



THE CORNERSTONE

M E S S A G E

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

VOLUME V, ISSUE I

JANUARY 2022

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Information on the
57th Anniversary
'Selma to Montgomery
Reenactment March'

2022 Virtual Regional
Meeting Dates



Check number: 00741

DATE: 08/20/2021

Pay to the order of: AAMU Foundation

Amount: \$ 10,000

Ten thousand and 00/100 DOLLARS

FROM: Prince Hall Mason's Endowment

Signature: [Signature]

Printed Name: [Name]

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

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THE GRAND MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD



A sunrise is God's way of saying, "Let's start again."
Todd Stocker

As we usher in the new year, we cannot help but remember those brothers that we lost in 2021. We should be thankful for the impact that those brothers had on our lives and on our lodges. Let us find a way to honor their memories in our deeds and actions.

Our 151st Annual Communication was a great success. Although, the circumstances were very different, our session was very well attended. Our strict COVID protocols were followed, and I am thankful for the membership's cooperation. It was a great feeling to be able to gather and fellowship once again. You will see some of the highlights of our annual communication in this publication.

The Grand Lodge will participate in the Selma March again this year. We will have several visiting brothers from various jurisdictions coming to join us in crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge in honor of those who were severely beaten as they crossed the bridge in their march to Montgomery on Bloody Sunday, March 7, 1965.

Our virtual regional meeting schedule is inside this publication. All brothers are encouraged to participate in the meetings. Every lodge is to be represented.

Finally, I have issued a "soft" reopening for the jurisdiction, effective January 1, 2022. Lodges have the option of meeting in person or via conference call/zoom. If meeting in person, the mandated COVID protocols must be followed. It is my hope to upgrade the "soft" reopening to full status by late spring – early summer; whereby, all lodges will be required to meet in person again.

Yes Brethren, "Let's start again." The time has come for us to go from refreshment to labor. The designs are on the trestleboard. Let's get back to work. Alabama, let's move forward in 2022. May God bless you and may He bless our beloved Grand Lodge.

Fraternally,

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.

Most Worshipful Grand Master

Front Cover:

Masons after the William Hooper Councill wreath laying ceremony at Alabama A&M University.



RW 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

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

I once read that, "The lack of educational work in the average lodge is the principal reason for the lack of interest and the consequent poor attendance in Masonry over which spokesmen have been wringing their hands for at least a century". This quote stirs one to think about the importance and value of Masonic education within our Masonic Fraternity. It should further stir us to think about why this important aspect of Freemasonry has been so

badly overlooked. We must not kid ourselves into thinking that Masonic education is playing the prominent part in Freemasonry that by right it should.

The ritual does not make Masons. It only makes members! We cheat, wrong, and defraud any candidate who is left hanging at the end of the 3rd degree, having heard a lot of words and not knowing what they mean. Until the degrees are explained to the candidate he has no idea of what he has gone through.

I encourage all masons to enroll in the Alabama School of Masonry to increase your Masonic knowledge. Access and review the study material from

the Grand Lodge website throughout the masonic calendar year. Testing for the Grand Lodge Masonic College will only take place during each Grand Lodge Session. I also encourage lodges to have regular masonic study sessions and/or discussion to keep their minds inquisitive to Masonry.

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 2022 to add to the mission of making sure Prince Hall Masonry is at the forefront in the state of Alabama.

- RW 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:

- \$25.00 reinstatement fee
- \$25.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment (Have two years to pay the remaining \$150.00)
- \$125.00 Total

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

- \$25.00 reinstatement fee
- \$25.00 taxes
- \$25.00 registration
- \$50.00 assessment (Have two years to pay the remaining \$200.00)
- \$125.00 Total

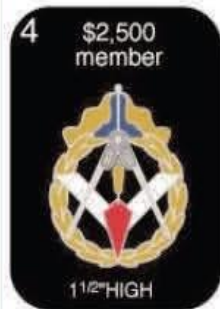
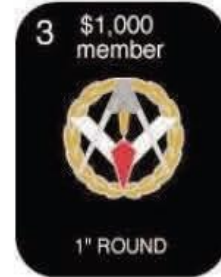
TARP serves a two-fold purpose: (1.) It gives suspended Brothers a more affordable means of reinstating and (2.) It gives dying lodges a final opportunity to salvage their existence by increasing their numbers before being forced to close or merge. Our Grand Master has extended a challenge for the members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

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!



SUPPORT THE PRINCE HALL LEGACY FOUNDATION OF ALABAMA, INC.



PURCHASE YOUR ALABAMA PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE LICENSE PLATE

YOUR PLATE MAY BE DISPLAYED UPON THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF VEHICLES



- private passenger automobiles
- pickup trucks
- motorcycles
- pleasure motor vehicles (i.e., recreational vehicles)



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

<https://revenue.alabama.gov/motor-vehicle/license-plate-information/generic-specialty-plates/prince-hall-grand-lodge/>
(You may purchase the MWPGL of AL Tags Anytime, You do not have to wait for your renewal Month!)

