphglofal.com)

***P.H.A. Classic Scholarship Golf Tournament***

**Friday, September 14, 2018 at 8:00 A.M.**

Frank House Municipal Golf Course

801 Golf Course Road Bessemer, AL 35022

(205)424-9540

### **Registration Form**

**Two Man Scramble/Best Ball / Farthest Drive/ Closet Pin 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Trophies**

**Team or Group Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Players:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**On-Site –Registration (Clubhouse) 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M. Rules and placement of Teams: 8:00 A.M. - 8:30 A.M. PGA Course Director (Ed Davis)**

**Cost: \$60.00 per player**

**Includes: Green Fees, Cart & Lunch (Per Golfer)**

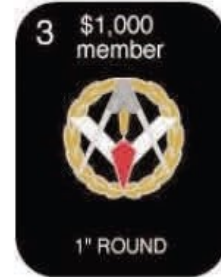


# Support the Temple Renovation

**M**<sup>ost</sup>

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!



Support the Prince Hall Legacy Foundation of Alabama, Inc.



BY PURCHASING YOUR

ALABAMA PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE LICENSE PLATE

**TODAY!!!**

*(We have met and exceeded our required 250 COMMITMENTS)*

***Tags are now being issued...***

**For More Information Visit :**

<http://revenue.alabama.gov/motorvehicle/princehallgrandlodge.cfm>

*(You may purchase the MWPHGL of AL Tags Anytime,  
You do not have to wait for your renewal Month!)*



# From Whence We've Come...

## Hidden in Plain Sight

### The Missing History of Grand Master Benjamin Franklin D. Taylor

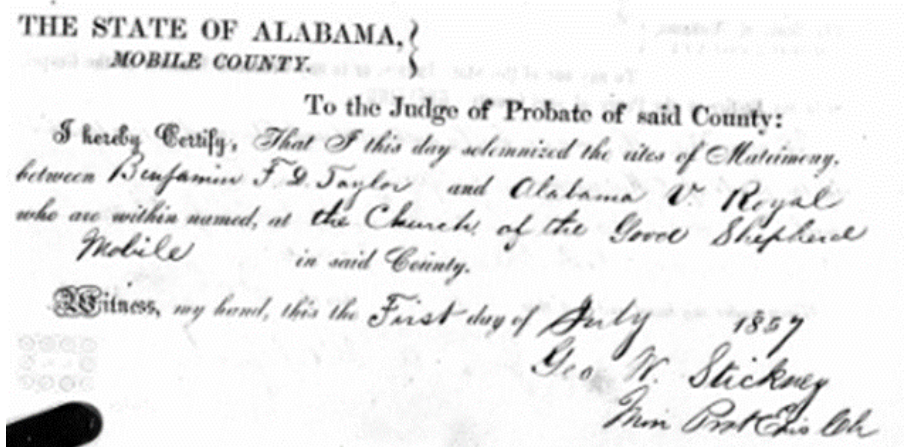


While perusing the proceedings of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama, as readers, we notice and often overlook many of the names that are gently nestled in the closing pages. Within the back of the proceedings is a listing of prior Grand Lodge Officers. Among those that are typically reviewed, is Alabama's first Most Worshipful Grand Master, Franklin D. Taylor. Given the reality of time and onset of history and life, the documentary evidence of our first Grand Master has fled our historical record. The only identifiable markers that we possessed of his life were the Grand Lodge proceedings, a sparse collection of United States Census records and a handful of short newspaper articles that bore his name.

Since being elected, Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq., has often requested historical updates on individuals and moments of the Grand Lodge history that were unique. One of which was the lack of historical record on G.M.: Taylor. During our conversations, I would highlight how G.M.: Taylor's record had literally stumped those historians interested in his story. Much more, how we failed to have an actual portrait of him, as well. That was until our own historical sleuth, G.M.: Hawkins uncovered an old portrait of G.M.: Taylor while working within the Grand Lodge building.

G.M.: Hawkins inquired, "Is this the guy we've been looking for?" I replied, "Yes, hurry up and send me a picture of him!" Low and behold, G.M.: Hawkins was able to find a framed and well-preserved portrait labeled, "B.F.D. Taylor, Past Grand Master." To many, this would seem like a simple find that was really no big deal; however, for researchers and historians, this modest portrait was clearly a goldmine!

Upon receipt of the portrait of G.M.: Taylor, I looked closely into the inscription of his name. Upon closer reflection and additional research, I was able to determine that the real name of F.D. Taylor, was actually Benjamin Franklin David Taylor, born 1836. Yet, his birth location remains an enigma. We find that he married Alabama Victoria Royal, on July 1, 1857. They would eventually have two sons David Franklin (b. 1859) and Frederick David (b. 1861).



Brother Taylor's early life remains enigmatic to many masonic historians due to the lack of records from early Mobile. We do learn that Bro. Taylor worked as a grocer, saloon owner, Asst. police chief, and cotton broker. What we have learned of Grand Master Taylor is that he was among the first men initiated into Freemasonry in 1857, along with Past G.M.: Simon Strudwick (S.S.) Ashe and others, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Brother Taylor's earliest membership is documented in Parsons Lodge No. 18<sup>1</sup>, under the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted York Masons for the State of Ohio.

In the 1861 Grand Lodge Proceedings, Grand Secretary W.E. Ambush, noted this of the Brothers in the Louisiana lodges, "Please to take notice – That Brothers G.J. Pollard, E.D. Page and F.D. Taylor, late of Mobile, Alabama, now reside in Ohio, and are not considered members of the Parsons Lodge<sup>2</sup>." This detachment from Parsons Lodge could serve as an early indicator of the exodus of free African-Americans from Mobile at the onset of the Civil War. It is known that Brother Taylor, along with Brothers Simon S. Ashe, G.W. Bryant, John H. Ashe, Horace King and others relocated to Ohio. Like those he was initiated with, Taylor too migrated to Xenia, Ohio and expanded his cotton trade business from Mobile, to New Orleans and all points North, upwards to Ohio.

He would later become a member of Hiram Lodge, U.D.<sup>3</sup> (later Hiram Lodge No. 28) under the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted York Masons for the State of Ohio. Hiram Lodge after the consolidation of lodges in 1870 would later become Hiram Lodge No. 3, under the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, for the State of Alabama, on September 27, 1870<sup>4</sup>.

In 1868, Brother Taylor received a dispensation from Grand Master W.D. Goff of the M.W. Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free & Accepted Masons for the State of Ohio and its Jurisdictions. In his 1868 Grand Master's Address he stated, "I made two special appointments – Bro. F.D. Taylor, Past Master, to organize Stranger's Lodge, in the city of Mobile, Ala."<sup>5</sup>

The tale of Grand Masters of Alabama began with Bro. Benjamin Franklin David Taylor. His being elected and serving as the first Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons for the State of Alabama in 1870, [he] was re-elected in 1871 and elected as Deputy Grand Master in 1872; however, Alabama's 2nd Grand Master, Bro. Emile Henry died while only in office for less than a year. Grand Master Taylor would serve until 1874. Bro. Taylor's election was presided over by Simon S. Ashe, on September 27, 1870<sup>6</sup>, making him the first elected Grand Master in the Jurisdiction of Alabama, for men of color, tracing itself to African Lodge, No. 459.

He would later migrate like many other members, such as Henry A. Clements, S.S. Ashe and G.W. Bryant, to the State of Texas. The members of Alabama's jurisdiction would go on to assist in the formation and leadership of the York Rite bodies in Texas. Taylor would be found in Houston, Texas, serving the church as a minister. His masonic career continued on as he was a member of Prince Hall Chapter, No. 10, when serving as Excellent High Priest, which was organized in July 1882. More information on Grand Master Taylor will be discussed in depth in *African-American Freemasonry in the Heart of Dixie: The Official History of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama*, which will be published in the fall of 2019.

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted A.Y. Masons for the State of Ohio, 1861, p. 36-37.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 37.

<sup>3</sup> Transactions of the M.W. Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient & Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Ohio and its Jurisdictions, 1869, p. 70.

<sup>4</sup> Proceedings of the First Annual Communications of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, for the State of Alabama. June 21, 1871, p. 20.

