



# 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 VI, ISSUE IV

OCTOBER 2023

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Grand Lodge  
Events

2023 Hall of Fame  
Inductees

2023 Scholarship  
Recipients



# ALABAMA A&M WREATH LAYING

# THE GRAND MASTER'S TRESTLEBOARD



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*Progress means getting  
nearer to the place you want  
to be.*

C.S. Lewis

July 24, 2013, is a very memorable and was a very humbling day for me. It was the day I was elected and installed as the 11th Most Worshipful Grand Master of this prestigious Grand Lodge. As the servant leader of this great Grand Lodge, I have given it my all to progressively lead this esteemed organization and I know and appreciate that most of you have given your all in support. I often look back from whence we've come. We have made tremendous strides. We continue to progress. Here is just a list of some of the things we have accomplished since 2013:

- ◆ Revised all Grand Lodge forms
- ◆ Implemented a Jurisdictional Regalia Guide
- ◆ Created membership certificates
- ◆ Implemented new membership cards
- ◆ Implemented an anti-hazing policy
- ◆ Implemented an accidental death and dismemberment policy
- ◆ Revamped the Prince Hall Legacy Foundation
- ◆ Implemented QuickBooks in our headquarters office
- ◆ Obtained the masonic license plate
- ◆ Participate annually in the Selma Bridge Crossing
- ◆ Implemented Prince Hall Americanism Weekend
- ◆ Created the Alabama Prince Hall Monitor
- ◆ Implemented a 50-year membership pin
- ◆ Created a Grand Lodge Hall of Fame
- ◆ Implemented a Worshipful Masters Certification program
- ◆ Founded the Alabama School of Masonry
- ◆ Located and laid wreaths at the gravesites of all Past Grand Masters
- ◆ Laid a wreath at the gravesite of slain civil rights worker, Jimmie Lee Jackson
- ◆ Continued increase in membership

As you can see, yes, progress has been made; however, we must not rest on our laurels and bask in our success. There is still work to be done. Although we have made tremendous progress, there are three items that are very dear to me that remain on the trestleboard. They are to complete the renovation of our temple, to authorize the writing of our Grand Lodge history, and to complete the implementation of our new database.

Thank you for your hard work, support, and dedication. With your continued support, aid, and assistance we can and will accomplish our goals. Let us keep God first and continue to work together for the continued progress and success of our cherished Grand Lodge. May God bless you and may He bless our beloved Grand Lodge.

Fraternally,

*Corey D. Hawkins, Sr.*

Most Worshipful Grand Master

Front Cover: Wreath Laying Ceremony for William Hooper Council



# 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."



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

As we are preparing to transition into the holiday season, please be mindful of those that are less fortunate than others and continue to provide charity to those in need. I would also like to take this time to personally salute all the veterans past and present who are members of Prince Hall Masonry. Your commitment and dedication to serving this great country and protecting its freedom should never go unrecognized.

I would like to take this time to thank all the contributors

to this edition of *The Cornerstone Message*. I commend you on your good works and taking advantage of utilizing this instrument to display your good works throughout this great jurisdiction of Alabama. This jurisdiction continues to accomplish great things and you will find some of them captured within this edition.

I do ask you to be mindful of the Article Submission Guidelines on the last page of this newsletter. Individual pictures should be of good quality in JPEG and not as a collage. Pictures should also capture actions of the event showing the readers your event and not just a group picture of the brothers in the lodge. The write up should be

at least one paragraph telling the story of your article to the readers. *The Cornerstone Message* isn't Facebook or Instagram where you post several pictures and a few sentences. Take time to organize and tell your good works to the readers as best you can.