151st Annual Grand Lodge Communication Dec. 6th - 8th 2021



The Westin Hotel Huntsville, AL



Table Lodge

The Westin Hotel - Huntsville, AL



Grand Master's Reception The Marriott Hotel - Huntsville, AL



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Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden
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Mobile, AL 36618-24

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Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer
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Tuscaloosa, AL 35404-2562

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge

F. & A. M. of Alabama



Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq., 33°, KYGCH, Grand Master

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Right Worshipful Grand Attorney
Post Office Box 5058
Montgomery, AL 36103-5058

February 1, 2022

TO: Grand Lodge Officers, Grand Trustees, Worshipful Masters, Past Masters, Wardens, and Brothers of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Jurisdiction of Alabama

C: Grand Worthy Matron, Sister Shirley Pratt, Grand Worthy Patron, Brother Calvin Miller, II

Greetings:

For the ninth consecutive year and in an effort to be more involved in our communities, to remember our past, and to look to our future, I am calling on the entire jurisdiction to converge on Selma, Alabama, on **Sunday, March 6, 2022**, to participate in the 57th anniversary of the historical walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. I am asking all brothers and sisters to meet at 119 Washington Street, Selma, Alabama 36701, diagonally across from Washington Street Marketplace, at 11:00 a.m. The bridge crossing re-enactment will begin at 2:30 p.m. A large crowd is expected; therefore, I am asking all brothers and sisters to arrive at the designated time. Please bring plenty of water, snacks and lounging chairs as they will be needed, particularly by our elderly brothers and sisters. **All brothers are to participate in the March dressed in proper masonic regalia to include a black suit (including the jacket), white shirt and solid black tie.** We will march while social distancing.

It is very important that we assemble in Selma, Alabama in mass numbers. This is an opportune time to stand in solidarity in support of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which is currently under attack nationwide, in a state where a federal court recently struck down the newly drawn congressional map (gerrymandering). Consider this March as a time to remember for the seasoned brother and a history lesson for the younger brother. I am counting on you to help make this another great success.

Fraternally,

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





57th Anniversary Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March *'Bloody Sunday'*

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Alabama

**Invites all Brothers and Sisters of the
Jurisdiction to be a part of this
Historic re-enactment of our State's
History in the struggle for equality...**

March 6, 2022

**National Participation is Expected
We will gather at 119 Washington Street
Selma, Alabama
at 11:00 a.m.**

MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE of ALABAMA
2022 VIRTUAL REGIONAL MEETINGS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>REGION</u>
MARCH 5, 2022	REGION 5
MARCH 12, 2022	REGION 4
MARCH 26, 2022	REGION 6
APRIL 9, 2022	REGION 3
APRIL 16, 2022	REGION 2
APRIL 30, 2022	REGION 1

REGION 1 – DISTRICTS 1, 3 and 4

REGION 2 – DISTRICTS 2 and 12

REGION 3 – DISTRICTS 5 and 6

REGION 4 – DISTRICTS 7, 8 and 10

REGION 5 – DISTRICTS 13, 14 and 15

REGION 6 – DISTRICT 17

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR PARTICIPATION!!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

<u>Name</u>	<u>College/University</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Makiyah Griffith	Jacksonville State University	\$1,400.00
Charsade Howard	University of West Alabama	\$1,400.00
Cam'Ron Ruffin	Tennessee State University	\$1,400.00
Jordan Pearce-Wells	Troy University	\$1,400.00
Natavious Shealey	Southern Union St. Comm. College	\$1,400.00
Kyah Smith	Spelman College	\$1,400.00
Jermiah Kennedy	University of Alabama	\$1,400.00
Amber Scott	University of Alabama Birmingham	\$1,400.00
	Alabama A. & M. University	\$15,000.00
	Alabama State University	\$10,000.00
	Tuskegee University	\$4,000.00
	Miles College	\$1,500.00
	Stillman College	\$1,500.00
	Talladega College	\$1,500.00

Grand Master Hawkins Visits the MWPHGL of Massachusetts

On Thursday, October 21, 2021, Grand Master Hawkins visited Boston, Massachusetts, home of African Lodge No. 459, and was fortunate to visit and tour the Grand Lodge and visit with Most Worshipful Grand Master Timothy R. Downes and members of his cabinet. Although Grand Master Hawkins had visited Prince Hall's gravesite, this was his first time visiting the Grand Lodge Building located on Blue Hill Avenue. Grand Master Hawkins was allowed to tour the building and take photos of some of the Grand Lodge's most cherished relics.

Grand Master Hawkins enjoyed the fellowship and was very intrigued by many of the archives and displays he was fortunate enough to see. He was very thankful to Grand Master Downes and the Jurisdiction of Massachusetts for all the hospitality extended.



