



THE CORNERSTONE MESSAGE

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

VOLUME V, ISSUE III

OCTOBER 2022

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Grand Lodge
Events

2022 Hall of Fame
Inductees

2022 Scholarship
Recipients



THE GRAND MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD



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One of the great lessons the fall of the leaf teaches, is this: do your work well and then be ready to depart when God shall call.

Tryon Edwards

Autumn is upon us again. A distinct reminder that autumn has arrived is the fall of the leaf. The fall of the leaf is the indication that we must prepare for the future. As the leaf departs from its temporary home and purpose, we too, will one day depart from our temporary home and purpose. In anticipation of our departure, we should be preparing future leaders of this prestigious organization. Each experienced brother should have an understudy, who is under his tutelage, that he is molding into a leader, or spring leaf, if you will. When God does call, we will have done our work well, and done our part to help secure the long-lasting future of our beloved Grand Lodge.

We enjoyed a magnificent 152nd Annual Communication, in the port city of Mobile, AL. Our host hotels were sold out and our sessions and programs were bursting at the seams. Our strict COVID protocols were followed, and I am thankful for the membership's cooperation. While at the 152nd Annual Communication we were fortunate enough to induct three brothers (two posthumously) into our Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama Hall of Fame. We were also blessed to receive several donations from many of the lodges and masonic bodies, to include a large donation to the Grand Lodge Building Fund from the Mizpah Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star in the amount of \$11,500.00. I offer a huge THANK YOU to Grand Worthy Matron Shirley Pratt for your vision and leadership, to Grand Worthy Patron Calvin Miller, II and to the sisters of the Mizpah Grand Chapter for your kindness and support. We congratulate those inductees and newly raised brothers. Also, congratulations to our Hall of Fame inductee, as well.

As you read this issue of *The Cornerstone News*, you will notice some of the great charitable work that many of our subordinate lodges are performing in their communities. It is our duty to serve mankind. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" I applaud those lodges that are working in the community. I encourage all lodges to get involved. Community service is very important and should not be omitted or neglected.

Currently, the jurisdiction is still under a "soft" reopening. Lodges still have the option of meeting in person or via conference call/zoom. It is my plan to upgrade the "soft" reopening to a "full" reopening whereby, all lodges will be required to meet in person again, effective January 1, 2023.

As we embark upon this holiday season, let us remember the less fortunate; not only during this particular time, but at all times. If we can help somebody, as we pass along. If we can cheer somebody, with a word or song. *If we can show somebody, that he's travelling wrong. Then our living shall not be in vain.* I wish each of you a very enjoyable holiday season! May God bless you. May He bless the Jurisdiction of Alabama and may He bless the United States of America.

Fraternally,

Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.

Most Worshipful Grand Master

Front Cover: Mizpah Grand Chapter making
donation to Grand Lodge

Message from the Editor



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)!



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've seen a distinct brother with the email salutation stating, "Live your obligation." Our obligation is distinct on how we should live our lives as Prince Hall Masons, but the question is, do we? In my time as a mason, I have watched the actions of the more senior masons very closely. I have seen some who genuinely try as hard as they can to live by their obligations. I believe the opposite also exists because we place far more importance on mem-

orization than understanding. We get lost in degree work and chair requirements to be able to wear a lodge collar and lodge plaques or recognitions rather than what it means to be a mason and more importantly...a true brother. All societies have shortcomings. This is one of ours.

When a brother mentors a new mason, his real job is not to just help the brother memorize the work. He needs to show the brother the beauty of masonry and make sure the brother understands the true meaning of what is being memorized. Further than that, the mentor needs to make sure he is sound in the display of his own actions as a broth-

er because the new mason will emulate exactly what he is shown by the older generation. Time is an interesting thing and the most valuable item any of us have to offer. The question is when you were a mentor...did you do any of this? Do any of us? 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

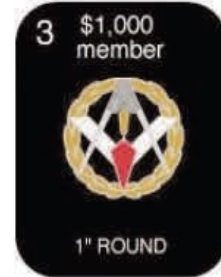
Members suspended after June, 2002, can reinstate by paying the following:

- \$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 MWPHGL of AL Tags Anytime, You do not have to wait for your renewal Month!)

Support the Prince Hall Legacy Foundation

AmazonSmile Prime

**Support the Prince Hall Legacy Foundation
at no extra cost to you when you shop at smile.amazon.com.**

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.

How do I shop with AmazonSmile?

To use AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com on your web browser or activate AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app on your iOS or Android phone within the Settings or Programs & Features menu. On your web browser, you can add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping with AmazonSmile.

How do I activate AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app?

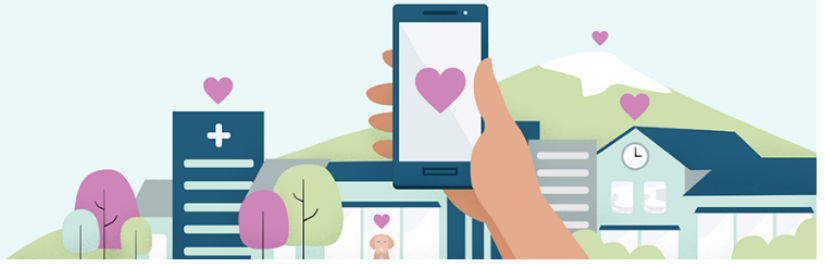
AmazonSmile is available for Amazon customers with the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app on their mobile phone, including Android devices with version 7.0+ or iOS devices with version 12+. To activate AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app, simply tap on "AmazonSmile" within the Programs & Features menu or Settings and follow the on-screen instructions.

Do I need to renew AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile renewals happen twice a year to help keep AmazonSmile on mobile app. AmazonSmile will notify you of these renewals via push notifications and through in-app notifications. If you miss a renewal you can reactivate at any time by repeating the steps to "turn on" AmazonSmile on your mobile device. There is no renewal period for browser shopping on AmazonSmile, which you can use anytime by typing 'smile.amazon.com' into your browser.

AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app

You can now support your favorite charity on iPhone & Android phones



How to turn on AmazonSmile in the mobile app

1

Get the app

Download or update to the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app on your phone. You can find it in the [App Store](#) for iOS or [Google Play](#) for Android.

2

Join AmazonSmile

If you are not already an AmazonSmile member, simply sign up at [smile.amazon.com](#) and select your favorite charity to start generating donations, at no cost to you.

3

Turn on AmazonSmile

Open the app and find 'Settings' in the main menu (≡). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

AmazonSmile in the app is not available for iPads and other tablet devices
To shop AmazonSmile on your tablet, type [smile.amazon.com](#) into the browser.

Choose from almost a million charities, schools, and other nonprofits. We will reach out to the organization you select to ensure it is ready to accept donations from Amazon.

All ▼

Prince Hall Legacy of Alabama

Search

Showing 1-1 of 1 Results

Sort by: Relevance ▼

Prince Hall Legacy of Alabama

Birmingham, AL | Public Foundations

Select

Your AmazonSmile Impact

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AmazonSmile has the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping as the Amazon you know.



Generate donations

AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases to your favorite charity when you shop.

152nd Annual Grand Lodge Communication

July 18th —20th 2022



152nd Annual Grand Lodge Communication

Lodge of Sorrow



152nd Annual Grand Lodge Communication Welcome Program



152nd Annual Grand Lodge Communication Training, Workshops & Certifications



“Hard Work Pays Off”

Congratulations to the 152nd Annual Communication’s Award Recipients

RURAL LODGE of the YEAR

- 1st Place– Shorter Lodge No. 533
- 2nd Place- Goshen Lodge No. 132
- 3rd Place- Morrow Grove Lodge No. 800

CITY LODGE of the YEAR

- 1st Place– Hamilton Lodge No. 365
- 2nd Place- New Beginning Lodge No. 970
- 3rd Place- Phoenix Lodge No. 428

DISTRICT DEPUTY of the YEAR

- 1st Place - R. W. Walter Greene, Grand District Deputy of District No. 14
- 2nd Place -R.W. H. Jerome Glover, Grand District Deputy of District No. 17
- 3rd Place - R. W. Erwin Chambliss, Grand District Deputy of District No. 7

TOP DISTRICTS FOR SOUVENIR JOURNAL AD SALES

- 1st Place – District No. 14
R. W. Walter Greene, Grand District Deputy
- 2nd Place - District No. 7
R. W. Erwin Chambliss, Grand District Deputy
- 3rd Place – District No. 17
R. W. H. Jerome Glover, Grand District Deputy

TOP LODGES FOR SOUVENIR JOURNAL AD SALES

- 1st Place – Phoenix Lodge No. 428
Brother Keith Daniel, Worshipful Master
- 2nd Place – Council Lodge No. 778
Brother Dennis Simmons, Worshipful Master
- 3rd Place – Shorter Lodge No. 533
Brother Willie Smith, Worshipful Master