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 2023 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

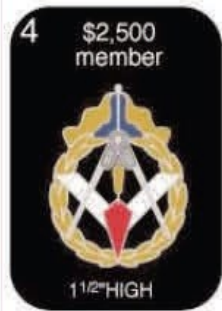
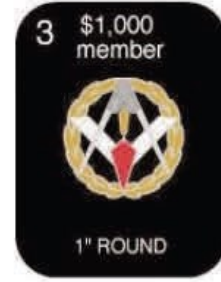
Members suspended after June, 2002, can reinstate by paying the following:

- \$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

**M**ost  
 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!)



# 153rd Annual Grand Lodge Communication July 24th —26th, 2023





# 153rd Annual Grand Lodge Communication Welcome Program





# 153rd Annual Grand Lodge Communication Lodge of Sorrow





# 153rd Annual Grand Lodge Communication Training, Workshops & Certifications



# “Hard Work Pays Off”

## Congratulations to the 153rd Annual Communication’s Award Recipients

### RURAL LODGE of the YEAR

1st Place– Morrow Grove Lodge No. 800

2nd Place- Shorter Lodge No. 533

3rd Place- Goshen Lodge No. 132

### CITY LODGE of the YEAR

1st Place– Hamilton Lodge No. 365

2nd Place- Morning Star Lodge No. 50

3rd Place- Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319

### DISTRICT DEPUTY of the YEAR

1st Place - R. W. Erwin Chambliss, Grand District Deputy of District No. 7

2nd Place - R. W. Walter Greene, Grand District Deputy of District No. 14

3rd Place - R.W. H. Jerome Glover, Grand District Deputy of District No. 17

### TOP DISTRICTS FOR SOUVENIR JOURNAL AD SALES

1st Place – District No. 7 (\$14,150)

R. W. Erwin Chambliss, Grand District Deputy

2nd Place - District No. 14 (\$12,200)

R. W. Walter Greene, Grand District Deputy

3rd Place – District No. 17 (\$4,750)

R. W. H. Jerome Glover, Grand District Deputy

### TOP LODGES FOR SOUVENIR JOURNAL AD SALES

1st Place – Shorter Lodge No. 533 (\$5,850)

Brother Willie Smith, Worshipful Master

2nd Place – Phoenix Lodge No. 428 (\$4,750)

Brother Felton Harley, Jr., Worshipful Master

3rd Place – Council Lodge No. 778 (\$3,750)

Brother Dennis Simmons, Worshipful Master

### TOP PARTICIPANTS FOR DOUBLE GOOD POPCORN FUNDRAISER

1st Place – Council Lodge No. 778 (\$3,194)

2nd Place – Brother Marvin Richards, No. 533 (\$1,960)

3rd Place – Brother Christopher Patton, No. 9 (\$1,957)



**Congratulations  
to the  
2023 Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama  
Hall of Fame Inductees**



M.W. Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., No. 33



R.W. Robert W. Glenn, No. 89



Rev. Bro. John Cade, No. 430

Inductions

M.W. Dr. Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., Esq. (11th Grand Master of Alabama, 11th Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council, SJ), Ruth No. 33

R.W. Robert W. Glenn (37th Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment), Grove No. 89

Posthumous Induction

Rev. Bro. John Cade (12th Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment), Triune No. 430

## Congratulations to the Newly Passed Masters

Quandrix L. Blackburn	Lawrence Weaver No. 316	Martin McKay	Fellowship No. 439
Wiley Brooks	New Zion No. 457	Ryan T. Morrisette, Sr.	Douglasville No.945
Dannie L. Childers	St. Mark No. 4	Ferry L. Nye, Jr.	Abraham No. 267
Charles Craig, Jr.	Joppa No. 144	Dee Pogue	Goodwill No. 59
Derrick M. Davidson	Archive No. 75	John K. Radford	Early Star No. 395
Kenneth Ellison	Sweet Home No. 179	Rickey L. Ragland	Lincoln No. 99
Darius Foster	Stone Mountain No. 187	Gregory O. Simpson	Great Hope No. 839
Arthur Gibson	Urida No. 299	Dean T. Smith	Anchor No. 821
Felton Harley, Jr.	Phoenix No. 428	Terry Smith	St. John No. 57
Dwight Hudson	Carrollton No. 420	Tavaris L. Sommerville	Peaceful No. 178
Jason Kelley	Centennial No. 19	André Thomas, Sr.	St. Anthony No. 223
Gregory D. Lee	Pine Grove No. 639	Tim Turk	St. John No. 2
Hollis Lykes	Constella No. 246	Clint J. Walters	Tranquil No. 48
Isaiah Mack, III	Needham Creek No. 398	Victor L. Wilson	Brotherly Love No. 311
Avery Martin	Milton W. Howze No. 408		





# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

<u>Name</u>	<u>College/University</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ashton D. Kidd	Alabama A. & M. University	\$1,500.00
Koen Michael Davis	Xavier University	\$1,500.00
Cameron Johnson	University of Alabama	\$1,500.00
Ayanna Norton	Wallace Community College	\$1,500.00
Jaden O. Simpson	Auburn University	\$1,500.00
Shalyn Lizhon Croone	Alabama A. & M. University	\$1,500.00
Autumn D. Hawkins	University of Alabama	\$2,500.00
	Alabama A. & M. University	\$10,000.00
	Miles College	\$5,000.00
	Alabama State University	\$5,000.00
	Tuskegee University	\$5,000.00
	Stillman College	\$5,000.00

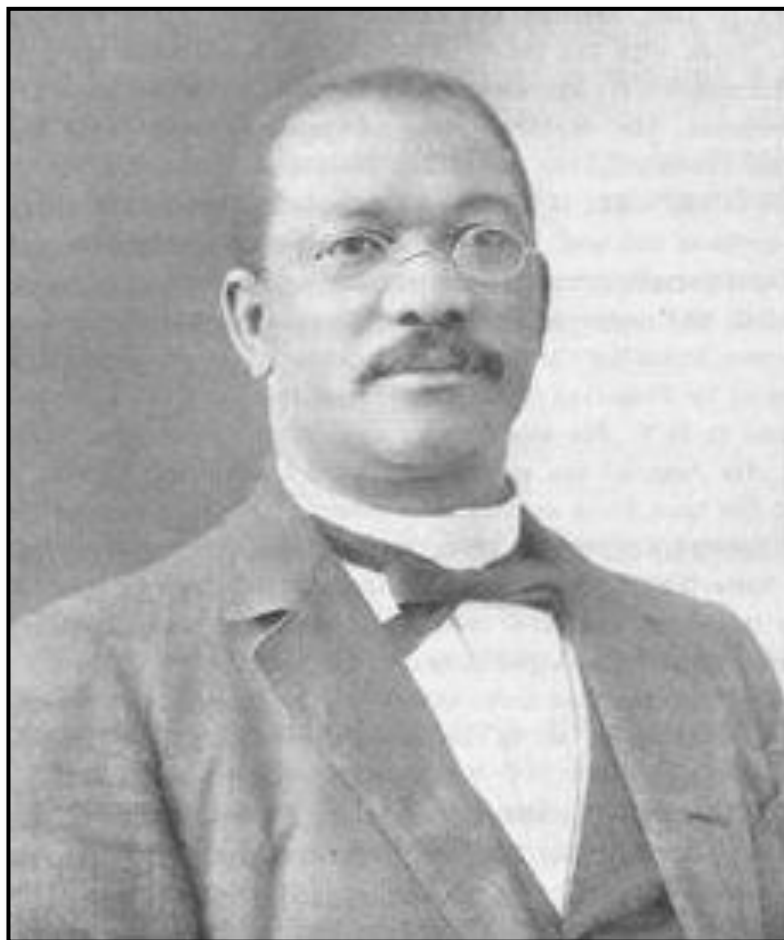


# Wreath Laying Ceremony for William Hooper Council

On Thursday, September 28, 2023, 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, Grand Master Hawkins, 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, in the amount of \$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.











# 59th 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 3, 2024**

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

# A Blast from the Past



**S.J. Bennett, Grand Master**

We join with District Number Seventeen in welcoming the officers, masters, wardens and brothers; and our sisters of the Order of Eastern Star along with the Prince Hall Masonic concordant bodies to this Historic site of our 107th Annual Communications.