<sup>5</sup> Proceedings of the M.W. Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free & Accepted Masons for the State of Ohio and its Jurisdictions, 1868, p.6.

<sup>6</sup> Proceedings of the First Annual Communications of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, for the State of Alabama. June 21, 1871, p. 2.

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



# Message from the Grand Medical Registrar

## DEPRESSION

**G**reetings Brothers,  
Recently there has been a great deal of suicidal deaths reported in the media. These deaths received more attention as the majority were celebrity deaths. Depression reportedly played a major role in their deaths. Many people experience depression and do not realize that they are in a state of depression. Some people believe that their troubles are so overwhelming that they do not have any alternatives. People experience the “blues” in which one may experience loneliness, grief or sadness. It is the people that have difficulty bouncing back from these situations that need to seek help. I use two sayings in my practice when I have to treat or refer someone to a specialist for depression. One is the fact that people will reply that they do not want to be on “crazy medications” or see a “crazy doctor”. I normally tell them we as a medical profession do not have “crazy medications” or “crazy doctors”. Instead there are appropriate medications and specialized physicians that are used to properly treat their current conditions. Lastly, I ask a biblical question in this regards. If the greatest man, when he was a man—that walked this earth became depressed, then what about you and I. I tell people that even Jesus had to rely on his Heavenly Father to help him through a rough patch in his life.

One of the difficulties in dealing with depression is getting past the stigmata of television shows and social media. Certain television shows in the past unfortunately may have played a role in dissuading people from seeking help. I personally, can recall several television shows that people may intentionally or unintentionally reference when dealing with this issue. Also, social media can be used in a very cruel manner. Social media has unfortunately been used for some very mean purposes in which “bullying” has occurred. People whom participate with social media should be mindful of comments that can lead to another person’s grief.

There are multiple forms of depression and that is why it is important to seek out help if you believe you are dealing with a possible state of depression. Depression can affect many aspects of your life. This can range from issues such as sexual relationships, sleep patterns, perception of pain or even suicide. The emphasis once again is to encourage one to seek help with a professional to see if symptoms of depression exist and to get appropriate treatment. Please do not feel as if you are isolated and there is no way out of your situation.

When I was in medical school, we learned an acronym to help us recognize some of the symptoms of one form of depression. I still use it to this day to assist in treating people with one form of depression.

It is as follows:

- S: sleep disturbance that is increased or decreased.
- I : interest that is depleted (not finding pleasure in things that you previously enjoyed)..
- G: feelings of guilt or feeling worthlessness.
- E: decreased energy ( fatigue).
- C: difficulty concentrating or focusing.
- A: appetite is either increased or decreased.
- P: psychomotor retardation or agitation ( this involves muscular activity)
- S: suicidality.

We were taught that at least 5 of these features needed to be present for at least 2 weeks before making a diagnose. However, this is not for you to self diagnose but rather use as a tool to see if you need to seek out professional help in dealing with a possible form of depression. Please do not feel ashamed of being depressed or having any mental disorder. The key, once again, is seeking appropriate treatment. If you know of someone that is dealing with depression, then have some compassion as you can possibly make a difference in their lives. Remember the saying “ the only time you should look down on a man is when you are picking them up”. I love that line from the William’s Brothers song.

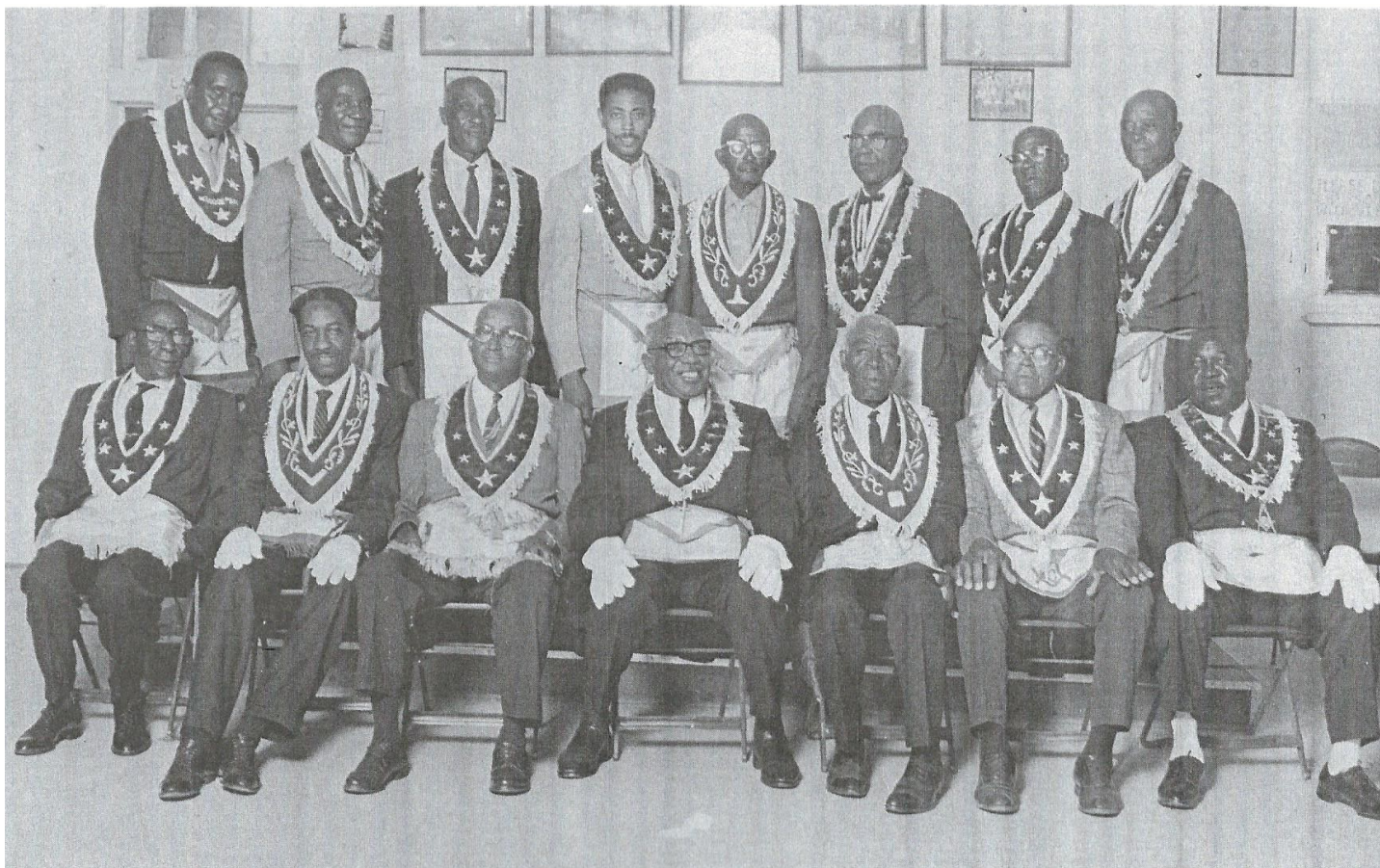
Last, if you seek help be reminded that your situation is confidential between you and your physician. Let us start to take control of our mental, as well as, physical health, brothers. Let us also go back to being our brother’s keeper because you never know how a word of encouragement may affect another person’s life.

May GOD bless and keep you.

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

## A Blast from the Past

### GREETINGS FROM DISTRICT NO. 8



GREETINGS from District No. 8. Brother Willie Cottrell is the Grand District Deputy. This district has 31 lodges and 2,136 members in Montgomery County. All Masters are working toward a better district during the year 1970.