**Congratulations
to the
2022 Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama
Hall of Fame Inductees**



R.W. Edgar Vann, No. 649



Bro. Lucius D. Amerson, No. 67



R.W. Donald R. Parks, No. 345

Inductions

R.W. Donald R. Parks (1st Imperial Potentate from Alabama in modern times), R.H. Rice No. 345

Posthumous Inductions

R.W. Edgar Vann (Served 37 years as Worshipful Master & almost 30 years as Grand Tyler), Steele Scepter No. 649

Bro. Lucius D. Amerson (1st Black Sheriff in the Deep South since Reconstruction), Lewis Adams No. 67

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

<u>Name</u>	<u>College/University</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mary Alston	University of West Georgia	\$1,400.00
Mea Cooley	Jones College	\$1,400.00
Julius Morris	Colby Community College	\$1,400.00
Ty'Andrea Tillis	Enterprise State Community College	\$1,400.00
Jada Colley	Tennessee State University	\$1,400.00
Gabrielle Simpson	University of Alabama-Birmingham	\$1,400.00
Autumn Hawkins	University of Alabama	\$2,500.00
	Alabama A. & M. University	\$10,000.00
	Miles College	\$10,000.00
	Alabama State University	\$5,000.00
	Tuskegee University	\$5,000.00
	Stillman College	\$5,000.00

Thanksgiving

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

AUTUMN

FAMILY

HARVEST

BLESSINGS

FEAST

HOLIDAY

CASSEROLE

FOOTBALL

NOVEMBER

CORNUCOPIA

FRIENDS

PARADE

CRANBERRY

GATHER

THANKFUL

DINNER

GOBBLE

THURSDAY

DRESSING

GRATITUDE

TRADITION

FALL

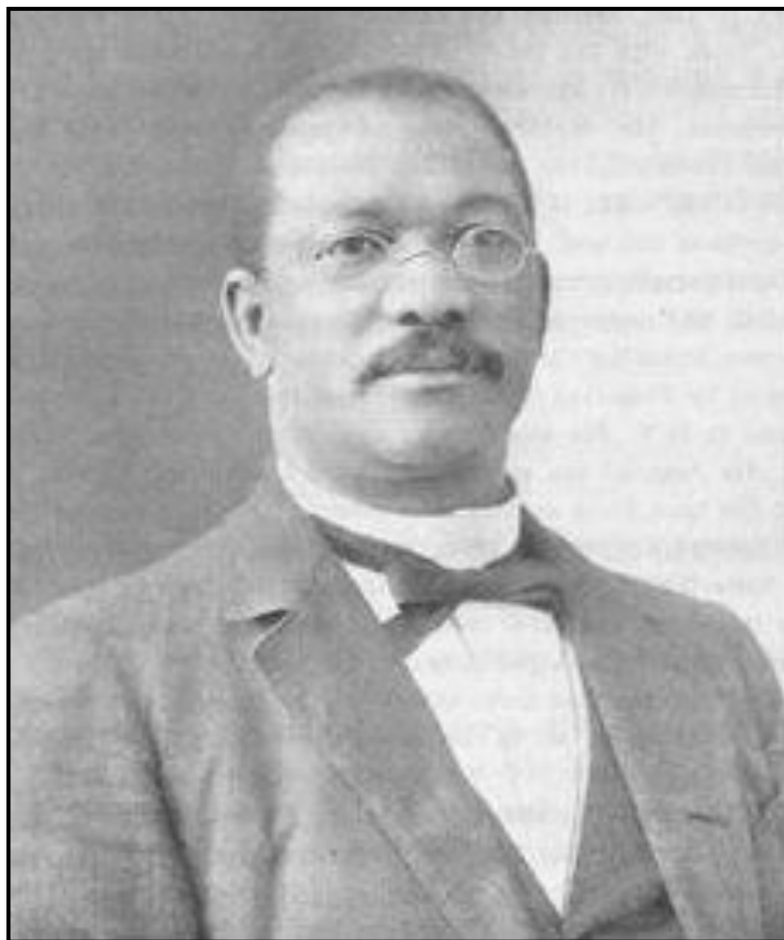
GRAVY

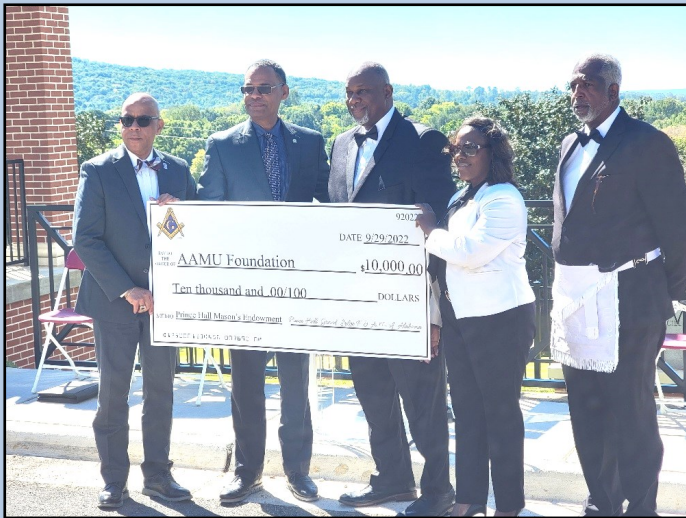
TURKEY

Wreath Laying Ceremony for William Hooper Council

On Thursday, September 29, 2022, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama conducted its Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony for Dr. William Hooper Council during homecoming week, 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, Deputy Grand Master Robert Glenn, presented a scholarship from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama to Dr. Daniel K. Wims, President of Alabama A. and M. University, for deserving students, for \$10,000.00. Dr. Wims was very gracious. This annual event is very dear to Grand Master Hawkins he 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, who attend the prestigious university.





A Blast from the Past

STEELE SCEPTER LODGE NO. 649

417 UTICA PLACE, BIRMINGHAM, ALA.— BRO. EDGAR VANN, Worshipful Master

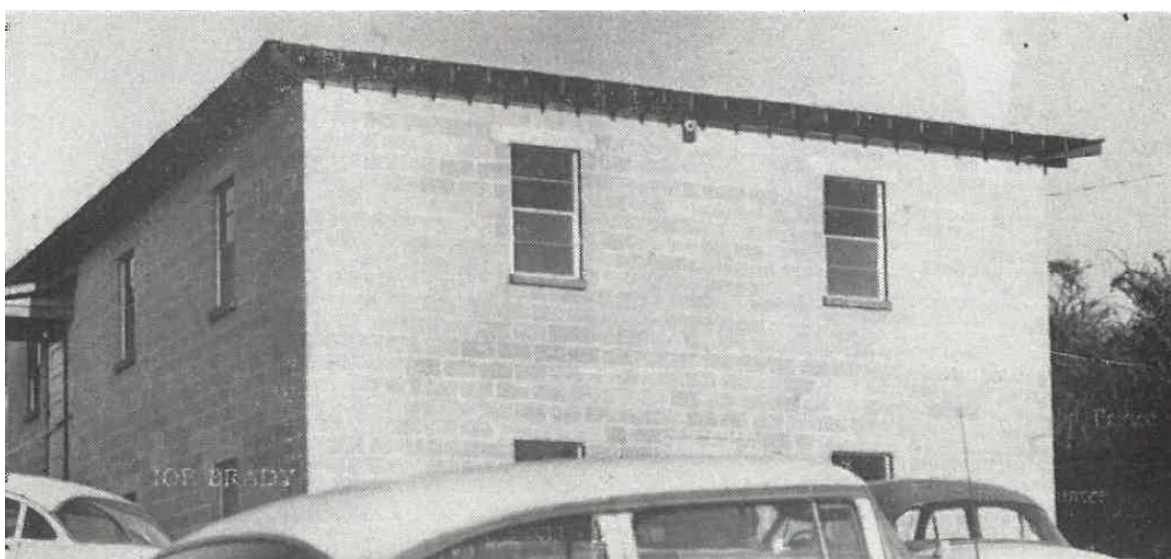


Left to right, sitting: Bro. G. J. Allen, Secretary; Bro. Bernard Cook, S.W.; Bro. Edgar Vann, W.M. and Grand Tyler; Bro. Walter L. Harris, J.W.; Bro. Don-

ald E. Douglass, Bro. Robert Eatmon, Bro. Charlie Duff, Bro. Buril Sears; Bro. Izer Spurling, Bro. Randolph Parker, Bro. Lee Orr.

STEELE SCEPTER LODGE NO. 649

25,000 NEWLY ERECTED HALL



From Whence We've Come...

In Their Own Words

REV. GEORGE W. BRYANT
Past Grand Master
1874-75

Alabama's third Grand Master before consolidation was a gentleman by the name of George W. Bryant. The Grand Master's birthdate and other vital demographics remain a mystery to the Brothers of the Craft.