We are proud of our record of proper masonic conduct wherever we meet and this record of good and proper masonic conduct must not be broken.

We wish for each member and visitor attending this session of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge not only an enjoyable experience but also an inspirational and profitable one.

S.J. Bennett, Grand Master

BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL  
107th ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS,  
MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL  
GRAND LODGE, F. & A.M. OF  
ALABAMA

**Lucius A. Hayden, Grand Auditor**

**July 24-27, 1977**

**Florence, AL**

# From Whence We've Come...

## Freemasonry: The Incubator for Civil Rights

**A**frican American men in Alabama exhibited a resilient innovative spirit, leveraging Freemasonry as a catalyst for advancing the civil rights movement. Amidst adversity, these individuals found solidarity and empowerment within Masonic lodges, using their network to foster change and challenge systemic racism.

The roots of Freemasonry run deep in the African American community, providing a structured environment that encouraged self-improvement, education, and community service. In Alabama, Masonic lodges became a haven where men could share ideas, strategize, and form alliances in pursuit of civil rights. The commitment to brotherhood within Freemasonry translated into a powerful force for social change.

One notable aspect of the innovative spirit among African American men in Alabama was their ability to adapt Masonic principles to the specific challenges they faced. They fused Masonic teachings of equality, morality, and justice with the urgent need for civil rights, creating a unique synergy that fueled their activism. Through their Masonic connections, these men developed a network that extended beyond local communities, enabling them to coordinate efforts on a broader scale.

Freemasonry also provided a platform for education and intellectual discourse. African American men in Alabama, as Masons, engaged in dialogues that challenged societal norms and fostered critical thinking. The lodges became incubators for leaders who would go on to play pivotal roles in the civil rights movement, using their knowledge and strategic acumen to dismantle segregation and discrimination.

The secrecy inherent in Freemasonry allowed these men to plan and organize civil rights activities discreetly, shielding their efforts from interference. This clandestine collaboration strengthened their resolve, creating a tight-knit community that could withstand external pressures. The Masonic brotherhood, with its rituals and shared values, provided a framework for resilience and perseverance against the oppressive forces that sought to deny basic rights.

African American Masons in Alabama also leveraged their economic resources within the community. By pooling funds and supporting black-owned businesses, they established a foundation for economic empowerment. This financial autonomy became a crucial component of the civil rights movement, enabling sustained activism and reducing dependence on oppressive systems.

As leaders in their Masonic lodges, African American men in Alabama found a platform to amplify their voices. They utilized Masonic rituals, symbols, and traditions as tools for advocacy, drawing parallels between the principles of Freemasonry and the ideals of equality and justice. Through public speeches and writings, these men conveyed a powerful message that resonated beyond the confines of the lodge, inspiring others to join the fight for civil rights.

In conclusion, the innovative spirit of African American men in Alabama during the civil rights movement found expression within the framework of Freemasonry. Through this ancient institution, they forged bonds, strategized, and mobilized communities for change. The Masonic lodges became a nexus of empowerment, education, and collaboration, enabling these men to confront injustice with resilience and determination. The legacy of their innovative approach within Freemasonry continues to influence the ongoing pursuit of equality and justice.

*Contributor — RWL. Ken Collins, II  
Grand Historian*



# \$ Dollars and Sense \$

## The Importance of Having a Will: Ensuring Your Legacy and Peace of Mind

**A** last will and testament, commonly known as a will, is a legal document that outlines how a person's assets and possessions should be distributed after their death. While contemplating one's mortality can be uncomfortable, having a will is a crucial aspect of responsible financial planning. This article explores the significance of having a will and the benefits it offers to individuals and their loved ones.

### **Asset Distribution:**

One of the primary purposes of a will is to specify how your assets will be distributed among your heirs. Without a will, the state's laws will determine how your estate is divided, potentially leading to outcomes you may not have intended. A well-drafted will allows you to ensure that your assets go to the individuals or organizations you choose.