## GRAND LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

B F D F E L L O W S H I P K Y V W G T P  
 N U G Q L X C W L S S R E H T O R B A R  
 P W E L C O M E P N R B D B B H J P J O  
 O A A W A R D S R S V E K I M D S I O G  
 G T C X G X H G M T G Q T X F S R E I R  
 T R U S T E E S E X I N E S H W O S M A  
 N C O M M I T T E E S F I S I R N W G M  
 O E K A H S D N A H T K I T C S O J G D  
 I H L Z W O R K S H O P Z C E O H A F Z  
 T V D R H K S O R R O W F S A E R M C I  
 A V H Z L A S R A E H E R U P T M T Y N  
 C R K N I G H T S T E M P L A R I I S D  
 I E U L L A M O B I L E V H X U P O I A  
 N T M L G K F X K T F D P Y S P A S N J  
 U S R E C I F F O S S E R D D A S C Z O  
 M I N A S E I R A T I N G I D D S H X A  
 M G Q Y A S E R M O N L M I V X I O K X  
 O E L A U R A I S I N G C E K Z N I O X  
 C R N P C Q C P G O E O T T G A G R T U  
 A N N U A L M O O R L L A B Y P P J T G

ADDRESS	ESCORTS	PROGRAM
ANNUAL	FELLOWSHIP	RAISING
AWARDS	HANDSHAKE	REGISTER
BALLROOM	HONORS	REHEARSAL
BROTHERS	KNIGHTS TEMPLAR	SERMON
CERTIFICATION	LODGE	SISTERS
CHOIR	MEETINGS	SORROW
COMMITTEES	MOBILE	TRUSTEES
COMMUNICATION	OFFICERS	WELCOME
DIGNITARIES	PASSING	WORKSHOP

# \$ Dollars and Sense \$

## Tips for Successful Retirement Planning Strategies “Four Strategies for Your 401(k)”

A successful 401(k) is a tactical plan for long term investing. People are living longer, meaning that retirements are lasting longer -- sometimes 20 or 30 years. Smart people will invest in their 401(k) now for the long term with the goal to have sufficient assets accumulated when retirement time comes.

If you have some type of 401(k) offering at work, it's a great opportunity to take charge of your financial future. If your workplace offers any type of matching program, be sure to take advantage. Especially in this economy, don't leave extra money on the table.

Here are some tips that can help achieve 401(k) success.

### 1. Resist the urge to stop contributing to your workplace-provided retirement plan.

Yes times are tough and money is tight. But an important driver of human behavior is "inertia." Once you're in the plan, you tend to stay in it, and once you leave it, it will be tough to restart. Do yourself a favor and stay the course and reap the benefits when the economy recovers.

### 2. Keep your focus on the long term.

Retirement plans are long-term financial vehicles, so keep your eyes on the goals: investing as much as possible for your future retirement and investing for the long-term. Attempting to time the markets' volatility may cause you to miss out on upturns you can't predict.

### 3. Don't take a loan or a withdrawal.

While many workplace-sponsored retirement plans permit loans and withdrawals, they are almost always a bad idea, primarily because you are reducing your assets and you may be jeopardizing your future financial health. Additionally, you might be subject to additional taxes and/or penalties. Withdrawals and distributions of taxable amounts are subject to ordinary income tax and, if made prior to age 59 ½, may be subject to an additional 10% federal income tax penalty. While loans are generally not taxable, if you leave your employer you could be faced with immediate taxation and penalties if you cannot raise the funds to pay off that loan. The best plan is to look elsewhere for immediate sources of emergency cash. You will thank yourself during your retirement years.

### 4. Think about retirement income rather than a retirement nest egg.

Many people forget that the whole point of a retirement funding strategy is to help create a stream of income to live on during retirement, when you will no longer receive a paycheck from your employer. So, take advantage of web-based tools that help you project how much retirement income your projected savings and investments will generate. For many people, it is much less than they imagine, which could suggest two solutions: working longer or saving more. Not completely enticing, of course, but probably better than not having enough money to survive during your retirement.

Staying the course and planning strategically may be the best ways to help achieve 401(k) success. Take a step back and look at the big picture.

*This article is not intended to provide tax or legal advice. Neither Prudential Financial, its affiliates, nor financial professionals render tax or legal advice. You should seek such advice about your particular retirement accounts and needs from your legal and tax advisors.*

Contributor – RW Gregory Clark  
Convention Coordinator/Corporate Liaison  
and Financial Planner



# Achievements

## Grand Lodge Receives Award from Alabama A&M University

On Friday, April 20, 2018, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama was the proud recipient of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University's 2018 Black Tie Gala Koinonia Award. The Eighteenth Annual Scholarship Gala was held in Huntsville, Alabama, at the Von Braun Civic Center.

Koinonia is a transliterated form of the Greek word, κοινωνία, which means communion, joint participation; the share which one has in anything, participation, a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution, etc.

Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins, Sr. was present to accept the award on behalf of the Grand Lodge. Alabama A. and M. University chose the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama as the Koinonia Award recipient because of the Grand Lodge's scholarship contributions to Alabama A. and M. and its wreath laying efforts at the gravesite of the university's founder, William Hooper Council, Past Junior Grand Warden of this jurisdiction. Several other brothers were present at the event to include Grand Trustee, R.W. Andrew J. Fuller, Grand District Deputy, R.W. Anthony J. Johnson, Brother Freeman Holifield and Brother Andy Fuller, to name a few.

Congratulations to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama for your continued efforts to help students receive a college education



*Top Picture: Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., with Andrew Hugine Jr., President of Alabama A&M University*

*Bottom Picture (L-R): R.W. Anthony J. Johnson, Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., R.W. Andrew J. Fuller and Bro. Andy Fuller.*

# 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 Freddie L. Armstead, Jr.

**F**reddie L. Armstead Jr. is married to his wife of seven years, Latasha Armstead. They have one two-year-old son, Freddie Armstead, III. He is a 1990 graduate from Demopolis High School. Brother Armstead is a member of the New Green Oak Baptist Church, where he has served as a deacon since 2002. Being elected to serve on the deacon board was one of the best moments in his life. He currently serves on the Industrial Development Board in the City of Demopolis and also on the Port Authority Board. He is very active in his community and loves helping the citizens of Marengo County.

Brother Armstead joined the United States Navy and spent two years on active duty and six years in the Naval Reserves. After serving his time in the US Navy, Brother Armstead gained employment at Prystup Packaging, as a machine operator. In 2001, he was employed by the Alabama Tombigbee Commission as a Transportation Coordinator. He served in that position for several years before becoming the Director of Highway Traffic Safety (Governor's Traffic Safety Task Force). That job consisted of helping law enforcement agencies purchase equipment to use in their efforts to combat drunk driving, ensure the wearing of seatbelts, and control speeding. While in that position, Brother Armstead was tasked with writing grants for law enforcement to fund paying officers overtime in their efforts to enforce traffic laws, that mainly dealt with conducting DUI and Seatbelt Checkpoints and the enforcement of speeding violations. These efforts helped to prevent numerous traffic crashes and fatalities on Alabama highways. In 2014, Brother Armstead transferred back to the transportation unit and became the Director of Public Transportation. In this role, he was able to help people get life-saving treatments and also help them to still maintain a good quality of life. ATRC drivers transport over 250,000 people a year to various destinations.



*RW Freddie L. Armstead, Jr.  
Grand Marshal*

Freemasonry shines a beacon of light and hope in Brother Armstead's life. He joined Paragon Lodge No. 26 in October of 1990, under the leadership of Worshipful Master Kenneth Harris. He was elected as Junior Warden of the lodge in 1994. In 1995, he was elected as Worshipful Master. At that time, the lodge was starting to go downhill and was needing to be rejuvenated by new leadership. He was up to the challenge of moving the lodge forward and began implementing various committees to help get the lodge back on track. The lodge is currently thriving under his leadership and the hard work and dedication of the members. In 1998, Brother Armstead joined the Royal Arch and Knights Templars in Epes, AL, and began perfecting his work in York Rite Masonry. Shortly after joining, the houses stopped meeting frequently, so he started looking for a new place to attend meetings. On May 23, 2001, he joined Abraham Consistory No. 257 in the Valley of Demopolis. He later became the 2nd Lieutenant Commander in 2006. In 2002, he joined Al Muqit No. 221 Shrine Temple. He worked his way from High Priest to Assistant Rabban to Chief Rabban. In 2003, he was awarded Noble of the Year for the State of Alabama, based off his performance in the temple and community service. He was elevated to the Honorary 33° in October of 2005. In December of 2007, the Nobles of AL Muqit No. 221 elected him to the position of Illustrious Potentate. He served in that position until December of 2009. In 2010, he had the honor of being elected as the Thrice Illustrious Master of King David Council No. 11, Royal & Select Masters; High Priest of River City Chapter No. 18, Holy Royal Arch Masons; and Eminent Commander of Charles S. Foreman Commandery No. 44, Knights Templars. He served one year in each house and was then appointed as Grand District Deputy in the Knights Templar and the Royal & Select Masters. In 2012, he was appointed as Grand District Deputy of the Royal Arch. In 2011, Brother Armstead was invited to join the Knights York Cross of Honour, which is the only house that you cannot petition to join. Invitation is extended to those who have served as Worshipful Master, High Priest, Thrice Illustrious Master, and Eminent Commander. He is one of the charter members of Alabama Priory No. 14. In 2017, he was selected to be a member of the Knights Commander of the Temple. This honor was bestowed upon him in Nassau, Bahamas in June of 2017. Also, in 2017, he was elected the Prior of Alabama Priory No. 14, by the Sir Knights at the session in Mobile, AL. Brother Armstead also serves as Assistant Grand District Deputy for District No. 2 and he is the Grand Marshal of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Alabama, under the leadership of the Honorable Corey D. Hawkins Sr., Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Brother Armstead believes that he is where God wants him to be, and that is in the blackbelt helping people. He feels that his service is an epitome of what true masonry is all about.