PAST GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

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

Alexander

Hamilton

Morse

Barnes

Harris

Nesbitt

Bennett

Hendley

Simmons

Binford

Jackson

Taylor

Braxdall

Jones

Washington

Byrd

Leftwich

Wilhite

Carroll

Mims

Wilson

Gregory

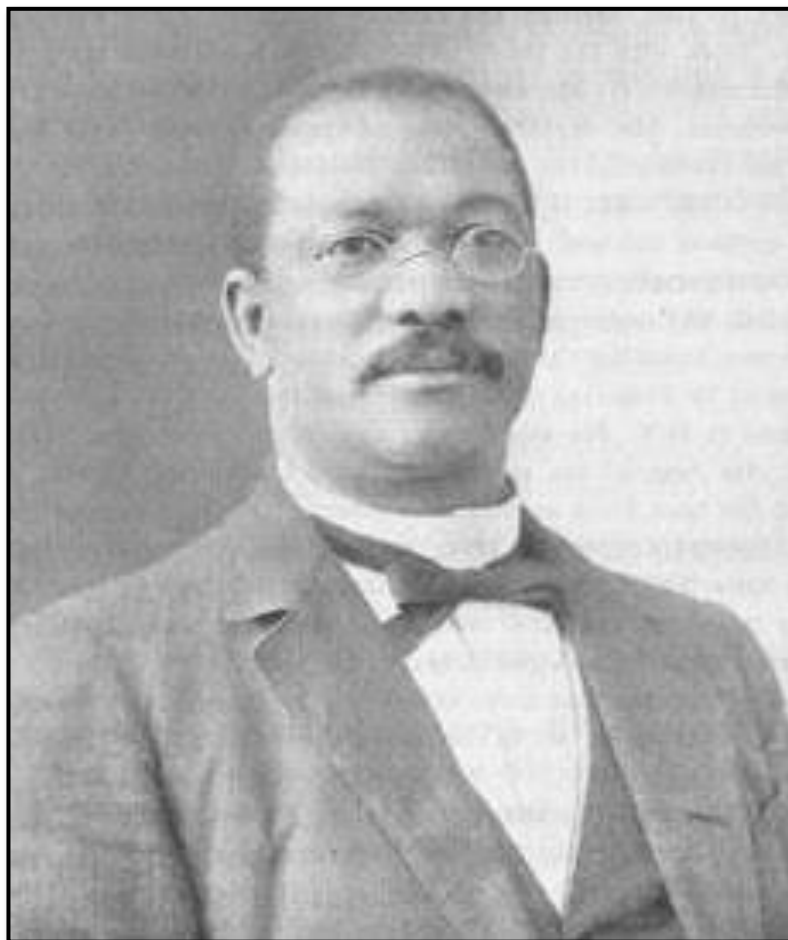
Mixon

Woods

Wreath Laying Ceremony for William Hooper Council

On Thursday, October 7, 2021, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama conducted a wreath-laying ceremony during homecoming week, at the Unveiling Ceremony of the Dr. William Hooper Council Memorial, on the campus of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University. Dr. William Hooper Council founded and was the first President of Alabama A. and M. University. Dr. Council also once served the Grand Lodge as Grand Junior Warden. Brother Council was raised in Rising Sun Lodge No. 7 in Montgomery and later became a member of Evening Star Lodge No. 6 in Huntsville. The wreath-laying ceremony was one of many events that took place during homecoming week.

Immediately following the wreath-laying ceremony, a scholarship award from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama was presented to Dr. Andrew Hugine, President of Alabama A. and M. University, for deserving students, in the amount of \$10,000.00. Dr. Hugine was very gracious and proud to be a Prince Hall Mason, himself. This annual event is very dear to Grand Master Hawkins but has been canceled for the last two years due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Grand Master Hawkins is a proud alumnus of Alabama A. and M. and looks forward to laying a wreath each year, as well as, assisting those students, with a financial need, to attend the prestigious university.





A Message from the Grand Secretary

R.W. Anthony Johnson

As we have now transitioned into a new year, we are still met with some of the same challenges that were presented to us as a society since 2020. Whether it be the multiple variants of COVID-19, politics that have revived voter suppression that so many of our brothers that came before shed blood to oppose, and efforts to stop African-American children from learning their true history in our schools to name a few. Through it all, brothers, we must remain vigilant and always know that the Grand Architect of the Universe is in control and never allow the foundation that has been laid for us by our ancestors to go in vain.

Webster defines the word “Foundation” in many different ways depending on the context of the sentence in which it is used. The definition that I found to be the most fitting for this article is it being “a basis upon which something stands or is supported.”

My brothers, I am here to inform you that the Jurisdiction of Alabama did not magically come into existence overnight. As a matter of fact, we have now stood the test of time for 151 years of existence as Prince Hall Masons. Had there not been for a solid foundation laid by those that came before us there’s no way we would have lasted this long.

As I was working in my garage the other day, I noticed cracks in the foundation in some areas which made me think that the total foundation of my house was not solid and that some areas needed attention. Allow me to let you in on a secret my brothers, you represent a part of a foundation for those individuals that are future members of this organization. The question you need to ask yourself is “Are you the solid part of the foundation or are you the crack that needs some attention?”



*Grand Secretary
R.W. Anthony Johnson*

If your answer is, “I am the solid part of the foundation”, then that means you are the brother that is making positive contributions to the organization to continue building it up. Whether it be through support of your lodge’s community service projects, attending your meetings regularly, providing solutions instead of always complaining about problems, and supporting the efforts of the Grand Lodge. Those are all attributes of a brother that is contributing to a solid foundation.

If for some unforeseen reason when you were examining yourself and you concluded that you may be considered a crack in the foundation that needs some attention, meaning, you don’t support any community service projects, you rarely or never attend your lodge meetings, you find yourself always complaining about something without offering any solutions. Then you are not living by the obligation you took to become a member of the organization. You then represent that weak part of the foundation or that crack that nothing can be built upon. You represent that area that needs attention before it causes a building or organization to fall. I hope that no brother is guilty of being the crack in the foundation.

My brothers, we should always strive to be a solid foundation with no cracks. This is the only way we will move this organization forward and provide a platform for those yet to come to build upon. As I close, I would like to leave you with a quote by David Brinkley that says “A successful man can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at them.” As always, please stay safe as we navigate our way through 2022.



From Whence We've Come...

For the next few editions of *The Cornerstone Message*, we will be providing copies of homegoing celebration programs and obituaries of some of our former distinguished members. This gives the reader an opportunity to take a glimpse into the lives of the deceased within the order and outside the order. This series will probably also bring back memories for some. Featured in this edition is the Honorable Charles V. Hendley, the 8th Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. and A. M. of Alabama.

Obsequies

for

The Honorable Charles V. Hendley

Grand Master, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge

F. & A. M. of Alabama



Friday, May 12, 1967

2:00 P.M.

Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church

Huntsville, Alabama

The Rev. M. C. Barrett, Officiating



Obituary

Charles Vergne Hendley, born in Huntsville, Alabama, on January 31, 1892, was the son of Charles and Elizabeth Bentley Hendley. He died at the Huntsville Hospital on Saturday, May 6, 1967.

After receiving his grammar school education in the public schools of Huntsville, he entered the academy at Howard University in Washington, D. C., and remained there until he completed both his college and law school training. He was admitted to the Alabama bar upon his return to this state in 1919.