### **Guardianship for Minor Children:**

For parents of minor children, a will is a vital tool for appointing guardians. If both parents pass away without a will, the court will decide who will take custody of the children. By clearly stating your preferences in a will, you can provide peace of mind for your family and avoid potential disputes among relatives.

### **Avoiding Intestacy Laws:**

Dying without a will is known as dying intestate. In such cases, the distribution of assets is governed by state laws, which may not align with your wishes. Having a will allows you to maintain control over your estate and avoid the complications and delays associated with intestacy.

### **Minimizing Family Conflicts:**

A well-crafted will can help minimize family disputes over inheritance. Clearly outlining your intentions reduces the likelihood of disagreements among heirs and provides a legally binding document that can help prevent misunderstandings or conflicts.

### **Tax Planning:**

A will can be a useful tool for strategic tax planning. By structuring the distribution of your assets thoughtfully, you may be able to minimize the tax burden on your estate, ensuring that more of your assets go to your chosen beneficiaries.

### **Expressing Personal Wishes:**

Beyond financial considerations, a will allows you to express your personal wishes and preferences. This may include instructions for your funeral arrangements, charitable contributions, or any specific bequests you have in mind.

### **Updating for Life Changes:**

Life is dynamic, and circumstances can change. It's essential to review and update your will regularly, especially after significant life events such as marriage, divorce, the birth of children, or acquiring substantial assets. Keeping your will current ensures that it accurately reflects your wishes.

### **Conclusion:**

Having a will is a fundamental aspect of responsible estate planning. It provides individuals with the opportunity to control the distribution of their assets, protect the well-being of their children, and express their wishes clearly. While the process of creating a will may seem daunting, the long-term benefits for you and your loved ones far outweigh the initial discomfort. A well-prepared will not only ensure your legacy but also offer peace of mind knowing that your affairs are in order.

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

# HEALTH AND WELLNESS



## The Importance of Understanding Your Medications

**When you take a prescription, do you know exactly what you're taking and why???**

**M**edication plays an important role in managing disease, but it can also be quite harmful if taken incorrectly. It's not enough to know that you take a blue capsule and a yellow tablet twice a day. You need to know the names of your prescriptions, and understand the important details about how they work. For example, some medicines may interact badly with certain foods, other medications, or even food supplements, and can make you very ill. Take the time to learn about the treatment prescribed for you. Your physician or your pharmacist can help answer these questions — don't hesitate to ask!

- What is the name of the medicine?
- Why do I need to take it?
- When and how should I take it? With water? With food? On an empty stomach?
- How much should I take? What should I do if I miss a dose?
- What side effects could be caused by the medication? Which ones should I call the doctor about?
- Are there any foods or medicines I should avoid while taking this medicine?
- Will this medication change how my other medicines work?



## Why Some Don't Take Medications as Prescribed

Many patients do not follow health-care provider instructions on how to take medications for various reasons. Such as, not understanding the directions, forgetfulness, multiple medications with different regimens, unpleasant side effects or the medication doesn't seem to be working. Cost can also be a factor causing medication non-adherence -- patients can't afford to fill their prescriptions or decide to take less than the prescribed dose to make the prescription last longer. However, to help you get the best results from your medications taking your medicine as instructed is very important.

## Tips to Help You Take Your Medicine

Taking your medicine as prescribed or medication adherence is important for controlling chronic conditions, treating temporary conditions, and overall long-term health and well-being. A personal connection with your health-care provider or pharmacist is an important part of medication adherence. Remember, you play the most important part by taking all of your medications as directed. In addition to asking your physician or pharmacist to help you understand your prescriptions, take these steps to further ensure your safety.