### A Helping Hand

Make a difference	We're all responsible
Each day you live	For our fellow man
Open your heart	
Learn to give	It's so easy to look
	The other way
Life for many	But the tables could turn
Is so unkind	On any given day
Giving people	
Are hard to find	So help if you can
	For one day you may be
So open your heart	The one who's down and out
Give what you can	The one no one will see

**-Ray Hansell**



## REGION 4

### News and Events from Region 4

# Seventh District Master's Council Hosts District Masonic Awards Banquet

The Seventh District Master's Council recently held its District Masonic Awards Banquet on Saturday, May 19th. The event was held at Gabrielle's Event Center in Opelika, Alabama. The event was well attended by masonic brothers, family members and guests. There is a total of eleven active lodges in the Seventh District and a good representation from nearly all eleven lodges were in attendance, according to Deputy Erwin Chambliss. Several months of preparation and planning went into the event. A committee was formed with RW Carlton Jones, Assistant District Deputy, as Chairman and Worshipful Masters throughout the district on the committee. It was a great opportunity and means for local lodges to recognize and honor distinguished members of their lodges.

This year's theme "Making Good Men Better" coincide with the purpose of the award ceremony. To recognize those brothers who, year after year, quietly, but actively demonstrate the principles of freemasonry without thought of recognition or special honors. Every lodge has members that fall in this category. Worshipful Masters throughout the district were tasked to provide the names of their members to be recognized as their Master Mason of the Year. Along with supplying the names they were tasked to submit a narrative of what that brother means to their lodge. Every lodge has such members, you will find them volunteering on fundraising committees, community service projects, maintaining lawn care at the lodge, working in the kitchen, involved in their church and school activities, and anywhere there's a true steady hand for assistance needed. "These brothers are our unsung heroes", according to RW Jones.



*Top Right Picture: All of the award winners at District Masonic Awards Banquet*

*Bottom Left Picture: WM W. Smith of Shorter Lodge No. 533 presenting his Lodge's Worshipful Master Award to Mayor Powell for the late Bro. Harold Powell*

***Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge  
Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama  
148<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication***

***~ SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ~***

***Sunday, July 15, 2018***

7:00 a. m. - 10:00 p. m.	Vendors.....Preconvene 2 Center (Riverview Plaza Hotel)
12:00 p. m. - 12:00 a. m.	Grand Lodge Office .....Tree House
4:00 p. m. – 6:00 p. m.	First Aid and CPR Certification.....Beinville Square

***Monday, July 16, 2018***

7:00 a. m. - 12:00 a. m.	Grand Lodge Office .....Tree House
7:00 a. m. - 8:00 p. m.	Registration .....Moonlight Foyer
7:00 a. m. - 10:00 p. m.	Vendors .....Preconvene 2 Center (Riverview Plaza Hotel)
7:00 a. m. - 4:00 p. m.	Health Fair .....Ashland Place B
8:00 a. m. - 1:00 p. m.	Trustees Meeting .....Moonlight A
8:00 a. m. - 6:00 p. m.	Choir Rehearsal .....Oakleigh Garden
8:00 a. m. - 6:00 p. m.	Committee Meetings .....Beinville Square
8:00 a. m. – 9:00 a. m.	Worshipful Master's Certification Registration.....Moonlight B-E
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p. m.	Worshipful Master's Certification..... Moonlight B-E
1:00 p. m. - 3:00 p. m.	Trustees Luncheon .....Crystal Ballroom
3:00 p. m. - 6:00 p. m.	Workshop .....Moonlight A
5:00 p. m. - 7:00 p. m.	Holding Room.....Jubilee Suite (Riverview Plaza Hotel)
6:00 p. m. - 8:00 p. m.	Welcome & Awards Program...Bon Secour Bay (Riverview Plaza Hotel)
8:00 p. m. - 10:00 p. m.	Meet and Greet.....Mobile Bay Ballroom (Riverview Plaza Hotel)

***Tuesday, July 17, 2018***

7:00 a. m. - 8:00 p. m.	Grand Lodge Office.....Tree House
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***Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge  
Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama  
148<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication***

***~SCHEDULE OF EVENTS~***

***(Continued)***

7:00 a. m. - 8:00 p. m.	Registration .....	Moonlight Foyer
7:00 a. m. - 10:00 p. m.	Vendors .....	Preconvene 2 Center (Riverview Plaza Hotel)
7:00 a. m. - 4:00 p. m.	Health Fair.....	Ashland Place B
8:00 a. m. - 12:00 p.m.	Dignitaries Holding Room .....	Leinkauf
8:00 a. m. - 5:00 p. m.	Grand Lodge Opening Session.....	Moonlight Ballroom
8:00 a. m. - 6:00 p. m.	Committee Meetings .....	Bienville Square
8:00 a. m. - 7:00 p. m.	Chorus Rehearsal .....	Oakleigh Garden
5:00 p. m. - 7:00 p. m.	Dignitaries Holding Room.....	Jubilee Suite (Riverview Plaza Hotel)
7:00 p. m. - 9:00 p. m.	Lodge of Sorrow .....	Bon Secour Bay (Riverview Plaza Hotel)

***Wednesday, July 18, 2018***

5:00 a. m. - 7:30 a. m.	Past Master's Degree .....	Moonlight C-E
7:00 a. m. - 1:00 p. m	Grand Lodge Office .....	Tree House
7:00 a. m. - 12:00 p. m.	Vendors .....	Preconvene 2 Center (Riverview Plaza Hotel)
7:00 a. m. - 1:00 p. m.	Registration .....	Moonlight Foyer
8:00 a. m. - 1:00 p. m.	Grand Lodge Closing Session .....	Moonlight Ballroom

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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.***



The evening kicked off with a meet and greet prior to the start of the program. With the sounds of light jazz playing in the background, compliments of DJ “Richie Rich” Bro Rick Miles of South Griffin Lodge No. 697, the guests got an opportunity to know one another. It was an opportunity for brothers around the district to mingle and socialize with one another. It was also an opportunity for the guests to get acquainted with one another. RW Carlton Jones was the Masters of Ceremony for the evening. RW George Echols, Grand Secretary, kicked off the program by giving the occasion and of course, sharing one of his famous, hilarious jokes to put the audience at ease. Reverend Joshua Anthony, Pastor of Beulah Missionary Baptist Church delivered the prayer and grace and dinner was served. Brother Markedrick Dawson and his staff of Upscale 6 Catering Company catered and served the guests. After dinner, the event continued with the acknowledgement of special guests by RW Morris Toolles, Grand Trustee. Several dignitaries were in attendance for the occasion. The guest speaker for the occasion was Mr. George Bandy, Jr., Vice President of Sustainability Mohawk Flooring. His message was directly related to the theme, “Making Good Men Better”.

RW Jones kicked off the presentations of awards after the guest speaker’s message. Every lodge present had the opportunity to recognize its members and each Worshipful Master recognize his lodge’s Master Mason of the Year. Congratulations to those hard-working brothers for their recognition as Master Mason of the Year.