A search of Grand Master Bryant's masonic background has uncovered a number of facts within the proceedings of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Ancient York Masons for the State of Ohio.

Grand Master Henry C. Binford was found mentioning that *Freemasonry* came to Alabama in the "fifties" [1850's]. The Grand Master referenced "Col. James Lewis and others of New Orleans, La., came here and initiated, passed and raised Simon S. Ashe, Henry Clement, Geo. W. Daniels, Wm. Little, Wm. Taylor, [Henry] Pollard and others, who constituted the first colored lodge organized in this State"¹. Among those not cited by name is believed to have been Rev. George Washington (G.W.) Bryant.

Brother Bryant's earliest record has him recorded as the Treasurer of Wilberforce Lodge, No. 21, in Xenia, Ohio, under the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Ancient York Masons for the State of Ohio, in 1861². The backdrop of the Civil War was at play and many African-Americans at the time made the exodus from the war torn South and relocated North, in Ohio, namely Xenia and Cincinnati.

In 1862, Brother Bryant was shown on the rolls as Treasurer, but also Past Master, of Wilberforce Lodge, No. 21³. Additionally, he is seen as a Treasurer in 1863-64⁴⁵. In 1865, Brother Bryant was not listed in the rolls as Treasurer but shown in the rolls as being elected as Treasurer for the ensuing year⁶.

With the end of the Civil War, the Freemasons from Mobile, dislocated and living in Xenia, Ohio, began to return home to Mobile. Like Brothers Simon S. Ashe, John H. Ashe, Henry A. Clement and Wm. Taylor, Brother G.W. Bryant (Treasurer) also returned to Mobile, in 1866⁷.

¹*Proceedings of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Alabama, August 18, 1908, p. 19.*

²*Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted A.Y. Masons for the State of Ohio, 1861, p.38.*

³*Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted A.Y. Masons for the State of Ohio, 1862, p.47.*

⁴*Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted A.Y. Masons for the State of Ohio, 1863, p. 50.*

⁵*Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted A.Y. Masons for the State of Ohio, 1864, p.40.*

⁶*Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted A.Y. Masons for the State of Ohio and its Jurisdiction, 1865, p.46.*

⁷*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, 1866, p.43.*

One year later in 1867, the Brothers would request a dispensation from Grand Master John Jones of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. Grand Master Jones, in his 1867 Grand Master's Address stated, "I have granted a dispensation to open a lodge in the city of Mobile, Alabama, since our last communication. The honor of opening that lodge was conferred upon our beloved Bro. John Cousins, our Worthy Grand Treasurer. Allow me to inform you that the work was done with credit to himself and satisfaction to all concerned."⁸ Upon the Grand Lodge's approval of the recommendation of Grand Master Jones, this action set the foundation for Olive Branch Lodge, No. 6, U.D.⁹, the first lodge of African-American men in Alabama.

Brother Bryant was appointed to serve out the expired term of Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master L.J. Williams, who died on October 15, 1874, [1873] in Montgomery¹⁰. The following year, on June 24, 1874, Brother Bryant was elected by the body as Most Worshipful Grand Master, at the Grand Lodge Session¹¹. He was re-elected on June 23, 1875, as Grand Master of Alabama¹².

The irony of the life of Brother Bryant is shown by the sudden cutoff of documented material facing his masonic life after the 1875-76 Grand Lodge Proceedings [which remain lost]. Grand Master Bryant was lambasted by the Craft for failing to present his annual report to the body. The only vestige of information found regarding the missing proceedings were stated in the 1875-76 Arkansas Grand Lodge Proceeding's Committee on Foreign Correspondence (CCFC) Report. He is also shown in the Proceedings as having been elected Grand Secretary in 1876, after which, he is never heard from again...

Grand Master Rev. George W. Bryant, *in his own words*:

Tuesday, June 21, 1875¹³

Dear Brethren:

Once more we are permitted to meet around our "grand alter" and bow our heads and raise our hearts in thanksgiving to the S.A.O.T.U. for having spared us amid a year of disease, &c.

It is the duty of the Grand Master to communicate in writing immediately before or after the appointment of the Standing Committees a statement of his officials acts during the recess of the Grand Lodge, with such other matters as he may deem advantageous to the craft.

I am happy to state to you that we have made some progress, and I have issued three dispensations this year. More might have been done, but I do not think that the prosperity of the "craft" depends upon the number of new lodges that may be organized during the year. Yet I am conscious of the fact that the craft is in a healthy and prosperous condition. I understand more so at present than ever since the existence of the Grand Lodge in this State.

Many of the rough and unsightly ashlar have been polished up and made suitable stones for the building; others that could not be used or squared to their proper places have been cast aside as unfit for the builder's use. Briefly summing up the whole, I can say that our institution is in a prosperous state.

⁸*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, 1867, p.7.*

Ibid, p.43.

¹⁰*Transactions of the M.W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama, June 22, 1874, p. 6.*

¹¹*Ibid, p.16.*

¹²*Transactions of the M.W. Grand Lodge for the State of Alabama, June 21, 1875, p. 16.*

¹³*Ibid, p. 5-8.*

I will now give you an account of my official acts for the past year:

Immediately after the close of the last session I visited King Solomon's Lodge, No. 4, Montgomery, Ala. I found this Lodge in rather embarrassing circumstances, partly arising from an unbusiness-like looseness in the keeping of the records, &c, from some unpolished and imperfect ashlar that had been allowed to be placed in the building, and in part on account of the death of the W. M. R. W. [sic] [R.W] Bro. L.J. Williams. After arduous labor I finally succeeded in bring them to the plumb and square, and installed Bro. J.A. Foster, and I think the work goes bravely on.

Let me impress upon your minds, brethren, to elect such brethren only to the responsible offices of Secretary and Treasurer as you know are competent and will fill their offices with credit to themselves and honor to the craft. I, with a constitutional number of brethren, repaired to Tuscaloosa and entered, passed and raised a number of gentlemen, and after due petition and recommendation issued a dispensation to them, July 16, 1874, known as David's Temple Lodge, U.D., Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa Co., Ala. Also, to Silver Trowel Lodge, Tuskegee, Ala. February 16th, to Golden Rule Lodge, Opelika, Lee Co., Ala.

I might have done more, had not our ex-Grand Secretary, Bro. W.H. McCants, conflicted with my correspondence and overreached his official bounds.

I have called several special session of the Grand Lodge this year on account of business which required immediate action, and at the request of three or more W. Masters of subordinate lodges.

Special dispensations issue: To King Solomon's Lodge to elect and install its officers; to enter, pass and raise an applicant in case of extreme necessity. To Hiram Lodge to do the latter.

I would recommend to this Grand Lodge that at this session they draft and adopt a set of Resolutions concerning intemperance and profanity in subordinate lodges of this jurisdiction. These vices are spreading to some extent, more especially among some of our older lodges.

If this Grand Lodge will issue such an edict, and see to it that it is strictly enforced, not only by the subordinates, but that every member and officer live up to the very letter of the law, and strictly prove that from the Grand Master to the youngest apprentice will not be exempt from that law, I think we will make another stride onward and upward.

Allow no brother to be elected to an office in this Lodge or any of its subordinates unless his habits and morals are such a quality as to command the confidence of his brethren and the respect of all who know him. Can that man command honor and respect who stands upon the highway and uses loud and vulgar and profane language? Can that brother be true to his obligation and an ornament to our institution who drinks to elevation and becomes boisterous? What a sad and dishonorable reflection he casts upon the craft who carries the inviolable secrets in his bosom and the emblem upon his breast yet revels in debauchery!

Then let us do our duty in this respect without fear, favor or prejudice, and the wise and best of the land will come flocking, unbiased by friends to our "temple" for protection.

Contributor — RW L. Ken Collins, II
Grand Historian

\$ Dollars and Sense \$



Estate Planning for Newlyweds

Estate planning might sound like something only your wealthy great-uncle Frank has to worry about. You may wonder how your worldly possessions could possibly qualify as an “estate.” Believe it or not, almost everyone needs to take care of some basic estate planning, especially newlyweds. Most newlyweds don’t want to think of the possibility of losing their spouse, but the fact is that losing your spouse could be an even worse experience without the proper estate plan in place.

Wills

If you only do the bare minimum of estate planning, make it a will. In your will, you can leave your property to your spouse or whomever else you’d like. You should also determine secondary beneficiaries in the event that both of you die at the same time. Your will should name a designated executor, the person responsible for making sure your wishes are carried out. Without a will, your property is at the mercy of your state’s laws. Depending on which state you live in, this could leave your spouse out in the cold. Additionally, if you have children, your will should designate guardians in case you and your spouse die at the same time.