- Always fill your prescriptions at the same pharmacy. That way, your medicine history is on file in one place.
- Pick up a fact sheet about your medication from your pharmacist.
- Keep a list in your wallet or purse of all the prescription and over-the-counter medicines you take. Be sure to include vitamins, health supplements, and herbal remedies. Update the list whenever there are changes in your routine. Note the name of each item, the dosage, why and when you need to take it.
- Tell your physician and pharmacist if you have any medical conditions or allergies to any medication or food, or if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- Tie taking your medications with a daily routine like brushing your teeth or getting ready for bed. Before choosing mealtime for your routine, check if your medication should be taken on a full or empty stomach.
- Keep a "medicine calendar" with your pill bottles and note each time you take a dose.
- Use a pill container. Some types have sections for multiple doses at different times, such as morning, lunch, evening, and night.
- When using a pill container, refill it at the same time each week. For example, every Sunday morning after breakfast.
- When travelling, be certain to bring enough of your medication, plus a few days extra, in case your return is delayed. If you're flying, keep your medication in your carry-on bag to avoid lost luggage.

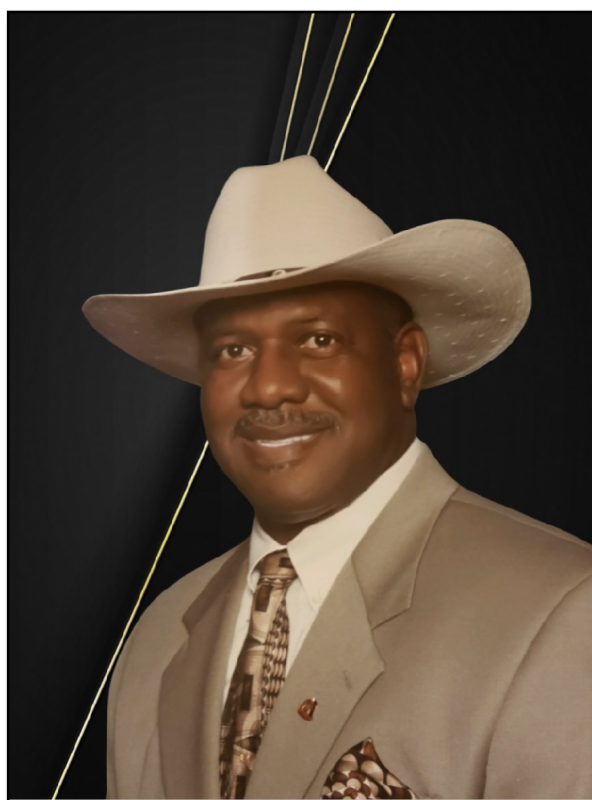
**STAY HEALTHY STAY SAFE!!**

*Miguel L Ferguson, BSN, MPH, RN*

# Achievements

## R.W. Andrew Fuller Inducted Into The National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame

The 38th Annual National Black College Alumni (NBCA) Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was held in Atlanta, Georgia on Friday, September 29, 2023. Over 500 people attended the gala that was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Atlanta. The annual event is the foundation's annual fundraiser. The NBCA Hall of Fame Foundation promotes the visibility of Historically Black Colleges and Universities while providing a forum for students, alumni, faculty, and staff to sharpen their skills and increase their capabilities through workshops, seminars, and programs. The attendees' interaction with and exposure to the resources and expertise provided during the weekend is intended to equip and empower them to better serve their institutions and communities. The weekend activities included the NBCA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, the competition of Black College Queens, the NCAA-sanctioned Thomas W. Dortch HBCU Golf Classic, the Legacy of Leaders Alumni Honors Luncheon, HBCU Experience Book signing, the Call to Manhood and Womanhood Symposium and the HBCU Farewell breakfast held on Sunday.



*R.W. Andrew Fuller Hall of Fame program picture*

This year's inductees included our very own Right Worshipful Andrew Fuller, Grand Trustee. Brother Andrew Fuller was selected for this honor for his service to the community and his civic involvement with his Alma Mater, Alabama A&M. Earlier this year, Brother Fuller was recognized on the local level by Alabama A&M. He was then nominated on the national level and selected to represent Alabama A&M in the category of Community Service. Brother Fuller is a retired educator, administrator, business owner, civic stalwart, and Army veteran. Brother Fuller earned a Bachelor of Science Degree at Alabama A&M in Trade and Industrial Education. He later earned a Master of Science Degree from Alabama A&M. Brother Fuller worked in the Huntsville City Schools for more than thirty years. He served over 22 years as the Chief Instructor of brick masonry at the Huntsville Center for Technology. He served as Assistant Principal and later Principal of Lee High School in Huntsville, Alabama.