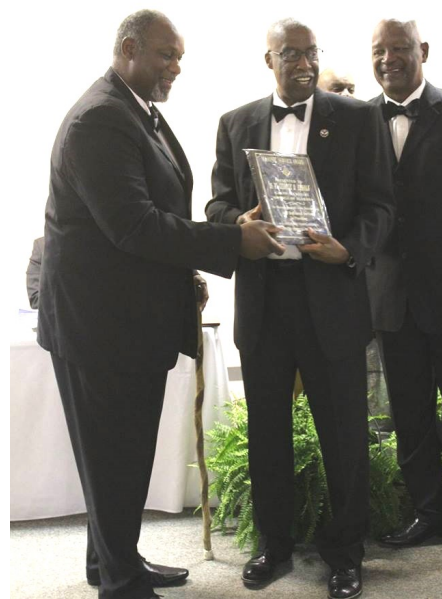
The recognition did not end with the Master Mason of the Year Award. District Deputy Erwin Chambliss took the podium to announce the District Worshipful Master of the Year Award. The award was given to WM Derric Baker from Golden Rule Lodge No. 11. Under the guidance of WM Baker, the lodge started the kids summer bowl program to give children an outlet during the summer. They also gave away over 40 book bags along with other school supplies during their back to school drive. The lodge assisted in the hurricane relief efforts last fall by collecting bottles of water to send to those affected by the hurricanes. Two tractor trailers were loaded full of water. The lodge also partnered with Nazareth Church in its Youth Health and Wellness Drive. The lodge continues to be a driving force in its community. Congratulations WM Derric Baker! In addition to the District WM of the Year announcement, District Deputy Erwin Chambliss presented two Masonic Service Awards to RW George Echols and RW Morris Toolles. Both were caught off guard in the presentations and both are well deserving for their continual support and dedication to District Seven and the MWPHGL of Alabama. The final award presentation came from Assistant District Deputy and Grand Junior Deacon, RW Carlton Jones. He, along with Deputy Grand Master RW Robert Glenn, presented District Deputy RW Erwin Chambliss with the Masonic Leadership Award.

*Contributor - RW Carlton Jones (No. 428)*

*Top Picture: RW George Echols receiving Masonic Service Award*

*Middle Picture: WM Derric Baker, District 7 Worshipful Master of the Year*

*Bottom Picture: RW Carton Jones presenting Leadership Award to GDD Erwin Chambliss*



# Phoenix Lodge No. 428

## hosts 2nd Annual Youth Awards

Phoenix Lodge No. 428 honored twelve young people from local elementary schools in Phenix City and Russell County, Alabama on Saturday, June 9th. The occasion was billed as the 2nd Annual Rising Stars Youth Awards. The event was held at the local American Legion Post 135 in Phenix City, Alabama. Rising Stars Youth Awards is an annual event hosted by the brothers of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 with the purpose recognizing and rewarding deserving youth who have excelled in their classrooms and school. Phoenix Lodge No. 428 selection committee coordinates with school counselors and teachers to choose the youth. The youth range from Kindergarten to 8th grade. A letter informing them of their selection are mailed to all the parents of the students. All selectees are required to write a short biography of themselves and return it along with a photograph to the selection committee. The biographies and photos are arranged nicely in the event program booklet and given to each parent as a souvenir upon arrival.



*Group photo with honorees and members of Phoenix Lodge No. 428*

The event kicked off with a prayer, which was delivered by the Lodge Chaplain, Reverend Dr. Patrick Brown. Dinner was served after the prayer and grace. All guests were served dinner by the lodge and members from Camp Field Joy No. 690, OES. Phoenix Lodge No. 428 absorbed all costs for the event with no charge to the guests. After dinner, special guests were recognized in the audience, ranging from educators, public service workers, military members and other distinguished guests. The guest speaker for this year's event was Ms. Jasponica Florence-Moore. Ms. Moore is the current Director of Public Relations and Career Technical Education for the Russell County School District. Her message to the youth was simple; be courteous, stay in school, and perform your civic duty.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of awards to the twelve local students. The awards were in the form of a personalized plaque and a bowtie for the boys and red rose for the girls. This year's 2018 Rising Stars honorees were Nicholas Thomas, Jalayla Mitchell, Tre'vion James, Lauren McCoy, Tyjor Cooper, Kennedy Taylor Daniel, Indiah Williams, Kolton Baker, Chase Stephens, Breanna Reynolds, Jhaylin Taylor, and Lucas Dupont. Worshipful Master Mark Carnes and Right Worshipful Carlton Jones read the biographies on every honoree and introduced each youth to the audience.



*Guest Speaker Jasponica Florence-Moore at podium*





*Left: Bro. Demetrius Miles presents plaque to Nicholas Thomas*



*Right: Bro. Sean Hardy presents plaque to Jhaylin Taylor*



## Phoenix Lodge No. 428

### Honors Fallen Heroes for Memorial Day

Members of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 assembled at Ft. Mitchell National Cemetery on Saturday, May 26th. Each year volunteers come from various organizations to lay the American flag on every headstone at Ft. Mitchell National Cemetery. Phoenix Lodge No. 428 has been participating in this honor for the past five years. The event marks a time for the brothers to pay respect to their fallen heroes and gives them an opportunity to reunite with their own fallen heroes from their lodge. The flags are laid strategically in front of every head stone. Lodge brothers diligently pay attention as they measure and place the flags in the ground. Many of the brothers bring their family members with them to assist in the performing the honor. A sense of gratification and respect for those that paid the ultimate sacrifice is embodied in all that participate in this community service. At the end of the flag laying, the rolling hills of Ft. Mitchell National Cemetery are covered with thousands of flags. This time-honored tradition is accomplished in cemeteries across the country as it signals the beginning of Memorial Day weekend. It's also a moment to pause and honor our fallen heroes.

*Left Picture; Lodge members participating in the flag laying; Front row from L. to R. – Bro. Sean Hardy, WM Mark Carnes, RW Carlton Jones, Bro. Alvin Jones; Back row from L. to R. – Bro. Derrick Miller, Bro. Michael Walton, Bro. Richard Parkman, Bro. Demetrius Miles*

*Right Picture: Lodge members pay respect to Past Master David Hall in front of his headstone; From L. to R. – WM Mark Carnes, Bro. Demetrius Miles, Bro. Michael Walton, Bro. Alvin Jones, Bro. Derrick Miller, RW Carlton Jones*



*Contributor - RW Carlton Jones (No. 428)*



# Hamilton Lodge No. 365

## Honored for Community Service

On April 28, 2018, Hamilton Lodge No. 365 won top honors for Community Service in the City of Montgomery. River Region Community awarded Hamilton Lodge No. 365 with the Volunteer of the Year Award, given to the person or persons who are giving the most in community service in the area. The award was presented to the lodge by Bro. Quinton Ross who is the President of Alabama State University. Quinton Ross gave his respect and kudos to brothers of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 for being black positive role models in the community.

On May 3rd, the brothers from Hamilton Lodge No. 365 won the honors of Community Leaders of the Year from Montgomery Public School System. The lodge was selected because of the work they've done such as painting, rebuilding, and mentoring students at its adopted school, Chisolm Elementary. At the Regional Meeting, this past February in Tuskegee, Grand Master Corey Hawkins told all the brothers that they need to get more involved in the school system, and that's what Hamilton Lodge No. 365 did. The lodge took Grand Master Hawkins' words and adopted Chisolm Elementary School. The lodge was very honored to receive the award.

On May 15th, the brothers from Hamilton Lodge No. 365 assisted with The Miss Capitol Hill Nursing Home Pageant. The brothers helped by escorting each contestant to the front and they also helped with the cleanup and break down of equipment used for the pageant. The members of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 were delighted to be part of the program.

On May 27th, Hamilton Lodge No. 365 had their official visit from Grand District Deputy Parks. He told them how proud he was of the work they were doing in the community. He congratulated them on their achievements and told them to keep up the good work. Members of the lodge also shared different ideas they want to do for District 8 with District Deputy Parks during the visit.