Avoiding Probate

While creating a will is a great first step in estate planning, it cannot help you avoid probate. Probate is the process of executing a will, and it can take months or even years, and cost up to 5 percent of the value of the estate. The time and money involved in probate is probably not what you had in mind for your beneficiaries. If you live in a community property state, your property will automatically transfer to your spouse at the time of your death (unless noted otherwise in your will or prenuptial agreement). In a common law state, however, you’ll have to make sure that you and your spouse hold large property in “joint tenancy with right to survivorship.” This will ensure that your spouse automatically acquires ownership upon your death.

While creating a will is a great first step in estate planning, it cannot help you avoid probate.

Another method of avoiding probate is the use of living trusts. A trust is a separate legal entity that holds property, so anything within a trust is exempt from probate upon your death. Marital trusts are trusts that address the specific needs of married couples. There are several types to choose from, with options for various circumstances.

Prenuptial and Postnuptial Agreements.

A prenuptial agreement is a contract made between two people before their marriage begins. A postnuptial agreement, as the name suggests, is created after the marriage takes place. Both agreements generally specify what property is held by each party prior to marriage and how that property will be divided in the case of divorce or death of one spouse. Prenuptial and postnuptial agreements are especially useful for couples where one party owns a business, has children outside the marriage or has considerable property from before the marriage. These agreements can be helpful in determining property ownership, especially for couples living in a community property state who do not want all property evenly divided, or vice versa.

Beneficiary Designations

Certain property can be passed directly to beneficiaries without the use of a will or trust. For instance, life insurance benefits, retirement plans and bank accounts can all be left to your spouse when you die, as long as you name him or her as the account beneficiary. When you designate a beneficiary, your account becomes “payable on death,” thus avoiding probate court and fees. If you don’t want to leave an entire account to your spouse, you can split up the assets among various beneficiaries. It’s also a good idea to list secondary beneficiaries in case the primary beneficiary also dies. Naming beneficiaries on your accounts is fast and can be done without the help of a lawyer.

Living Wills

Your estate plan is not only a plan for your death, but also in case you were to become incapacitated. It’s important to determine what should happen to you and your property if you become unable to communicate or make decisions for yourself. A living will can specify health care treatments you do and do not want, and how you’d like to be treated in the hospital. For instance, do you want to be kept on life support? Do you want to be fed through a tube if necessary? Will you donate your organs? When and if the time comes, you won’t be able to answer these questions yourself. Avoid putting the decision-making burden on your spouse by listing your wishes in a living will.

Your estate plan should also include a power of attorney designation, which is the person to make decisions

for you if you become unable to do so yourself. You’ll probably assign your spouse with power of attorney, because he or she is most likely to know your wishes. Even if you have a living will, your power of attorney can make decisions that aren’t specified there. For instance, the power of attorney can make financial decisions such as paying your bills or managing your money. You can invoke the power of attorney even if neither spouse becomes physically or mentally incapacitated—if one of you is out of town, for example, the other can sign important documents and make decisions on his or her behalf.

There are two major myths about estate planning. The first is that it is a grueling, depressing process. Getting your estate in order does not have to be difficult to complete. If you are relatively young and have a small estate, the process should be quick and can even bring couples closer to each other. The other myth is that your estate isn’t large enough to warrant an estate plan. If you’d like to override the state laws pertaining to property ownership, or if you’d like to ease the burden on your spouse in the event of your death, estate planning is definitely for you.

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Convention Coordinator/Corporate Liaison
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HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Why Get Vaccinated?

There has been confusion and misunderstandings about vaccines. But vaccinations are an important part of family and public health. Vaccines prevent the spread of contagious, dangerous, and deadly diseases. These include measles, polio, mumps, chicken pox, whooping cough, diphtheria, HPV, shingles, influenza and COVID-19.

What are vaccines?

A vaccine (or immunization) is a way to build your body's natural immunity to a disease before you get sick. This keeps you from getting and spreading the disease. For some vaccines, a weakened form of the disease germ is injected into your body. This is usually done with a shot in the leg or arm. Your body detects the invading germs (antigens) and produces antibodies to fight them. Those antibodies then stay in your body for a long time. In many cases, they stay for the rest of your life. If you're ever exposed to the disease again, your body will fight it off without you ever getting the disease. Some illnesses, like strains of cold viruses, are fairly mild. But some, like COVID-19, smallpox or polio, can cause life-altering changes. They can even result in death. That's why preventing your body from contracting these illnesses is very important.

How does immunity work?

Your body builds a defense system to fight foreign germs that could make you sick or hurt you. It's called your immune system. To build up your immune system, your body must be exposed to different germs. When your body is exposed to a germ for the first time, it produces antibodies to fight it. But that takes time, and you usually get sick before the antibodies have built up. But once you have antibodies, they stay in your body. So, the next time you're exposed to that germ, the antibodies will attack it, and you won't get sick.

Path to improved health

Everyone needs vaccines. They are recommended for infants, children, teenagers, and adults. There are widely accepted immunization schedules available. They list what vaccines are needed, and at what age they should be given. Most vaccines are given to children. It's recommended they receive 12 different vaccines by their 6th birthday. Some of these come in a series of shots. Some vaccines are combined so they can be given together with fewer shots.

Is there anyone who can't get vaccines?

Some people with certain immune system diseases should not receive some types of vaccines and should speak with their health care providers first. There is also a small number of people who don't respond to a particular vaccine. Because these people can't be vaccinated, it's very important everyone else gets vaccinated. This helps preserve the "herd immunity" for the vast majority of people. This means that if most people are immune to a disease because of vaccinations, it will stop spreading.

Are there side effects to vaccines?

There can be side effects after you or your child get a vaccine. They are usually mild. They include redness or swelling at the injection site. Sometimes children develop a low-grade fever. These symptoms usually go away in a day or two. More serious side effects have been reported but are rare. Typically, it takes years of development and testing before a vaccine is approved as safe and effective. However, in cases affecting a global, public health crisis or pandemic, it is possible to advance research, development, and production of a vaccine for emergency needs. Scientists and doctors at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) study the research before approving a vaccine.

Vaccines do NOT contain toxins that will harm you.

Some vaccines contain trace amounts of substances that could be harmful in a large dose. These include formaldehyde, aluminum, and mercury. But the amount used in the vaccines is so small that the vaccines are completely safe. For example, over the course of all vaccinations by the age of 2, a child will take in 4mg of aluminum. A breast-fed baby will take in 10mg in 6 months. Soy-based formula delivers 120mg in 6 months. In addition, infants have 10 times as much formaldehyde naturally occurring in their bodies than what is contained in a vaccine. And the toxic form of mercury has never been used in vaccines.

Vaccines do NOT cause the diseases they are meant to prevent

This is a common misconception, especially about the flu vaccine. Many people think they get sick after getting a flu shot. But flu shots contain dead viruses—it's impossible to get sick from the shot but mild symptoms can occur because the vaccine may trigger an immune response, which is normal. Even with vaccines that use weakened live viruses, you could experience mild symptoms similar to the illness. But you don't actually have the disease.

We DO still need vaccines in the U.S., even though infection rates are low.

Many diseases are uncommon in the U.S. because of our high vaccination rate. But they haven't been eliminated from other areas of the world. If a traveler from another country brings a disease to the U.S., anyone who isn't vaccinated is at risk of getting that disease. The only way to keep infection rates low is to keep vaccinating.

Miguel L Ferguson, BSN, MPH, RN

Achievements

Bro. Erick N. Wade Inducted into the Prestigious Marquis Who's Who

On July 11, 2022, Bro. Erick N. Wade was inducted into Marquis Who's Who for his dedication to his community's environment. This is the Marquis Who's Who biographical volume, individuals profiled are selected based on the current reference value. Factors such as position, noteworthy accomplishments, visibility, and prominence in a field are all taken into account during the selection process.

An expert in logistics management, Bro. Wade has been caring for his community for several years. He began his career as a logistics coordinator and project manager for Adept Technologies. He is also part of the environmental cleanup team at Operation Green Team, a local program that provides volunteer opportunities, education, and awareness related to preserving the environment in Huntsville, Alabama. He and other volunteers work to help keep their community clean, including picking up trash, managing recycling drives, volunteering in nature preserves, and engaging in youth education.



Bro. Erick N. Wade

Also on August 5th, during the 47th Annual, the City of Huntsville, Beautification Awards, the Operation Green Team department acclaimed Bro. Erick Wade as "Volunteer of the Year." Bro. Wade has tirelessly served his lodge and the City of Huntsville by blending their actions to support environmental cleanup programs and events that help each organization achieve its sustainable goals of a cleaner city. The ceremony recognizes those who have made an outstanding contribution to the city's beautification efforts. Bro. Wade has spearheaded Temple Lodge No. 98's cleanup actions while supporting Operation Green Team's endeavors to make Huntsville a role model for the state, region, and nation in terms of landscape beauty, cleanliness, and environmental consciousness. Bro. Wade was the only Operation Green Team award recipient. In recognition of his community service work, he received the 46th Presidential Joe Biden's Volunteer Service Bronze Award in 2022.