Brother Andrew Fuller's civic involvement is widespread and includes serving as Primary Advisor to the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America, Chairman of the Membership Committee of the Alabama Vocational Association, and three terms as President of the Brick Masonry Instructors' Association of Alabama. In 2015, he was inducted into the National Brick Masonry's Hall of Fame. His commitment to Alabama's A&M's mission is evident through his many in-kind masonry projects and his recent service to AAMU First Lady Abbiegail Hugine's Building Pride Committee, where he served as Chaplain for ten years. He is also a Life Member of the AAMU Alumni Association. Brother Andrew's work can be seen throughout the campus, from the rock walls near Bibb Graves and the Student Center to the football practice areas, the baseball dugout, and the Alumni Wall of Giving at the Alumni Center.

The evening concluded with a special tribute to the National Black College Alumni Foundation founder, Thomas W. Dortch, Jr., who passed away earlier this year. Mr. Dortch established the NBCA Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc. in 1985. Since then, the foundation has celebrated 350 exceptional honorees with this prestigious honor. The 2023 class of Hall of Fame inductees included 16 inductees. Among those selected was former NFL two-time Super Bowl champ, Tyrone Poole, a Fort Valley State Alumni, Ed Bradley (posthumously) Cheyney University, and our very own Andrew Fuller, Alabama A&M Alumni. Congratulations Brother Fuller on your outstanding accomplishment.

*Contributor – RW Carlton Jones*



*R.W. Andrew Fuller with wife, Son Andy, and Grand Junior Deacon Carlton Jones*



*R.W. Andrew Fuller and wife with Dr. Mary Ann Jones and daughter*



*R.W. Andrew Fuller and wife*

# WM Loveless Belser Receives Pay It Forward Award

On August 22, 2023, Hamilton Lodge No. 365 celebrated Worshipful Master (WM) Loveless Belser's outstanding achievements. Joined by his wife, Mrs. Demetrice Belser, and the Lodge's Senior Warden, Kenneth Gray, the event recognized WM Belser as the recipient of the prestigious Pay It Forward Award from the Vance Law Firm. This honor reflects his unwavering dedication to making a positive impact in the lives of others, outshining two hundred and sixty exceptional nominees.

WM Belser has become a beacon of positivity and leadership within the Montgomery community, notably through leading the lodge in dedicated mentorship initiatives, coaching youth sports, and their regular visits to both youth centers and nursing homes. Under the stewardship of WM Belser, Hamilton Lodge No. 365 actively engages in a wide range of community service activities. They participate in fundraising initiatives for Alzheimer's research, conduct heartwarming award ceremonies for breast cancer patients, extend their support to lodge member widows, and generously donate to young mothers in need, local schools, and veterans within the Montgomery, Alabama community. Hamilton Lodge even hosts yearly Valentine's Day events and a highly successful adult prom. The Lodge's unwavering commitment and impact on the community even earned them a prestigious Leadership Award from local churches, further solidifying their status as "an exemplary force for good in the region."

In 2017, WM Belser assumed the role of Worshipful Master at Hamilton Lodge, a pivotal moment in the lodge's history. At that time, the active membership had dwindled to a mere six dedicated individuals. However, with these determined six members, WM Belser embarked on a transformative journey, steering Hamilton Lodge back to its revered Masonic roots, firmly grounded in the principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth. WM Belser's tireless efforts bore fruit in the form of a remarkable resurgence. He embarked on a mission to reclaim past members, breathing new life into the lodge. Moreover, under his inspired leadership, the lodge's impactful community work garnered increased attention and support. As a result, the lodge has flourished, now boasting Thirty-one active members with a steady stream of potential candidates undergoing the initiation process. WM Belser's dedication and commitment has not only revived the lodge, but also paved the way for its continued growth and prosperity.