In his community, he was an activist whose humanitarian concerns resulted in the improvement of every aspect of the community that came within his influence. He began his career here in Huntsville as an educator, serving from 1918 to 1922 as principal of the public high school from which Councill High School evolved. His concern for the economic and civic development of his people was demonstrated through his association with the Longview Gin Company for which he served as auditor, secretary, and attorney. In addition, he was organizer and a guiding influence in the North Alabama Colored Fair which served as a vehicle for the development of many community interests and talents. He was a member also of the Lakeside Methodist Church of Huntsville.

His membership in fraternal organizations provided the means through which his most significant contributions were made. He was grand attorney of the Alabama Grand Lodge of Knights of Pythias, member, treasurer and former Worshipful Master of Evening Star Lodge Number 6 and Grand Master for 32 years of Prince Hall F. & A. M. Masons of Alabama, receiving the highest rank of 33rd degree mason. As a result of his expert guidance and shrewd wisdom, the state organization grew in every dimension. According to the most current records, the membership of 6,000 when he became grand master 32 years ago, increased, under his leadership, to more than 27,000 brothers, and assets grew from one-half million to more than five million dollars. During his term of office, the operational budget of the temple in Birmingham grew from a deficit of \$54,000 to a surplus of \$150,000. From the confusion and lack of confidence 32 years ago, there developed an atmosphere of stability, and a feeling of trust, goodwill and confidence. And what is even more important than these numerical statistics was his recognized ability to inspire the men of his order, by his own example, to stand tall in their communities, speak forthrightly, live nobly and achieve substantially.

Those of us who live after him and were privileged to know him can carry on his work, being guided by our memory of him as a man of strict principles, and firm and honest judgment who always sought the truth and expressed it courageously without fear or favor.

His survivors include his wife, Mrs. Ann K. Hendley, Huntsville, one sister, Mrs. Faye H. Davis; a niece, Mrs. Faye D. Boulware, and a grand nephew, William H. Boulware, New York City.

LET ME DIE WORKING

Let me die working,
Still tackling plans unfinished, tasks undone!
Clean to its end, swift may my race be run.
No laggard steps, no faltering, no shirking;
Let me die working.

—S. HALL YOUNG

Order of Services

PROCESSIONAL Organ

SELECTION Choir

SCRIPTURE Rev. L. G. Fields

PRAYER Rev. H. P. Snodgrass

SELECTION Choir

IN MEMORIAM:

Mrs. Eunita M. Taylor, Grand Worthy Matron, Order of Eastern Star

Rev. John Ewing, Worshipful Master, Evening Star Lodge No. 6

Mr. S. J. Bennett, Endowment Secretary, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand
Lodge, F. & A. M. of Alabama

Dr. H. C. Fearn, Grand Trustee, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge,
F. & A. M. of Alabama

Mr. Malachi Morse, Deputy Grand Master, Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge, F. & A. M. of Alabama

Mr. John Lewis, Grand Master, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge,
F. & A. M. of Louisiana

SELECTION Choir

EULOGY Rev. M. C. Barrett

SOLO Mrs. Maggie Dickerson
"He'll Understand and Say Well Done"

MASONIC CEREMONIES Grand Lodge Officers

MORTICIAN Royal Funeral Home

RECESSIONAL

INTERMENT: GLENWOOD CEMETERY

FLOWER BEARERS

MIZPAH CHAPTER NO. 37, ORDER OF EASTERN STAR

Mrs. Ella Mae Jones	Mrs. Catherine Brown
Mrs. Mary Rice	Mrs. H. M. Pickett
Mrs. Marguerite Lacey	Mrs. Sarah Moore
Mrs. Mamie Ward	Mrs. Helen Jamar
Mrs. Bobbie Ragland	Mrs. Earnestine Pearson
Mrs. Virginia Vann	Mrs. Juanita Conley
Mrs. Beulah Bragg	Mrs. Fannie Fearn
Mrs. F. L. Swoope	

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

EVENING STAR LODGE NO. 6, PRINCE HALL F. & A. M.

Brother Macon Bradford	Brother Delano Hyter
Brother Harold Dickerson	Brother James Pearson
Brother J. E. Harris	Brother Perry O. Ward

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

OFFICERS, MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE, F. & A. M. OF ALABAMA
AND VISITING GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

The many expressions of sympathy and compassion and the many courteous services rendered have made our burden lighter. For this we are grateful.

THE FAMILY

HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Dealing with Novel Coronavirus

Novel Coronavirus, or COVID-19, is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Most people infected with the virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. However, some will become seriously ill and require medical attention. Older people and those with underlying medical conditions like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, or cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. Anyone can get sick with COVID-19 and become seriously ill or die at any age.

The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is to be well informed about the disease and how the virus spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by staying at least 1 meter apart from others, wearing a properly fitted mask, and washing your hands or using an alcohol-based rub frequently. Get vaccinated when it's your turn and follow local guidance.

The virus can spread from an infected person's mouth or nose in small liquid particles when they cough, sneeze, speak, sing, or breathe. These particles range from larger respiratory droplets to smaller aerosols. It is important to practice respiratory etiquette, for example by coughing into a flexed elbow, and to stay home and self-isolate until you recover if you feel unwell.

Spotting Covid-19



Vaccines are now authorized to prevent infection with SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. But until more is understood about how the vaccines affect a person's ability to transmit the virus, precautions such as mask-wearing, physical distancing and hand hygiene should continue regardless of a person's vaccination status to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and ways to protect yourself.

Miguel L Ferguson, BSN, MPH, RN



FREE AT-HOME COVID-19 TESTS

Residential households in the United States can order one set of four free at-home COVID-19 tests from the United States Postal Service (USPS.com). There is a limit of one order per residential address. One order includes four individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests. Orders will ship for free. You may order your free tests at <https://special.usps.com/testkits>.

\$ Dollars and Sense \$

4 Steps to Attainable Financial Goals

Setting **financial goals** is essential to creating a financial plan—learn how to create goals and **measure your progress** toward them.