A naturally determined and driven individual, Bro. Wade continues to bring success to his projects. He would like to recognize the start of his professional journey with Chad and Brad Fielder, owners of Adept Technologies of Huntsville, AL.

As his journey began as a Prince Hall Mason, he would like to recognize uncles: Frank Langford, Charlie Langford, and Robert Langford and the brothers of Temple Lodge 98.

Looking toward the future, Bro. Wade will continue his services to the community with Operation Green Team and Community Development of Huntsville, AL. He is also currently pursuing higher education at Huntsville Bible College with the assistance of Admissions Officer Vernita Chandler.

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 James Isidore Sneed, Sr.

Bro. James Isidore Sneed, Sr. is a native of Magnolia, AL where he was born on September 15, 1922 and has spent his entire 100 years of life. He graduated from Linden Academy (a Baptist school founded by the First Mt. Pleasant District Association). It was also the place where he met the love of his life, Minnie Jane Thomas. During World War II, Mr. Sneed enlisted in the United States Army and served his country for several years. Upon returning from the military he married Minnie (deceased) and from this union his legacy began.

A God-fearing man with humility and a strong conviction in his faith, Deacon Sneed has been a life-long member of Shiloh Primitive Baptist Church, Dixon Mills, AL, where he faithfully serves as chairman of the deacon board and in several other capacities. Among his other servant and leadership duties at both the church and district levels; he also serves diligently as chairman of the Lower Marengo County Mass Church District.



Bro. James Isidore Sneed, Sr.

Bro.. Sneed is a lover of humankind and displays it by “doing unto others as he would want them do unto him”. He always maintains a positive attitude. He never meets a stranger and enjoys engaging in conversations to share history, personal memories and laughter. A community leader of his beloved Shiloh, AL; this “self-proclaimed” mayor attends to the sick, harvest and shares vegetables from his garden, and runs errands for his neighbors. A cancer survivor, Mr. Sneed devotedly serves as a volunteer for the Marengo County Cancer Survivors. He is a member and chaplain of Sweetwater and Surginer Fire and Rescue Squad and other community organizations.

Bro. Sneed is a loyal, dedicated and supportive member in the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Masonic Family. He was honored for over 70 years of dedicated service by receiving the 2016 Hall of Fame induction of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama. In addition, he serves in the following capacities: Past Master of Pride of Shiloh Lodge No. 59, Honorary Past Grand District Deputy for District No. 2, Worthy Patron for El Bethel Pride OES Chapter No. 817, member of McDonald Chapter No. 76, Holy Royal Arch Masons, member of Emmanuel Council No. 7, Royal & Select Masters, Honorary Past Right Eminent Grand Commander of Hendley Mack Grand Commandery, Knights Templar; Honorary Past Grand Thrice Illustrious Master, member of Ezell-Towner Commandery No. 10; District Patron of District No. 17 Matron’s and Patron’s Council; Worthy Joshua of Greater Pride Court No. 26, Heroines of Jericho, Grand Court Director; Royal Advisor of Zion-Starlight Court No. 96A, Sir Knight in the Carrie B. Burns Most Royal Grand Court Order of Cyrene Crusaders; Member of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of North and South America; and member of Abraham Consistory No. 257 (33rd Degree).

Fondly known by his offspring as “Daddy”, “Granddaddy” and “Big Daddy”, Bro. Sneed’s lineage of love and pride for his family has spread to embrace five children (one deceased) and three additional generations consisting of thirteen grandchildren (three deceased), twenty-three great-grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren.

Military Affairs

Keeping our MWPHGL of Alabama Veterans Informed

President Biden signs PACT ACT Bill into law

On Wednesday, August 10, 2022, President Biden signed into law a bill expanding health care benefits to millions of veterans who were exposed to toxic burn pits during their military service. This law helps to provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they’ve earned and deserve. Burn pits were commonly used to burn waste including trash, munitions, hazardous material, and chemical compounds at military sites throughout Iraq and Afghanistan until 2010. These massive open-air burn pits, which were operated on or near military bases, released dangerous toxins into the air that, upon exposure, may have caused short- and long-term health conditions, according to the Department of Veteran Affairs. The bill adds conditions related to burn pits, and toxic exposure, including hypertension, to the Department of Veteran Affairs list of illnesses that have been incurred or exacerbated during military service, removing the burden for veterans to prove that their toxic exposure resulted in these conditions.

The new legislation also provides compensation and health care to people exposed to water contamination at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina. It applies to anyone who lived or worked at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune between 1953 and 1987, and who experienced serious illness, miscarriage, or birth defects. The legislation would make them eligible for disability payments, health care, and compensation. Up to half a million people may have been exposed to contaminated drinking water at the base over that 30-plus-year period. The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefits expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act. While signing the bill into law, President Biden stated, “We have many obligations and only one truly sacred obligation: To equip those we send into harm’s way and to care for them and their families when they come home.”

VA extends temporary hardship suspension for benefit debts

The Department of Veterans Affairs is extending financial hardship suspension on benefit debts, meaning that Veterans who request assistance will not have to pay benefit debts until Dec. 31. This relief option, which was established to help Veterans through the COVID-19 pandemic, had been set to expire on Sept. 30. Benefit debts include debts related to disability compensation, non-service-connected pension, and education benefits. Beginning in September, debt notification letters will be mailed to affected Veterans notifying them of the extended hardship suspension option, as well as extended debt repayment plans, waivers, and compromises. “Helping Veterans manage, pay off, and — in some cases — eliminate their debt is one of our top priorities,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “Extending this hardship suspension is a key part of that critical effort, and it will help ease the burden for Vets who are living with debt.” In recent years, VA has made real progress toward helping Veterans manage their debts. These efforts include canceling copayments for medical care and pharmacy services from April 6, 2020, to Sept. 30, 2021, which saved more than 1.5 million Veterans approximately 1 billion dollars. Publishing a final rule that reduced the number of Veterans referred to credit agencies by 99%, meaning that medical debt will no longer impact those Veterans’ credit scores. Transitioning from a complex paper application to enhanced online tools where Veterans can learn about what they owe and apply for relief. Improving the review process for debt forgiveness by implementing a simpler income

threshold to qualify for relief. Streamlining the Veterans Health Administration debt waiver process for medical debts, requiring less paperwork for Veterans while expediting processing times and expanding relief eligibility. Transferring education tuition and fees debt responsibility from Veterans to schools in January 2021. Establishing a phone hotline in October 2021 for Veterans Health Administration clinicians to call on behalf of Veterans who appear to be experiencing significant anxiety related to their benefit debt. Temporarily eliminating the requirement for a Financial Status Report to receive a hardship determination. Veterans and beneficiaries can manage their debt online or call 800-827-0648 with questions regarding benefit overpayments. For information about medical care and pharmacy copayment debt, Veterans and beneficiaries can contact the Health Resource Center at 866-400-1238.

U.S. Marine Corps makes history

In the 246-year history of the United States Marine Corps, it has never had a black four-star General. There have been a total of 73 men that have achieved the four-star ranking, and all of them were white men. All that changed on August 6, 2022, when history was made in the U.S. Armed Forces. The U.S. Marine Corps promoted LT General Michael Langley to the rank of General, becoming the first Black four-star General in the 246 years history of the Marine Corps. President Joseph Biden nominated LT General Michael Langley to be promoted and it was confirmed via a vote from the U.S. Senate a few days later. With the promotion, General Langley assumed command of all U.S. military forces in Africa, overseeing 6,000 troops.



Langley's promotion comes as new Marine Corps initiatives seek to improve diversity and retention. The Marine Corps has had a handful of black three-star generals but no four-star generals. Other branches of the military all had or have four-star generals and Admirals. The Marine Corps traces its roots to 1775, it is the third oldest branch of the military behind the Army and Navy. The Marine Corps rejected accepting black men in the ranks until 1942. The military was desegregated in 1948 under orders from then-President Harry Truman. Three decades later, the Marine Corps promoted its first African American Marine to the rank of one-star general, in 1979. Forty-three years later the Corps has its first African American four-star general.

Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, General Langley graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington and has served in the Marine Corps since 1985. He is also a graduate of the United States Army War College and the U.S. Naval War College. Among his many awards, he is a Bronze Star Medal recipient, and three awards of the Legion of Merit which is given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements. In addition, General Langley was also awarded the prestigious Defense Superior Service Medal which is presented to the United States Armed Forces service members who perform superior meritorious service in a position of significant responsibility. Suited and well-qualified, General Langley holds many advanced degrees, including a Master's in National Security Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. He has commanded at every level, from platoon to regiment, and served on multiple continents, being deployed to countries such as Japan and Afghanistan throughout his career.