*Contributor— Bro. Brian Smith (No. 365)*

*Top Picture: Bro. Franks, Bro. B. Smith, Bro. Sayles, Bro. Gray, Bro. L. Belser, PM. Robinson, Bro. Lawrence, and Bro. L. Smith with several of the Chisolm Elementary Parent Volunteers*

*Middle Picture: left to right, Bro. Robert Jones, PM Sayles, Ms. Capitol Hill, Bro. Robert Martin, Bro. Brian Smith, and Bro. Chavis*

*Bottom Picture: Bro. Sayles, Bro. Gray, Bro. Besler, President Quinton Ross, Bro. B. Smith, Bro. Martin, Bro. L. Smith, Bro. Miller*

# Mount Nebo Lodge No. 511 Hosts Annual Boys and Men Conference

On Saturday, June 16, 2018, Mount Nebo Lodge No. 511 in conjunction with the Town Creek District Center in Tuskegee, AL held its Annual Boys and Men Conference. This year's speaker was Brother Darryl Samuel, who is a member of Mount Nebo Lodge No. 511. Brother Samuel touched on last year's speaker's topics that included: The importance of education, staying out of trouble, consequences of being incarcerated and what makes the youth successful.

Brother Samuel's topics in his speech to the young men were, home life, church, school, college, military, and employment. He stated that home is where you learn most of the knowledge and skills that prepare you for school, church and your career. As parents, people need to take an interest in their schools because teachers can't do it alone. Brother Samuel closed his speech with a powerful conclusion stating, "Everything said today is good information to help young men on their journey toward success. Be successful and strive to be the best at whatever you decide for your career. However, life presents us all with challenges and struggles that are difficult to overcome. That is why a relationship with our Lord and Savior is a must. There are things we as humans can't control but when the road gets rough we should all rely on Jesus."

There were several other men that gave life lessons to the young men that were present. Remarks were given by Rev. Rutledge, Moderator of the Town Creek District, and Worshipful Master Eddie Moore of Mt. Nebo Lodge No 511. After the program a wonderful meal was prepared and everyone fellowshiped and had a great time in peace and harmony.



*Top: Group picture of the participants of the program.*

*Bottom Left: Bro. Ludie Hall talking to the young men about staying out of trouble and not getting incarcerated.*

*Bottom Right: Bro. D. Samuel talking to the young men.*

*Contributor – Brother Dominguez C. Hurry No. 511)*



# South Griffin Lodge No. 697

## Purchases Suit for Young Man's Graduation

**S**outh Griffin Lodge No. 697 purchased a suit for a young man whose family is currently having financial difficulties. WM Toby Dixon was informed that the young man needed a suit for his middle school graduation. WM Dixon took the information and instantly presented the idea for the lodge to purchase a black suit and shoes for the young man. Brother Eric Fielder works at a clothing store and made the suit look tailor made on the young man. The young man was very happy and appreciative. His family and school officials were very appreciative, as well.

We never know what lies within this young man's future. This is what Prince Hall Masonry is all about; being a servant of God and standing on the principles of Faith, Hope and Charity.

*Contributor – WM Toby Dixon (No. 697)*



## Have a Vision? Make The Right Decision!

# Vote!

**T**he Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a landmark piece of federal legislation in the United States that prohibits racial discrimination in voting. It was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson during the height of the Civil Rights Movement on August 6, 1965, and Congress later amended the Act five times to expand its protections. Designed to enforce the voting rights guaranteed by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, the Act secured the right to vote for racial minorities throughout the country, especially in the South. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the Act is considered to be the most effective piece of federal civil rights legislation ever enacted in the country.

### **Important Dates and Deadlines:**

**October 22, 2018**

Voter registration deadline for general election

**November 1, 2018**

Last day to apply for an absentee ballot for the general election

**November 5, 2018**

Last day for voter to hand-deliver or postmark an absentee ballot

**November 6, 2018**

Statewide General Election

The 2018 Midterms is Alabama's next chance to vote. This statewide election will determine seats for local, state, and federal positions.



*President Lyndon B. Johnson, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks at the signing of the Voting Rights Act on August 6, 1965*



# REGION 6

## News and Events from Region 6

### District Seventeen's Northeast Worshipful Masters Council Annual Awards Banquet

On May 18, 2018, the members of District 17's Northeast Worshipful Masters Council held their Annual Awards Banquet at the Holiday Inn - Research Park located in Huntsville, AL. This event is held every year to bring the fourteen lodges in District 17's Northeast Region, thirteen chapters in District 15, OES, along with their family and friends together to celebrate and give notice to the charitable work, dedication, and commitment to the surrounding communities of the several lodges and chapters.

The event committee, led by WM Jarvis Noel of Goodway Lodge No 222, did an outstanding job putting the program together which was very entertaining from start to finish. Bro. Carl Cooney from Temple Lodge No. 98 was the Master of Ceremony and also did an outstanding job in keeping the program in line with the agenda while keeping the guests entertained.

After a very delicious meal was served by the Holiday Inn staff, each lodge and chapter representative had the chance to present members in their lodge or chapter with awards whom they thought were worthy of being recognized. There are always great brothers and sisters working hard in the Prince Hall family, but it's good to recognize those members that went the extra mile and also show them that their good works haven't gone unnoticed.



The final four awards were presented from District 17's Northeast Worshipful Masters Council. The Master Mason of the Year Award was presented to PM George Ball, Jr. for his many contributions to his lodge, District 17 and the Huntsville community. The Worshipful Master of the Year Award was presented to WM Buford Thomas for his outstanding leadership to his lodge and giving them a renewed enthusiasm to be the most improved lodge in District 17. The Perry O. Ward Award was presented to PGSW Robert L. (Bobby) Langford, Sr., for his years of continued support and guidance he has given to District 17, Northeast Worshipful Masters Council and Price Hall Masonry in the Jurisdiction of Alabama. The Honors of the Council Award was presented to Rep. Anthony Daniels for his outstanding work as House Minority Leader representing the 53rd District in the Alabama State House of Representatives which is located in the Huntsville Area of Madison County. After receiving his award, Rep. Daniels provided encouraging words about community involvement. All of the awards from the District 17's Northeast Worshipful Masters Council were voted on by the members of the council except for the Worshipful Master of the Year Award, which was selected by PM H. Jerome Glover, who is the President of the District 17's Northeast Worshipful Masters Council.

The evening of fun with a record crowd in attendance, concluded with remarks from PWM Michele G. King, Grand District Deputy No. 15, OES, RW Anthony J. Johnson, Grand District Deputy, District 17 and PM H. Jerome Glover, President, District 17 Northeast Worshipful Master's Council. Many stayed to fellowship at the close of the banquet.

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



*PM H. Jerome Glover presenting the Master Mason of the Year Award to WM Buford Thomas*



*PM H. Jerome Glover presenting the Honors of the Council Award to Rep. Anthony Daniels*



*PM H. Jerome Glover presenting the Perry O. Ward Award to PGSW Robert L. (Bobby) Langford, Sr.*



*WM Jarvis Noel presenting the Master Mason of the Year Award to PM George Ball, Jr.*



# District Seventeen Northeast Worshipful Masters Council, Leading by Example



On Saturday, April 28, 2018, some of the members of District 17's Northeast Worshipful Masters Council, teamed up with the City of Huntsville and Community Development to help restore a home for a widow in the Five Points area in the Huntsville Community. The widow was receiving many complaints from her surrounding neighbors about the upkeep and overall appearance of her home. Brother Eric Wade, a member of Temple Lodge No. 98, worked on several projects with the City of Huntsville and was informed of the need for assistance at the home. Brother Wade then reached out to PM H. Jerome Glover, who is the President of District 17's Northeast Worshipful Masters Council, to see what assistance could be rendered by the district as a joint project. PM Glover thought that it would be a great idea for the council to lead by example and take on this endeavor. PM Glover with the assistance of Bro. Wade presented the task to the council members and they unanimously voted to provide assistance.

The City of Huntsville coordinated the event with the homeowner, the Community Development provided all of the supplies to include paint, paint brushes and rollers and the members of the Northeast Worshipful Masters Council and a few other masonic brothers did all of the scraping and painting of the house. They even went beyond what was asked of them to cut the grass and trimmed around the house to give the home a better appearance so the neighbors would stop complaining. The homeowner came out and personally thanked all the workers at her home and stated that she was blessed and thankful for brothers coming out and working on her home.