Imagine you're planning a family vacation, and your spouse wants to drive, while you want to book a flight. If you're planning a trip to the campground near your house, it would be ridiculous to fly; if you're planning a trip to Europe, driving is out of the question. Your destination largely influences how you will get there, and it's the same with financial planning. Before you think of choosing investments or forming an estate plan, you first have to establish your financial goals. After all, until you choose your goals, you have no way of making progress toward them.

Step 1 Establishing goals

To determine your financial goals, start by identifying

things that will make you feel happy, fulfilled and financially secure. Overall, your goals should be a balance between these things if your goals will make you financially secure but miserable, or happy but financially insecure, you need to reconsider. It's likely, based on these requirements, you'll define a combination of short-term, intermediate and long-term goals. Short-term goals can be accomplished within the next year, such as saving for an annual vacation. Intermediate goals will generally be accomplished within the next two to five

than five years away, such as saving for retirement or your children's college education. Although goals may have different time frames, they should still be planned in coordination with each other, as achieving your short-term goals may affect your long-term goals. For example, a short-term goal may be to meet all of your mortgage payments for the next year, while a long-term goal is to own your own home. If you can't meet the short-term goal in this case, you're much less likely to achieve your long-term goal.

To determine your financial goals, start by **identifying things that will make you feel **happy, fulfilled and financially secure**.**

years, such as saving for a wedding or planning for the financial responsibilities that come from having a child. Long-term goals are more

Step 2 Specifying goals

Some common financial goals include buying a house, getting out of debt or saving

for retirement. If everyone could simply list these as goals on a financial plan, this step would be a lot easier. However, goals

mean different things to different people. For one person, buying a home may mean paying \$100,000 while to another it may be \$2 million. In addition to being specific, goals should have a time frame, be measurable, be realistic and indicate a course of action. For example, instead of “buying a home,” your goal could be: “I want to put 3 percent of my paycheck into a savings account each month so I can buy a home within the next five years, with a mortgage payment below \$3,000 per month.” By setting specific, realistic goals, it’s easier to measure your progress toward them, and your likelihood of achieving them will increase.

Step 3

Prioritizing goals

If you have a list of financial goals, boost your chance of attaining them by prioritizing them as primary goals and secondary goals. You can rank goals in terms of both urgency and importance. For instance, contributing to your retirement fund is important, but it may have to come second to paying off credit card debt, which is more urgent. If you have conflicting goals, such as saving for retirement

and your child’s education, you’ll have to choose between them. You may decide based on which is more beneficial to the most people, or which causes the least amount of harm. Using the example of choosing between saving for retirement or your child’s education, consider that your child may be able to get a scholarship or take out a loan, but if you don’t have retirement savings, you will have little to no income to live off of in your retirement years. In this case, prioritize your retirement, as it would cause more harm to put your child’s education first.

Step 4

Taking action

Once you’ve established, specified and prioritized your goals, you can start making progress toward them. To keep your spending in check while on the way to your financial goals, before making a large purchase ask yourself, “Will this get me closer to my goal?” Keeping your goals top of mind can help you stay positive, as you will be able to track how putting money toward buying a home rather than a new designer handbag gets you closer to your goal, rather than focusing only on the fact that you don’t have the handbag.

Keep in mind that your goals will need to be flexible—just

as your priorities and needs will change as you grow older, your goals will also need to change. You should reevaluate your goals at least every few years to make sure they still apply and you are making progress toward them. And remember, the sooner you set your goals, the more time you have to save and the higher the likelihood you’ll reach them.

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

A Blast from the Past



Dr. U. J. Robinson, Pastor Franklin Street Baptist Church, Chairman Board of trustees, Colored Old Folks Orphans Home; Member Shriners; 33° of Masons; Grand Worthy Patron, Order of Eastern Star; Past Grand International Patron, O.E.S.; and President Alabama Baptist State Convention



S. F. Hall,
Grand Jr. Stewart



Dr. L. E. Carroll,
Grand Trustee

Achievements

Two Brothers of Evening Star Lodge No. 6 Inducted into the AAMU Alumni Hall of Fame

On November 5, 2021, Grand Trustee, RW Andrew J. Fuller and Brother Freeman Holifield, Sr., were inducted into the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (AAMU) Alumni Hall of Fame.

RW Fuller was inducted as the Community Service Honoree for his many years of dedicated service to his beloved Alma Mater and the Huntsville Community. Brother Freeman Holifield was inducted as the Government/Law honoree for his devoted service to AAMU and his many years of service to the City of Huntsville and the Federal Government.

Congratulations to both of these Brothers!!!!



*RW Andrew J. Fuller with his AAMU
Alumni Hall of Fame Award*



*Bro. Freeman Holifield with his AAMU
Alumni Hall of Fame Award*

Grand Master Hawkins Elected Sovereign Grand Commander

On Saturday, October 16, 2021, in Memphis, Tennessee, at the 135th Annual Session, 45th Triennial of the United Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc., our very own Grand Master Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., was elected Sovereign Grand Commander of the prestigious organization. Grand Master Hawkins is only the eleventh Sovereign Grand Commander since the organization's founding in 1886. He is only the second Sovereign Grand Commander from the Jurisdiction of Alabama. Grand Master S.J. Bennett served as Sovereign Grand Commander from 1994 to 1999.

Sovereign Grand Commander Hawkins has implemented the theme: *Rebuilding the Rite Stone by Stone: Through Remembrance, Revitalization and Recommitment*. Remembering from whence we've come and our oaths and obligations to the United Supreme Council, to each other, and to mankind. While revitalizing the organization through the use of modern technology, the implementation of innovative ideas, and inclusion, leading to an enhanced member experience. Finally, recommitment or rededication of the members to the principal teachings of the Scottish Rite. When asked about his election, Sovereign Grand Commander Hawkins stated, "I am humbled and honored by the opportunity to serve this prestigious organization and look forward to us working together to build upon the Scottish Rite foundation that has been laid."