During the promotion ceremony held at Marine Corps Barracks Washington, General Langley was joined by friends and family including his father Willie Langley, who is a proud Air Force veteran. In his remarks, General Langley paid homage to “those who have gone before”, recognizing Frederick C. Branch, the first commissioned Black Marine, and the Montford Point Marines, the first African Americans to enlist in the U.S. Marines who trained at a segregated facility in Montford Point, North Carolina. Langley also talked about the importance of diversity in the military to “maintain a decisive advantage over our strategic competitors.” General Langley went on to say “this milestone and what it means to the Corps is quite essential. Not just because of the mark in history, but what it will affect going forward, especially for those younger across society that want to aspire and look at the Marine Corps as an opportunity.” Salute to General Michael Elliott Langley, the first black four-star General of the United States Marine Corps!

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

REGION 4

News and Events from Region 4

Shorter Lodge No. 533 Welcomes Phoenix Lodge No. 428

Brothers from Phoenix Lodge No. 428 visited Shorter Lodge No. 533 in Shorter, Alabama on Tuesday, August 02, 2022, for an evening of fellowship and recognition. Shorter Lodge No. 533 extended an invitation to Phoenix Lodge No. 428 to come and fellowship at the new Shorter Event and Welcome Center that is located across the street from Shorter Lodge. The new Shorter Event and Welcome Center was recently built by M&D Maintenance and Construction company where the owner, Brother Marvin Richards is an active member of Shorter Lodge. The Center will be used to host galas and local events. Mayor Willie Mae Powell was on hand to greet the brothers from both lodges. Phoenix Lodge brothers were given a tour of the two-story event center and were impressed with what they saw. The event center sits on several acres of land with ample parking and will accommodate up to 200 guests. The program kicked off with opening remarks from Shorter Lodge Worshipful Master, Willie Smith as he welcomed the Mayor and the visiting brothers of Phoenix Lodge No. 428. Shorter Lodge No. 533 has been a cornerstone of the Shorter Community since its inception. The Honorable Willie Mae Powell, Mayor of the City of Shorter, gave a warm welcome along with historical facts about the town of Shorter and what it had to offer. She lauded the masonic brothers of Shorter Lodge and Phoenix Lodge for their continued support of their communities and dedication to serving others. WM Keith Daniel gave brief remarks on the history of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 and how important it is for both lodges to continue to support their respective communities and to be a beacon for others. RW Carlton Jones gave final remarks and talked about the camaraderie of both lodges and the importance of getting out in the community to let your light shine. He went on to commend both lodges on their recent success at the MWPHGL of Alabama Annual Communications held in Mobile, Alabama. Shorter Lodge No. 533 was awarded Lodge of the Year in the rural category, making it three years in a row for that honor. Phoenix Lodge No. 428 was awarded 3rd Place Lodge of the Year in the City category and 1st place in total Souvenir Journal Ad sales in the Jurisdiction of Alabama. After dinner was served, the evening concluded with a toast to both lodges, and the brothers of both lodges assembled for picture-taking.



*Group photo of Shorter Lodge No. 533 and
Phoenix Lodge No. 428 with Mayor Powell*

Contributor – R.W. Carlton Jones (No. 428)

R. H. Rice Lodge No. 345

Serving the Community

On August 10th, R. H. Rice Lodge No. 345 visited Martin Luther King Elementary School in Montgomery, AL. The brothers of the lodge filled backpacks with all the supplies listed for Third grade students. The backpacks were delivered to the school and the lodge was well-received by Principal McMillion. Supporting their youth and schools is something the lodge takes pride in. R. H. Rice Lodge remains committed to providing support to local public schools on an annual basis. Well done brothers!



On August 20th, the brothers of R. H. Rice Lodge No. 345 continued their support and commitment to families in need of assistance. A member of the lodge was notified that several displaced children had recently been placed into foster care. The brothers immediately went to the aid of those children and their caretaker. God provided a way for the lodge to purchase a new car seat for the infant, and to contribute \$500 in cash to the caretaker for any immediate needs. The brothers spoke with the children and provided conversations of encouragement which hopefully filled their hearts and minds with cheer and joy. The lodge stands ready to assist the community and looks forward to making these types of contributions whenever it's deemed necessary.

Contributor – WM Carl Howard (No. 345)



Hamilton Lodge No. 365

Continues Its Community Service

In July 2022, Hamilton Lodge connected with New Hope Missionary Baptist Church to donate items for the church's back-to-school supply giveaway event. The goal of this event was to provide students with the proper working tools to act on the instructions and lessons they will receive during the school year. As the church is the foundation of the community, education is essential to further community development. A well-educated community with a spiritual foundation will thrive and grow, not just intellectually but also economically and socially.

In August 2022, the Brothers of Hamilton Lodge coordinated with the Principal and Vice Principal of Wares Ferry Road Elementary School to donate school supplies. For the first day of school, the brothers arrived not only to donate supplies but also to provide positive male role models, that of upright men. Led by Worshipful Master Loveless Belser, the brothers greeted students with high-fives and words of encouragement to motivate them for success as they embarked upon the most important endeavor of their lives, their education.

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



Phoenix Lodge No. 428

Partners with Bladez Barbershop

Arriving back home from attending the MWPHGL of Alabama Annual Grand Lodge Session in Mobile, Alabama, Phoenix Lodge No. 428 wasted no time in organizing their annual Back to School backpack giveaway to youth in their community. On July 30, 2022, Phoenix Lodge No. 428 held its annual Back to School Backpack giveaway. This year the event was held at Bladez Barbershop in Phenix City, Alabama. Bladez Barbershop partnered with the brothers of Phoenix Lodge No. 428 and offered free haircuts to children while brothers from the lodge handed out stuffed backpacks to as many youths that attended. In all, there were a total of 72 backpacks of all shapes and colors given out to local youths in the community. The backpacks were stuffed with necessary school items to include paper, pencils, rulers, glue, hand sanitizer, binders, and notebooks. All the backpacks and supplies were purchased by the members of the lodge who also volunteered their time in stuffing all the backpacks at the lodge on the day before the event. Phoenix Lodge No. 428 continues to serve its community by assisting area youths with many on-going projects throughout the year. Throughout the school year, the brothers of the lodge participate in school spelling bees, ambassador mentorship, field games, and many other activities to support the school children and teachers. Phoenix Lodge No. 428 prides itself on being visible in its community and available to assist in any way it can for the success of our future leaders. Junior Warden Quinton Person, who organized this year's Back-to-School event, stated, "Phoenix Lodge No. 428 looks forward to years of helping kids in their progress in education, we take pride in giving back to the village that made us who we are". Worshipful Master Keith Daniel praised the efforts of all the brothers who unselfishly give back to the youth in their community. He cites the legacy of lodge brothers who came before them that carried the load and encouraged his members to continue carrying the load for the success of our future leaders. Brother Vincent Andrews is credited with giving the motto for Phoenix Lodge No. 428 of "Carrying the Load", which was embraced by the brothers. Well done brothers!

Contributor – R.W. Carlton Jones (No. 428)



Junior Warden Quinton Person pictured with local youth and family



Stuffed book bags ready for distribution

REGION 5

News and Events from Region 5

New Beginning Lodge No. 970 Serving in Its Community

On July 23, 2022, New Beginning Lodge 970 partnered with MedPlus, The Daniel Payne Foundation, The Birmingham Black Nurses Association & Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church to provide water and other refreshments for a Covid-19 Vaccination clinic & Back to School Rally on the grounds of the Daniel Payne Foundation facility. P.M. Rev. Erroll Brantley Sr., Pastor of Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church reached out and help coordinate this event with members of the lodge as they banded together to help stave off the debilitating effects that Covid-19 has presented to their communities. Health screenings for diabetes, high blood pressure, and other common diseases were also provided. Over 100 people showed up to get either their primary course of Covid-19 vaccination or receive boosters.

On August 9th, members of New Beginning 970, along with business leaders, church officials, local government, and philanthropists welcomed the students of Bessemer City Middle School back to the classroom. In all, there were 58 men, professionally dressed to show their support to the students, faculty, and staff of this institution of learning. The goal was to show each student that they are a priority in this community and that through hard work & study their dreams can come true. The event was attended by WM Jerome Womack, PM Erick Kennedy, and Brothers Terry Coley & Muhammad Walker. Bessemer City School superintendent, Dr. Autumn M. Jeter & Mayor Kenneth E. Gulley were very pleased with the turnout and offered a great deal of appreciation for the sacrifice of time from not only the brothers of New Beginning, but to the community as a whole, for turning out in such great numbers to show the students that “THEY SUPPORT YOU”.

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



Wreath Laying Ceremony in Honor of Brother Fredrick Lamont Marchbank

On July 16, 2022, our beloved Brother Frederick Lamont Marchbank transitioned from labor to rest. Bro. Marchbank was born September 14, 1970, in Vernon, AL to the late Rena Bell Marchbank. He is a graduate of Bibb County High School in Centerville, AL. Bro. Marchbank pursued his Postsecondary education through Shelton State Community College and Lawson State Community College in Birmingham, Alabama. He also attended Stillman College of Tuscaloosa, Alabama where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree. After becoming partially blind, Bro. Marchbank attended AIDB of Talladega, Alabama. He was employed with A13 in Tuscaloosa and Talladega, AL for several years. Bro. Marchbank was a member of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 and Gardner's Success Royal Arch Chapter No. 43.