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





# District Seventeen Celebrates St. John's Day

**O**n Sunday, June 24, 2018, both regions of District No. 17 conducted their Annual St. John's Day Program. The Northeast region of the District held its program at the Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association Tabernacle in Huntsville, AL. During the program, District No. 15 OES Choir provided musical selections, providing an added element of entertainment during the celebration. The speaker of the hour was Elder Lawrence Sanford of Beaver Dam Primitive Baptist Church. This year's attendance was one of the largest in recent years by the lodges, chapters, as well as, family members. At the conclusion of the program GDD Michelle King, GWP Calvin Miller, GDD Anthony Johnson, and PM Herman Glover brought forward closing remarks commending the committee, pastor, and choir for a job well done for the planning and execution of the celebration. After the final remarks were given all in attendance were treated to a delicious meal before departing.

The lodges of the Northwest region along with District No. 16 OES held its program at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Town Creek, AL. During the program the Mount Zion Mass Choir and the Garner Brothers provided musical selections. The speaker of the hour was Rev. Lathan Strong, Associate Pastor of St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church. At the conclusion of the program GDD Glenda Reynolds and AGDD Robert Johnson brought forward closing remarks commending the pastor and choir on a job well done.

*Contributor – RW Anthony Johnson*



*Northeast Region of the District 17 at St. John's Day Service*



*District 15, OES at St. John's Day Service*



*Northwest Region of District No. 17 at St. John's Day Service*



*District 16, OES at St. John's Day Service*

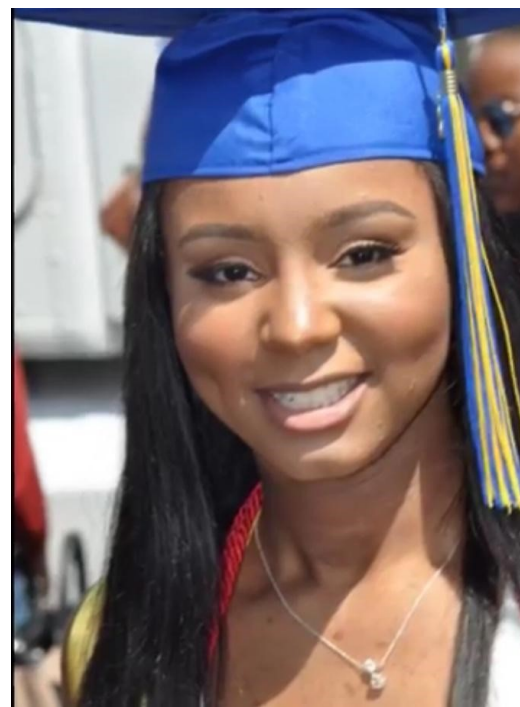
# District Seventeen Recognizes Deserving Students for Scholarship Awards

**O**n Saturday, April 21, 2018, during the Region 6 Annual Meeting it was confirmed that Ms. Jobrea' Ariell Burgess would be the recipient of the District No. 17 Scholarship Award and Ms. Nyeshia Benson would be the nominee to represent Region 6 to receive the Grand Lodge Scholarship Award. JoBrea Burgess graduated from Colbert County High School in Leighton, Alabama. She is the niece of WM Bonnie Lee Burgess, Jr., Ivy Leaf Lodge No. 450. Ms. Burgess has maintained a 3.3 GPA in school while working part-time, participating in extracurricular school activities, and remaining active within her community. She achieved numerous scholastic and leadership honors that ranged from A-B Honor Roll, 4-H Club Award (1st Place County and 2nd Place State), Health Rocks Leadership Award, Student Council 2015-2017 as part of the Distinguish Young Women of the Shoals, and various others; Ms. Burgess also found time to play Volleyball and Basketball during her tenure at CCHS. Ms. Burgess is an active member of Bethel Colbert Missionary Baptist Church, where she is actively supporting and leading various ministries. Ms. Burgess has received a letter of acceptance from Alabama A&M University; she will begin her collegiate journey the fall semester of 2018, where she will major in Biology / Pre-Nursing.



*Ms. Jobrea' Ariell Burgess,  
Recipient of the District No. 17 Scholarship Award*

Ms. Nyeshia Cymone Benson graduated from Mae Jemison High School in Huntsville, Alabama. She is the granddaughter of PM Jimmy D. Benson, Morning Star Lodge No. 50. Ms. Benson maintained 3.6 GPA in school while participating in extracurricular school activities, and remaining active within her community. She achieved numerous scholastic and leadership honors that range from A-B Honor Roll, 2017-2018 PEARLS, 2016-2018 Spanish Honors Society, 2015-2017 Student Government Association, 2015 Jr. Citizenship Award, and various others; Ms. Benson also found time to play volleyball and softball during her tenure at Jemison High School. Ms. Benson is a member of St. Luke Christian Church, where she is actively supporting and leading various ministries. Ms. Benson also has over 50 hours of volunteerism and outreach in the community. Ms. Benson has received a letter of acceptance from Jacksonville State University; she will begin her collegiate journey this fall where she will major in Art.



*Ms. Nyeshia Cymone Benson , region 6  
representative to receive the Grand Lodge  
Scholarship Award.*

*Contributor – RW Anthony Johnson*



# Morning Star Lodge No. 50's Annual Scholarship Presentations

On Friday, May 18th, Mae C. Jemison High School in Huntsville, Alabama, held its annual awards day program. During the ceremony Ms. Nyeshia C. Benson was awarded the Leonard Jackson Scholarship in the amount of \$1,500.00 which is given to a student who is a senior and has applied to or been accepted to a college or university. This scholarship is named in honor of Past Master/Past RW Leonard Jackson, Past Grand District Deputy, who passed away two years ago. Also, this scholarship is only given to a relative of an active member of Morning Star Lodge No. 50. Ms. Benson met all the requirements: maintained a 3.00 GPA or above, wrote an outstanding essay, had letters of recommendation from school officials and a church minister, very active in school activities and in the community. Ms. Nyeshia C. Benson is the granddaughter of Past Master Jimmy D. Benson. She will be attending Jacksonville State University in August of this year. She plans on majoring in Fine Arts-Graphic Arts. The scholarship was presented to Ms. Benson by Brother Gregory White.

On Tuesday, May 22nd, Huntsville High School in Huntsville, Alabama, held its annual awards day program. During the ceremony Mr. Travion L. Crutcher was awarded the Morning Star Lodge Foundation Scholarship which is given to a student who is a senior and has applied to or been accepted to a college or university. This scholarship is given to deserving students who have a financial need and meet the necessary requirements to receive this award in the amount of \$1,500.00. Mr. Crutcher met all the requirements: maintained a 3.00 GPA or above, wrote an outstanding essay, had letters of recommendation from school officials and a church minister, very active in school activities and in the community. He will be attending Tennessee State University in August of this year and plans on majoring in Mechanical Engineering. The scholarship was presented to Mr. Crutcher by Worshipful Master Larry D. Tisdale.

*Contributor— WM Larry D. Tisdale (No. 50)*



*Bro. Gregory White presenting the Leonard Jackson Scholarship to Ms. Nyeshia C. Benson at her High School Awards Day Program.*



*WM Master Larry D. Tisdale presenting the Morning Star Lodge Foundation Scholarship to Mr. Travion L. Crutcher at his High School Awards Day Program.*



# Morning Star Lodge No. 50

## Serving in its Community

On Wednesday, April 18th, the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 and the members of Mizpah Chapter No. 35 combined to support the Downtown Rescue Mission with donations of food items and to support their evening dinner program by serving the tenants of the Mission. The Downtown Rescue Mission is one of facilities for the homeless in Huntsville, Alabama. They house and feed an average of 100 to 150 during the spring and summer months. That average increases during the fall and winter months. The Mission gives the tenants jobs to do around the facility and try to find them employment when possible. Morning Star Lodge No. 50 has supported the Downtown Rescue Mission for years with money, donations and service.