Congratulations Sovereign Grand Commander Hawkins! We look forward to great things from you and the United Supreme Council!



*Sovereign Grand Commander
Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq.*

Bro. Erick Wade Receives 2021 PALS Governors Awards

On November 17, 2021, Bro. Erick Wade, of Temple Lodge No. 98, was honored for his volunteer work with the City of Huntsville, Operation Green Team, and the Adopt-A-Mile programs. Bro. Wade received the Alabama People Against a Littered State (PALS) Governor's Award at the ceremony held at the Renaissance Convention Center in Montgomery.

Alabama PALS provides anti-litter programming to improve the environmental and economic impact on the state. A Green Team volunteer since 2016, Bro. Wade proudly took on an Adopt-A-Mile route in North Huntsville two years ago. Every Sunday morning, he's on his stretch of Sparkman Drive.

Besides the Alabama PALS recognition, Bro. Wade has been recognized by his peer group numerous times cumulating in his selection as Master Mason of the Year in 2016, Perry O. Ward Community service award in 2017, and the Leonard A. Jackson Community Service Award in 2021.

"Rain, sleet, or snow, I'm usually out there," Bro. Wade said. "I might have missed one or two weekends, but my name is on that sign and I made a commitment. I love every minute of it." Green Team Coordinator, George Martin has worked closely with Bro. Wade. "Erick is just a get-up-and-go kind of guy," Martin said. "He wants to get it done and gets out in the community and does the hard work himself. His whole goal is to make a difference in the community."

During the past five years, Bro. Wade has worked with other groups, including Temple Lodge No. 98, in cleanups at Jim Merak Park in Huntsville, AL. He's also joined Tennessee Valley Consistory No. 160 in an Adopt-A-Mile effort off Medaris Road in Huntsville, AL.

"I wanted to do more because the litter problem was not just in my district, it was everywhere," Bro. Wade said. "Eventually, I started what I called my 'Tour of Huntsville,' and made sure to do litter cleanup work in all the districts. I simply followed Operation Green Team around the City because they were everywhere."

Litter cleanup is one of his passions because he feels he gets so much in return.

"It's great exercise and gives me a real peace of mind to plan my next move," Bro. Wade said. "I've met so many good people who have stopped to chat or gave me a cold drink. I've also collected a total of \$8.50 in lost change."



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:

Brother Ruben Studdard

Ruben Studdard was born in Frankfurt, West Germany, while his father was stationed there with the U.S. Army, and grew up in Birmingham, Alabama. The youngest son of two teachers, at the age of three, he sang for the first time at the Rising Star Baptist Church in his hometown of Birmingham. He continued singing gospel in church, performing solos as a child while his mother sang in the local choir. While at Huffman High School, he played football and received a scholarship to Alabama A&M University. While at Alabama A&M, he joined Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

After growing up listening to his mother's Donny Hathaway albums, Fred Hammond, and gospel music, Studdard began to pursue a career in the music industry, majoring in voice studies at Alabama A&M. He sang with Just a Few Cats, a popular local Birmingham jazz and R&B band founded by members of Ray Reach's UAB Jazz Ensemble, along with other local musicians. Years later, Studdard stated: "A lot of people don't realize how hard I was trying to get into the business before American Idol. I was making demos and just working so hard." A back-up singer from Just a Few Cats asked him to accompany her to Nashville, Tennessee for an audition on the 2003 second season of American Idol.



Bro. Ruben Studdard

When auditioning, Studdard sang Stevie Wonder's "Ribbon in the Sky." This guided him to being one of the local finalists. On American Idol, he impressed viewers with his performances of the Leon Russell/Bonnie Bramlett song "Superstar" and the Peabo Bryson/Regina Belle duet "A Whole New World." During his time on the show, Studdard received praise from music legends such as Lionel Richie, Neil Sedaka, Robin Gibb of the Bee Gees, Luther Vandross, and Gladys Knight.

During the televised competition, Studdard gained the nickname "Velvet Teddy Bear" and was noted for his shirts printed with "205," the telephone area code of his hometown of Birmingham.

He won the contest over runner-up Clay Aiken, becoming the second American Idol winner. Governor Bob Riley declared March 11, 2003 as "Ruben Studdard Day."

Ruben released his debut single, a cover song, *Flying without Wings* by West Life, where he won the American Idol. He sang it during the show's finale. In 2003, it was released by his producers, Baby Face and the Underdogs. In 2004, he released a debut album titled *Soulful* that contained the single, *Sorry*. He released his second album in 2004, which was a debut gospel album. He made a cameo in *Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed* in the same year. The release of the third album was after two years, titled *The Return*, followed by *Love* in 2008.

He released others like *Unconditional Love* and *Letter from Birmingham*. He has been featured in films such as *Lifted* and *The Perfect Gift* and some non-album singles like *Flying Without Wings* and *Celebrate Me*. He has made his appearance in several TV shows such as *Life on a Stick*, *Eve*, *Eight Simple Rules*, and *All of Us*. He also made guest appearances in *One on One*.

During his career, he has collaborated with megastars such as Stevie Wonder and Eric Benet, earning him a platinum-selling debut album. Most of his singles have made top of the US Billboard music charts. In 2008 he published a cover album named *Ruben Sings Luther* due to his comparison with famous R&B singer Luther Vandross.

He received a Grammy Award for Best Male R&B Vocal Performance in 2003 for song *Superstar*. Studdard has been nominated for several awards, including Teen Choice Award, three Billboard Music Awards, and one Image Award.

Ruben is a member of Geometry Lodge No. 410, as well as, all York Rite Houses. He is a Class of 2015 inductee into the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama's Hall of Fame.