On September 24th, the brothers of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 traveled to Glass Cemetery in Sulligent, Alabama to honor the life of their beloved Bro. Frederick LaMont Marchbank with a Wreath Laying Ceremony. Rest well, Bro. Marchbank.

The brothers of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 also got the opportunity to use the trowel to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection in August. They were honored to fellowship and assist with degree work with several masonic lodges.

On August 20th, WM Gerren K. Whitlock, Sr. 33°, Bro. Clifton Hicks, Bro. Kendrick Jackson, 32°, Bro. Tony O. Lloyd, 32°, Bro. Cordaro Simmons, 32°, and Bro. Mikal Kearney traveled to Lineville, AL to visit and assist Unity Lodge No. 963 with their degree work. They were grateful to WM Will Sims and the brothers of 963 for their hospitality, fellowship, and brotherly love.

On August 27th, WM Gerren K. Whitlock, Sr. 33°, Bro. Kendrick Jackson 32°, Bro. Cordaro Simmons 32°, Bro. Mikal Kearney, and Bro. Erskine Long traveled to Montevallo, AL to visit and assist Stone Mountain Lodge No. 187 with their degree work. They were grateful to WM James A. Salter and the brothers of 187 for their hospitality, fellowship, and brotherly love, as well.



Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 Initiates a Water Donation Drive

An ongoing public health crisis in and around the City of Jackson, Mississippi, began in late August of 2022 after the Pearl River flooded due to severe storms in the state. The flooding caused the city's largest water treatment plant to stop the treatment of drinking water indefinitely. This resulted in many residents of the city being left without access to safe drinking water.

In response to the need to help provide those residents of Jackson, MS with safe drinking water, in September of 2022, Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 initiated a Water Donation Drive to benefit the citizens of Jackson, Mississippi.

Because of generous donations of water and monies, the lodge collected 2,880 bottles (72 cases) of water for the first delivery. On September 12, 2022, Worshipful Master Gerren K. Whitlock, Sr., and Junior Warden Ken Jackson made the journey to Jackson, MS to deliver the much-needed water. The water was delivered to the Most Worshipful Stringer Grand Lodge F.&A.M. PHA by way of Senior Warden Kevin Grissom and Secretary Kenneth "Pop" Warner of Sollie B. Norwood Lodge No. 699. The M.W. Stringer Grand Lodge is where the water distribution took place.

Thanks to the support of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F & A.M. of Alabama, several subordinate Lodges, Eastern Star Chapters, Auxiliaries, family, friends, and members of the public, the initial Water Drive was a huge success.

Contributor – Bro. Tony O. Lloyd (No. 319)



Stillman Lodge No. 490

Provides Trash Pick Up & Lawn Service

During September, the brothers of Stillman Masonic Lodge No. 490 provided community service for the residents on the west side of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. To assist the local community, these brothers removed trash and provided lawn care. The members of Stillman Lodge are dedicated to upholding their Mission Statement: “Men of Integrity, Striving to Inspire the Youth and Uplift Our Community.”

Contributor – WM Patrick A. Sparks (No. 490)

Pictured are brothers, Jamaal Roberts, Marcus Phillips, and Patrick Sparks



Woods Joy Lodge No. 752

Provides Community Service

On July 28, 2022, the brothers of Woods Joy Lodge No. 752 provided water and Gatorade to Miles College Band. The water and Gatorade were presented to the Miles College Band Director, Willie J. Snipes, Jr, and Bro. Bryan Nalls, Assistant Band Director and member of the Woods Joy Lodge No. 752. The members of the band and its directors were very appreciative of Woods Joy’s donation and the community service provided by our lodge.

On August 7th, Woods Joy Lodge No. 752 was proud to cosponsor with First United CPCA, Superior Grooming, Chevron, and the Pleasant Grove Youth Football Club for a back-to-school giveaway. A HUGE THANKS to the Order of Eastern Star Chapters: Sunbeam No. 844, Cannon’s Beauty No. 589, and Evening Star No. 578 for assisting. School supplies for children throughout the surrounding area were placed in backpacks. The event was open to everyone. There was food and games for everyone to enjoy, as well.

On August 26th, the brothers of Woods Joy provided lunch for the oncology department at Cooper Green Mercy Hospital. It was a pleasure to serve lunch to the first responders that serve the community at large on a regular basis!

Contributor – Bro. C. L. Evans (No. 752)



REGION 6

News and Events from Region 6

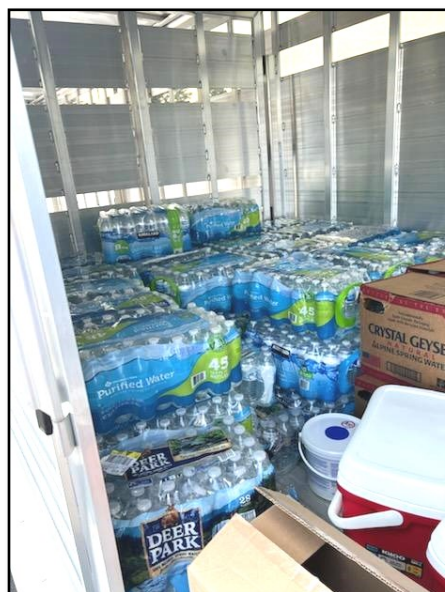
District No. 17 Supports Jackson, MS Water Crisis

Residents of Jackson, Mississippi, were without clean drinking water after heavy rain caused the Pearl River to crest just below the major flood stage. A major pump at the city's main water treatment facility was damaged, but the city's mayor stated that the current water crisis is a result of years-long issues.

The O.B. Curtis Water Treatment plant was pushed to failure after the city experienced a high level of flooding due to heavy rainfall. In mid-to-late August of 2022 following nearly 30 days of an ongoing 'boil water advisory' that has become common in Jackson. Its complete failure has left the city without enough safe water for people to use.

Brother Demetrius Hightower, who is a Police Captain on the campus of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University and a member of George W. Braxdall No. 28 in Decatur, AL went into action to support. He wanted to support his fellow law enforcement officers and other first responders with much-needed items and toiletries who were working hard to "serve and protect" in a time of crisis at Jackson State University, and the surrounding communities. Several lodges in District No. 17 of the M.W.P.H.G.L., F.&A. Masons of Alabama, all of the O.E.S. Chapters in District 15, Mizpah Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Stars along with other organizations came together to donate needed supplies, that filled a 30 feet long trailer, to the Jackson, MS area.

Contributor – RW H. Jerome Glover (No. 50)



Morning Star Lodge No. 50

Continues Community Service Projects

For the past six years, the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 have partnered with Alabama PALs and the Alabama Department of Transportation to assist with the cleaning of their community. Morning Star Lodge No. 50 has taken the lead in ensuring that the mile in front of the Northwood Housing Authority complex on University Drive is clean and presentable. On Saturday, July 23rd, and September 24th the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 continued their pledge by taking to University Dr. at 7:00 a.m. to fulfill their obligation. The brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 take pride in this community service project and it has proven to be a nice time for unity and fellowship amongst the craft.

On Saturday, July 9th the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 held their Bi-Annual Lodge Anniversary Picnic commemorating their Charter being granted in July into the Jurisdiction of Alabama Free and Accepted Masons at Braham Spring in Huntsville, Alabama. They invited the family members of all lodge brothers, members of Hendley Chapter No. 855 (their sister chapter), and special guests. It was great to come together again and fellowship because of the pandemic the past two years. Worshipful Master Taurean F. Dawkins wanted to be sure that the Picnic Committee prepared for a well-attended event. The lodge provided all the meats, flatware, beverages, cleaning supplies, entertainment, and the pavilion. The members of Hendley Chapter provided all the side items (baked beans, green beans, potato salad, etc.). All had a fantastic time.





Worshipful Master Taurean Dawkins and Senior Deacon Brandon Wesley suggested that we include some of the people at the park where the picnic was being held. They noticed that some of the young children were looking at the brothers and sisters fellowshiping and offered them a plate of food. Well, that developed into full-blown community participation. And, because of the work of, the Picnic Committee (Junior Warden Gregory White - Chairman), there was plenty of food to go around. So, the brothers formed a serving line and fed men, women, and children at the park. The brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 have always supported the community with several different programs that are in place, or they schedule for the year; however, this was one of the most satisfying gestures that they have done since returning from the pandemic. This is what Prince Hall Masons are supposed to do.....SERVICE!!!