On Saturday, May 12th, the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 and the members of Mizpah Chapter No. 35 combined to work for the Mile Marker Program that Morning Star Lodge No. 50 is a participant of. The lodge has a mile marker in its name on University Drive in Huntsville, Alabama, that the lodge has agreed to keep clean and presentable. The lodge has scheduled to clean the one-mile area quarterly during the year. Occasionally, other lodges or chapters partner with Morning Star Lodge No. 50 to clean this area. This is another of many community service programs that Morning Star Lodge No 50 supports.

*Contributor – WM Larry D. Tisdale (No. 50)*



*L to R: Front Row – Sis. Lillie Winston, Sis. Ava Jordan, WM Mary Joiner, Lathan B. Strong, Jr. and Sis. Shirley Green*

*L to R: Back Row – Bro. Lathan B. Strong, Sr., WM Larry D. Tisdale, JW Taurean Dawkins and Zion S. Strong*



*L to R: Sis. Martha Palmer and WM Larry D. Tisdale serving food at the Downtown Rescue Mission*

# Morning Star Lodge No. 50

## Mother's Day Luncheon

*"A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take"*

-by Cardinal Mermillod



On May 10, 2018, Morning Star Lodge No. 50 partnered with the Richard Showers Community Center to host their Annual Mother's Day Luncheon to say, "thank you" to the mothers of North Huntsville. These mothers continue to sacrifice personal goals and opportunities to raise and mentor the leaders of tomorrow in their community. Therefore, the brothers wanted to let the mothers of North Huntsville know that their good deeds and hard work haven't gone unnoticed.

After being greeted by Senior Warden Barrington Dames, he explained that everyone should give honor to their mothers daily; however, the brothers present were there to serve as they have served their children without expecting anything in return. The mothers were asked to remain seated as the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 served them lunch prepared by members of the lodge. The menu was presented by Junior Warden Taurean Dawkins, which consisted of: smoked chicken, meat loaf, mashed potatoes & gravy, sweet corn, green beans, ice tea or lemonade and cake for dessert. The luncheon was truly enjoyed as the mothers clapped and smiled with excitement after being served. At the end of their meal, each mother was presented with a Mother's Day card signed by Worshipful Master Larry Tisdale and a long stem rose.

The event continues to grow with each passing year and the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 will continue to sponsor this community service project in the future.



*Contributor – JW Taurean Dawkins (No. 50)*



# Athelstine Lodge No.71

## 120th Year Anniversary Celebration

On June 30, 2018, the brothers of Athelstine Lodge No. 71 held its' 120th Year Anniversary Celebration at Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church in Athens, AL. The brothers truly understand that no organization, especially a masonic lodge, stands for 120 years without solid leadership and dedicated members to execute the daily works of the lodge. The Brothers of No. 71 realize that they are here as Athelstine Lodge No. 71 F. & A. M., PHA under the Charter of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama because of all the past members of No. 71. The brothers don't take the milestone lightly and will continue to stand in unity to grow, prosper and execute the works of the Most Worshipful Price Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama, District No. 17 and their lodge.



*WM Buford Thomas, Bro. Timothy Irving, Bro. Michael Wiley pictured with scholarship recipients and their parents*

The Brothers of No. 71 can't thank the many brothers, sisters, family and friends that came out to help them celebrate the anniversary milestone of Athelstine Lodge No. 71's existence enough. This year's guest speaker was Brother Calvin Miller, II, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Deputy for the Orient of Alabama, Grand Worthy Patron Mizpah Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, Jurisdiction of Alabama, Prince Hall Affiliation. Other special guest included Brother Bobby Langford 33°, Past Grand Senior Warden of the MWPHGL of AL; Illustrious Kevin Scruggs, 33°, Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Deputy for the Orient of Kentucky; RW Marxlyn David, Grand Musician of the MWPHGL of AL and Worthy Patron of Naomi Star Chapter No. 653, Order of the Eastern Star; Past Master Herman Jerome Glover, President of the Northeast Alabama Worshipful Masters Council; and Sister Mildred Malone, Assistance Worthy Matron, Naomi Star Chapter No. 653, Order of the Eastern Star.

Their most honored guest were the proud recipients of the 2018 scholarship awards and their parents. The Brothers of No. 71 were proud to present two scholarship donations in the sum of \$500.00 each to two graduating seniors of Athens Limestone County High School in Athens, Alabama. Ms. Jada M. Gilbert who will attend the University of Auburn at Montgomery and Mr. Charles E. Harris III who will attend the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. Athelstine Lodge No. 71 was so delighted that both scholarship winners' parents were in attendance to witness this occasion.

During the celebration, the lodge recognized several of their own brothers for the masonic year of 2017-2018 as follows: Most Improved Master Mason, Brother Everett Walton; Special Recognition Awards for Lodge Support Brother Michael Bailey and Brother John "Cookie" Irving, Chaplain; Meritorious Service Awards were presented to Timothy Irving, Senior Warden, Michael Wiley, Junior Warden and Mansfield Scott, Past Secretary. The last award presented was named after our recent Past Master Brother Johnnie L. Pryor, Sr. in recognition of his 32 years of service as Worshipful Master of No. 71. The title of this award is The Johnnie L. Pryor Sr., Master Mason of the Year Award and was presented to Brother Mansfield Scott.

The brothers of Athelstine Lodge No. 71 take heed to the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward."

*Contributor – WM Buford Thomas (No. 71)*



# Goodway Lodge No. 222

## Supporting its Community

The month of June officially kicks off summer. The kids are out of school and the brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 are excited to be partnering with the Triana Public Library to support their summer reading program. The brothers will be providing refreshments, mentorship, as well as, reading tips to the kids all summer long.

On June 23rd, the brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 joined District 1 City Councilman, Devyn Keith and the City of Huntsville's Operation Green Team to help with the annual North Huntsville Cleanup! Goodway member, Akaose Ibeaji, is also a Scout Master for the local Boy Scouts, so the lodge thought it would be a great idea to have the Scouts join them for the cleanup since many of the Scouts live in the North Huntsville Community which the cleanup was targeting. The Brothers of Goodway along with the Scouts walked several streets picking up trash. The lodge had a good time fellowshiping with the Scouts while talking to them about community involvement, furthering their education and taking pride in their communities.

On June 16th, the brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 partnered with Community Development for the City of Huntsville to paint the house of an elderly resident in the Terry Heights Community. The brothers painted the outside trim and porch of the house. Goodway Lodge No. 222 continues to be involved in the Huntsville Community.

*Contributor – WM Jarvis L. Noel (No. 222)*

*Top Picture: Bro. Carlos Crosby and Bro. Tiji Allen posing for a picture with the Head Librarian, Mrs. Orr and a few of the kids who are participating in the summer reading program.*

*Middle Picture: Members of Goodway Lodge No. 222 posing for a picture with the Boy Scouts and three of their Scout Masters.*

*Bottom Picture: Bro. Jerome Sandifer painting the house of an elderly resident of Terry Heights in North Huntsville.*



# 150th ANNIVERSARY

OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL  
GRAND LODGE OF ALABAMA

## *Celebration Cruise*



**Carnival®**

150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL  
GRAND LODGE OF ALABAMA

*Celebration Cruise*

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|  | <p>DATE</p> <p>LOCATION</p> <p>PAYMENT</p> <p>INCLUDES</p> | <p>July, 2020 (Immediately after Grand Session)</p> <p>4-Day Cruise from Mobile, AL to Cozumel, Mexico</p> <p>15-Month Payment Plan begins April 2019, Cabins start at \$454 per person (may be less depending on participation)</p> <p>All Meals, Local Ground Transportation, Lodging, On-board Entertainment</p> |
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***Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama  
150th Anniversary 4-Day Celebration Cruise to Cozumel, Mexico  
Interest Sign-up Sheet***

**Please show your interest by printing your name, contact information, and number in your party. This information will be used to determine a group rate but does not obligate you to a decision at this time.**

**Please send to: MWPHGL of Alabama, P.O. Box 10504, Birmingham, AL 35202-0504**

| Name | Phone/Email | Total Number in Party |
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# 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 (hjeromeglover@yahoo.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 2018.** These articles should include events from **July 2018—September 2018**. Articles are to be submitted with a minimum of one paragraph written in third person 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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