Military Affairs

Keeping our MWPHGL of Alabama Veterans Informed

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Programs for Minority Veterans

The Minority Veterans Program (MVP) conducts outreach activities, disseminates information, and serves as a resource center for the exchange of information regarding the improvement of services available to minority Veterans. The program coordinators hear and evaluate complaints and queries made by or on behalf of minority Veterans and assist minority Veterans on an individual basis. The term “Veterans who are minorities” means Veterans who are identified as African Americans, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Native American/Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian. The main goal for Minority Veterans Program Coordinators (MVPC) is to increase the awareness of issues on minority Veterans. This includes developing long-term strategies to encourage eligible minority Veterans to participate in VA benefit programs. Additionally, MVPCs advocate on behalf of minority Veterans and recommend ways to improve the delivery of services within VA facilities.

Each VA Regional Office has a Minority Veterans Outreach Coordinator who is a direct point of contact for you to learn more about what benefits you qualify for, assist you with applying for those benefits, and refer you to other organizations and resources that will help you meet your needs.

Native American Direct Loan (NADL) Program

This program helps eligible Native American Veterans finance the purchase, construction, or improvement of homes on Federal Trust Land or reduce the interest rate on such a VA loan. Native American Veterans may use these direct loans to simultaneously purchase and improve a home or refinance another VA direct loan made under NADL to lower the interest rate.

Veterans can visit www.benefits.va.gov to find out more information on these programs.

*Contributor – RW Carlton Jones
Committee on Military and Veteran Affairs*



REGION 4

News and Events from Region 4

Hamilton Lodge No. 365 Serving in Its Community



Bro. Quadarius Belser donated on behalf of Hamilton Lodge No. 365.



WM Belser, Ms. Belser, PM Sayles, and other Lodge Officers and members who presented Breast Cancer Survivor Baskets.



In early October 2021, Hamilton Lodge No. 365 donated care packages containing personal items to the Edmundit Missions, Good Sheppard Community Center, in Lowndes County, Alabama. These care packages were specifically assembled to assist families during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The number of families in need during this season of trials has grown exponentially. More and more families are turning to centers like this for food and clothing, as well as, essential items like those in the care packages. The Brothers of Hamilton Lodge and their families understand the biblical tenant of “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

On October 28th and 29th, Hamilton Lodge held a small ceremony at Ida B. Wells Park in Montgomery, Alabama to recognize two courageous ladies who battled Breast Cancer. October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month, which recognizes survivors of a disease that not only affects millions of women but also men every year. Each year Hamilton Lodge recognizes two ladies that have ties in some way to the Prince Hall Family or the community. More information about supporting the fight against breast cancer can be found at The African American Breast Cancer Alliance, Inc.

In early December, Hamilton Lodge’s very own PM Sayles donned the guise of Saint Nicholas aka Santa Claus aka Soul Santa and conducted an early visit to surprise the kids in Lowndes County, AL which sits firmly in Alabama’s Black Belt.

In mid-December, the mighty Brothers of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 in honoring the birth of the Christian Savior, joined forces with The Gift of Life Foundation in Montgomery, Alabama to donate diapers and various other essential baby supplies to young mothers who found themselves in need during this joyous time. The Gift of Life Foundation is committed to improving the health and well-being of at-risk mothers and babies to build stronger communities.

During the 2021 Carver High School Football season, District Deputy, R.W. Donald Parks and WM Belser of Hamilton Lodge No. 365, vaccinated against COVID-19 so they could volunteer their time to help teach, coach, and mentor the wolverine football team of Carver High School in Montgomery, Alabama. Deputy Parks' motivational way of speaking combined with his leadership style was instrumental in preparing the young men for each game.

Contributor – Bro. Marion Avery Dortch, Jr. (No. 365)



REGION 5

News and Events from Region 5

Geometry Lodge No. 410 Hosts Annual Christmas Toy Drive

In December 2021, Geometry Lodge No. 410 held its Annual Christmas Toy Drive assisted by Council Lodge No. 778. The drive was conducted over seven days in the Irondale community where toy and cash donations were collected. Cash donations from the brothers and community were used to purchase a generous amount of toys for children in the Greater Birmingham area. On the last day of the drive, the toys were distributed out to the needy families in the community. The lodge looks forward to this event each year. With each year being a greater success than the last. The intentions are to fill the hearts and minds of the communities with cheer and joy while allowing both the less fortunate and fortunate to have and enjoy a cheerful Christmas. The lodge expects a greater outcome and more success next December.

Contributor – Bro. Roosevelt Howard (No. 410)



New Beginning Lodge No. 970 Hosts Initiative Against Bullying

The Brothers of New Beginning Lodge No. 970 have started a “Students Against Bullying” initiative geared towards K-5th grade students. On October 1st, 2021 Brothers visited Tarrant Elementary School to kick off the initiative. Teachers selected 20 students as pioneers of the project. These awesome students have demonstrated leadership, academic success, timeliness, daily attendance, and respect for faculty and their peers while at school. Principal Walter Womack and Assistant Principal Suhai Douglas were delighted to have New Beginning provide a positive message to their students while also providing critical statistics on the impact of bullying, the age when bullying can begin, and ways to combat the problem safely and productively. Bullying can start as early as pre-K in some instances, which is why this project is so important. Our job as parents, educators, and dedicated adults is to provide a safe and loving environment for all children. New Beginning provided pizza, drinks, snacks, goodie bags, a “See a Bully - STOP a Bully” bracelet, and a certificate to every student who participated. Each student, teacher, and administrator that participated pledged to do their part in preventing bullying at school.