On August 30th, 2022, Morning Star Lodge No. 50 provided the Harvest Youth Club with snacks for their afterschool program, a pizza party, and speak on the importance of giving back to their community to the kids at Harvest Youth Club. The Harvest Youth Club was founded by Melvin Allen, a resident, in 2004 to provide a safe, fun, educational, Christian environment for children to develop physically, socially, and educationally through afterschool and summer programs. The funds for this project were donated by the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50, in which over 500 dollars was raised for just the snacks and drinks for the kids. Harvest Youth Club has around 30 kids that come for after-school activities, where they come to play and do extra learning activities which have been around for over 20 years.



Contributor – WM Taurean F. Dawkins (No. 50)

Athelstine Lodge No. 71

Hosts It's Annual Back-to-School Event

On Sunday, August 7, 2022, Brother Tito Redus and the brothers of Athelstine Lodge No. 71 hosted their annual Back-to-School event providing several items to help kids in Athens heading back to school. The Back-to-School event is a collaboration of local businesses, fraternities, churches, and civic organizations supporting our children and families by providing school supplies and other items. The event was held at Lincoln-Bridgeforth Park from 4:00 to 7:00 P.M. in Athens, AL. Brother Redus is a member of Athelstine Lodge No. 71 and a local businessman. He was happy to return to an in-person event this year because last year was limited to a drive-by event due to COVID.

As the brothers arrived, they began to assist all who needed help. Athelstine Lodge No. 71 donated \$200.00 for food and school supplies and had a booth that provided popcorn and displayed lodge artifacts and history. There were plenty of activities, including games, music, and food for participants to enjoy. Brother Redus provided free haircuts and hairstyling so kids would look their best to start the new school year. Brother Everett Walton did an excellent job in cooking the food. Brother Marxlyn David, the RW Grand Musician of the MWPHGL of AL and Worthy Patron of Naomi Chapter 653 OES, provided oral history for some of the lodge artifacts. Brother Redus said this was another successful year and thanked the lodge for their participation.



Athelstine Lodge No. 71

Supports Jackson, MS Water Crisis

The record rainfall in September that led to flooding in Jackson, MS, contributed to the water crisis that left the state's capital city of more than 160,000 residents without clean water and moved Brother Demetrius Hightower (George W. Braxdall No. 28) to act. He appealed to the brothers of District 17 to support Jackson State University, the surrounding community, and the many law enforcement officers, still in place, working hard to "serve and protect" in a time of crisis with much-needed items and toiletries. Brothers of Athelstine No. 71 thought about law enforcement officers' efforts to serve the community and take care of their families during the crisis. The lodge wanted to show its support for them and the community by providing 32 cases of water and three bags of nonperishable food. Thanks to Brothers of Athelstine No. 71 for their contributions and delivery of items to assist Bro. Hightower, and the people of Jackson with this tremendous undertaking.

Contributor – WM Johnathan Scott (No. 71)



Ascension Lodge No. 72

Hosts Back-to-School Jam

On August 6, 2022, Ascension Lodge No. 72 and the city of Hillsboro partnered for its annual Back-to-School Jam, handing out school supplies to deserving K-12 students. Students and parents enjoyed free hamburgers and hotdogs, good music and fellowship. Everyone involved was blessed. Ascension Lodge No. 72 looks forward to giving back to the community again next year and continuing to make its presence known.

Contributor – Bro. Rudy Trammell (No. 72)



Temple Lodge No. 98

Continues Its Work



Since Operation Green Team's 2016 selection as "Keepers" for Jim Marek Park through the city's Adopt-a-Park program, Temple Lodge No. 98 has lived up to the definition of adopt: "To take responsibility for, make one's own by selection." The lodge members did just that on July 15, 2022 by giving the park a good clean-up. Temple Lodge No. 98 exercised its motto...a clean city, is our dream city.



On September 12th, Temple Lodge No. 98 donated non-perishable food items to the Clearview Cancer Institute, Huntsville, AL location to help restock their food pantry. Senior Warden Jessup and Worshipful Master Cooney assisted the staff with restocking the shelves. The food items given will further the social worker's mission to serve/feed recovering cancer patients.

Contributor – WM Carl Cooney. (No. 98)

Goodway Lodge No. 222

Providing Community Service



On July 9, 2022, the brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 presented a check to Sam's Club in support of the annual fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network (CMN) Hospitals. Annually the brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 support this fundraiser. The fundraiser helps CMN Hospitals fulfill the mission to help kids grow up healthier, stronger, and ready for tomorrow. The partnership with Sam's Club has been facilitated by our very own Brother Travis Childress.

On July 23, 2022, the brothers of Goodway Lodge No. 222 participated in the Community Field Day for the kids of the North Huntsville area sponsored by NuGeneration Inc. The brothers of Goodway donated a check to help sponsor the event and assisted with setting up the event. The brothers had a great time interacting with the kids and different community leaders of the North Huntsville area.

On August 6, 2022, Goodway Lodge No. 222 held its Annual Fish Fry Fundraiser at the Alpha House in Huntsville, Alabama. The menu included catfish or tilapia, baked beans, potato salad, bread, and a drink. It was a great time of fellowship and good eating at the event. The event was supported by several lodges, other organizations, and people throughout the community. Goodway sold around 200 plates for the fundraiser. All proceeds go toward the lodge's community service projects such as the annual book bag drives where they provide free book bags for kids in the Huntsville area, "Students in Need Pantry" in which they make donations toward Mae Jemison High School, and a host of other community service events. The brothers would like to thank the Masonic Community and other people who help make this event a great success.

Contributor – WM Brian Johnson (No. 222)



Obituaries

Brothers Called Home by the Grand Architect

Deacon Freddie James Abernathy began his journey on October 16, 1937, in Parks, Arkansas. He was the son of the late Fred Abernathy and Mary M. Nicholson Squalls Abernathy. He departed this life on August 25, 2022, surrounded by his family, in Decatur, AL.

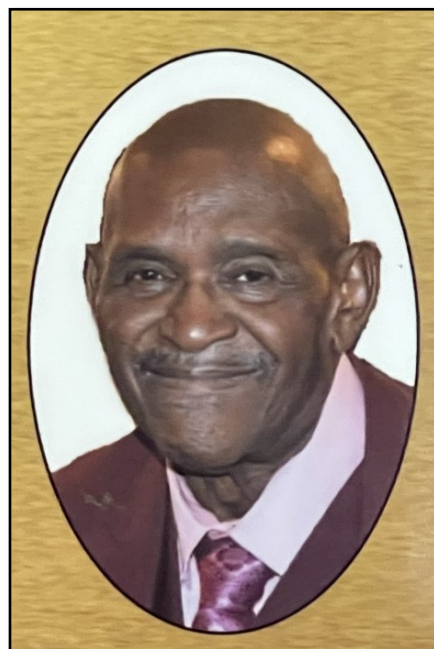
Bro. Abernathy was employed at Fruehauf Trailer Company for seven years. When the plant became a Union, he became a Shop Steward where he helped organize a Credit Union and became a loan officer. He was hired by the Union as an International Representative for the AFL-CIO for 23 years. He retired in 1994 and started a Pressure Washing Business, "Freddie Abernathy's "Good Ole House & Driveway Washing Service".

Bro. Abernathy was active in civic and fraternal organizations: A member of Keystone Lodge No. 40 Masonic Lodge, Tennessee Valley Consistory No. 160, Al Azhar Shrine Temple No. 195, and a member of Order of Eastern Star Chapter No. 542.

Bro. Abernathy confessed Christ at an early age and joined Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church under the Rev. S.H. Hunt. He was an active member that served on the deacon board, sang with the male chorus, and served as the Superintendent of Sunday school.

Bro. Abernathy was preceded in death by his parents, two children, Ray Charles Abernathy, and Freddie Abernathy, Jr., and one grandson, Michael Moody.

He leaves to cherish his memory: a devoted and loving wife of 61 years, Vera D. Shackelford Abernathy; one loving sister, Mattie Mae Squalls, Wynne, Arkansas; four daughters, Vickey Abernathy and Viola Abernathy, both of Decatur, AL; Jacqueline A. Vinson; Oxford, MS; Cynthia A. Tate, Huntsville, AL; and one son, Fredrick G. Abernathy (Ann), Courtland, AL; 14 grandchildren, whom he truly adored; Rodrick Adair, Lakeshia Jones (Kendrick), Corey Abernathy, Ashley Strong (Andrew), Laurice Martinez (AJ), Jameelah Muhammad, Christina Muhammad, Kenethia Imaghodor (Osasere), India Abernathy, Candace Vinson, Alex Vinson, James Vinson, Zaria Abernathy, and Fredrick Abernathy, Jr.; Nine Great Grands, One Great-Great Grand. Three special daughters; Johnnie Mae Booker, Brenda Adair Sanders, and Summer Cross; and a host of other relatives and friends.



*Deacon Freddie James Abernathy
October 16, 1937, ~ August 25, 2022*

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 January 2023.** These articles should include events from **October 2022 - December 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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