*Contributor –
Bro. Gerald L. Beal
(No. 970)*



REGION 6

News and Events from Region 6

Morning Star Lodge No. 50 and Hendley Chapter No 855, O.E.S Adopt-A-Mile Project

On November 6, 2021, the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 continued their support and commitment to the Alabama Department of Transportation's People Against a Littered State (PALS) "Adopt-A-Mile Project." The lodge has a Mile Marker bearing its name on University Drive in Huntsville, Alabama that the lodge has agreed to keep clean and presentable in its beautiful community. The Brothers arrived at 7:00 a.m. Saturday with plastic trash bags, gloves, and a special tool used for picking up glass and trash along the curbsides. The dedicated members of (MSL No.50) picked up trash and cleaned up the surrounding area stretching a mile on both sides of University Drive, from the corner of Memorial Parkway to the end of Klondike Avenue. The objective is to promote pride in the community and present a positive example for the residents to keep their area safe from broken glass and other trash that attracts wildlife that can endanger people. Another benefit the brothers received was the opportunity to exercise and the physical activity we all need to elevate our health level!

On December 12th, the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 continued their support and commitment to the Alabama Department of Transportation's People Against a Littered State (PALS) "Adopt-A-Mile Project joining forces with sisters of Hendley Chapter No. 855 O.E.S in assisting them with their Adopt-A- Mile Marker bearing its name on Stoner Field in North Huntsville, Alabama. The Brothers arrived at 8:00 a.m. Sunday, to assist the Sisters in the same trash pick-up process they completed on their adopted mile the previous month.

The committee Chairman thanked the brothers for showing the community how the Brothers of Morning Star give back to their community and how they can motivate the public to help keep their city clean.

Contributor – Bro. Greg White (No. 50)



Athelstine Lodge No. 71

Shows Its Holiday Spirit

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and all that people have experienced across the nation in their communities, God still provided a way for Athelstine Lodge No. 71 to be of service in 2021. On November 19, 2021, WM Buford Thomas, Bro. Mansfield Scott, and Chaplain John Irving met, assembled, and delivered Thanksgiving Baskets to the families in Athens, Limestone County. No 71 adhered to Grand Lodge, federal, state, and local COVID-19 guidelines while preparing the holiday baskets. Each Holiday Food Basket consisted of items to prepare a traditional Thanksgiving meal such as turkey, vegetables, stuffing mix, yams, etc. The brothers of Athelstine Lodge No 71 continue to sponsor their annual widows fruit baskets. Their annual widows fruit baskets serve two purposes. One, as a health and welfare check on their widows. Two, to let them know that the lodge brothers are thinking of them and never will forget them and their deceased brothers.

On December 18th, WM Buford Thomas and Bro. Mansfield Scott delivered twelve Annual Christmas Fruit baskets to widows of their deceased brothers. Their widows are grateful that they continue to think of them and check on their welfare. The gift of a fruit basket warms their hearts, especially this time of year. The widows have grown fond of the fruit baskets and were happy that the lodge brothers were able to deliver them in the climate of the pandemic. WM Buford Thomas thanked the brothers who donated food and money for their 2021 Holiday Gift Baskets.

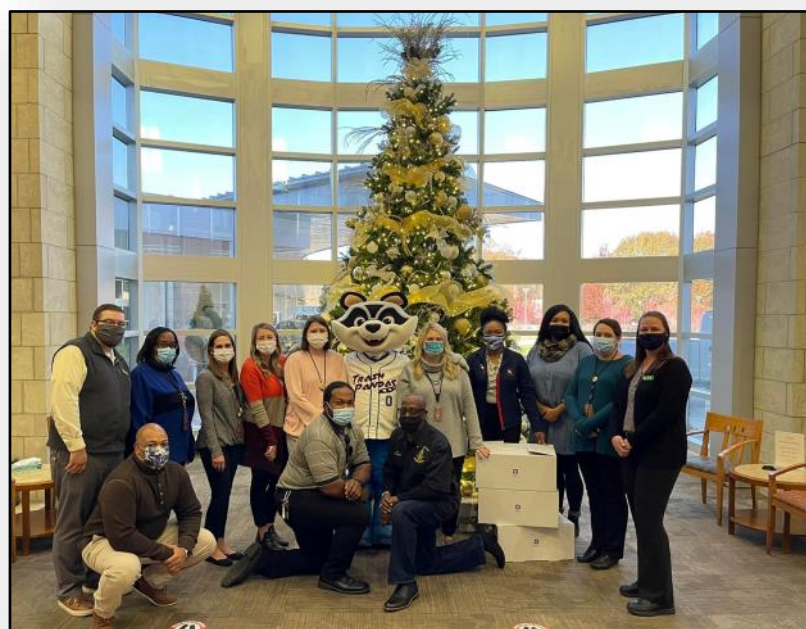
*Contributor –
WM Buford Thomas (No. 71)*



Temple Lodge No. 98's Thanksgiving Feed-a-Family

Temple Lodge No. 98's third annual Thanksgiving Feed-a-Family Initiative was a huge success. Again, this year, the lodge partnered with Publix Grocery Stores, "The Shoppes at Martin Rd" and the Clearview Cancer Institute (CCI), Huntsville, AL, to provide meal boxes to less fortunate patients receiving cancer recovery treatments. This year the lodge introduced a new partner to the event...the Rocket City Trash Pandas Baseball team. The team representatives and mascot delivered meal boxes to the CCI main campus and delighted patients while satisfying a critical need. Temple Lodge No. 98 and partners prepared and delivered meal boxes covering a distance of over 60 miles, feeding 20 households consisting of 80 people.

Contributor – WM Carl Cooney. (No. 98)



Members of Temple Lodge No. 98 with Clearview Cancer Institute staff, Publix Grocery Store Managers, and Rocket City Trash Pandas staff and mascot "Sprocket"

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 or not use the articles and photographs as deemed necessary. **Deadline for submissions for the next issue of *The Cornerstone Message* is 5 April 2022.** These articles should include events from **January 2022 - March 2022**. 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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