Under the remarkable leadership of WM Belser, Hamilton Lodge has garnered not only esteemed proclamations from the Governor of the State of Alabama and the Mayor of Montgomery, Al., but also a recognition that holds a special place in their hearts. In both 2022 and 2023, Hamilton Lodge achieved the extraordinary distinction of being consecutively awarded "Lodge of the Year." This cherished accolade is a testament to their unwavering commitment and dedication to the principles they hold dear, making them a shining example of excellence within the Masonic community. WM Belser has achieved all these remarkable feats while also providing dedicated care and support to his ailing parents. His ability to balance his responsibilities with his community leadership underscores his exceptional character and unwavering commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of those around him.



The award presentation was a testament to WM Belser's extraordinary commitment to the principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth. Further, WM Belser earned this distinguished award by embodying his mother's cherished philosophy: "Just love, give back, and don't expect anything in return." This guiding light, instilled in him by his mother, has been the compass directing his life's purpose. It was a moment of true significance when attorney Stuart Vance personally bestowed this well-deserved honor upon him. The entire masonic community had reason to beam with pride as this heartwarming event also garnered the attention of the television station WAKA Action News, who showcased the award ceremony in a special segment that aired on August 22, 2023. In addition to the heartfelt recognition, WM Belser received a generous monetary prize as a token of appreciation for his selfless acts of kindness. His name now graces prominent billboards throughout Montgomery, Alabama, proudly displaying him as the distinguished recipient of the Pay It Forward Award. His legacy of benevolence continues to shine as an inspiration for all.



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

# In The Spotlight

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

## Brother Marcell Dareus

**M**arcell Dareus (born March 13, 1990) is a native of Birmingham, Alabama. Dareus attended Huffman High School, where he played football, basketball, and competed in track & field as a shot putter. In football, he was an ASWA All-State honorable mention at defensive lineman. He totaled 117 tackles and 20 sacks as a senior, and also returned a fumble for a touchdown. Dareus was listed on the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Super Southern 100, as well as the Mobile Press-Register Elite 18. Marcell was considered a four-star recruit by Scout.com. He chose Alabama over offers from Auburn, Tennessee, and North Carolina, among others.

In his true freshman season at Alabama, Dareus played in eight games, making his debut in the Crimson Tide's season opening 34–10 victory over the Clemson Tigers. He registered four tackles while recording three quarterback hurries. Marcell saw playing time at nose tackle in third-down-and-long situations.

As a sophomore, Dareus was a significant contributor all season at defensive end for Alabama. He played in 14 games and made four starts while serving as the Crimson Tide's top pass rusher and finishing seventh in the SEC in sacks. He totaled 33 total tackles, 9.0 tackles for loss (–49), seven quarterback hurries, an interception and two pass breakups. He finished eighth in the Southeastern Conference and ranked tied for 90th nationally with 6.5 sacks (–44) or .46 per game. For his performance, including a 28-yard interception return for a touchdown, Dareus was named defensive MVP of the 2010 BCS National Championship Game.

In his junior season, Brother Dareus totaled 34 total tackles, 11.0 tackles for loss (–41), 4.5 quarterback sacks (–26), ten quarterback hurries, and four pass breakups. In the week following the Crimson Tide's Capital One Bowl victory over Michigan State, Dareus declared his eligibility for the 2011 NFL Draft on January 7th. At the time of the announcement, he was projected as a first round pick.



*Bro. Marcell Dareus*



Brother Dareus was selected with the third overall pick in the 2011 NFL Draft by the Buffalo Bills on April 28, 2011. He was the highest selected defensive lineman in Crimson Tide history, and the highest selected Alabama defensive player since linebacker Cornelius Bennett, who was drafted second overall by the Indianapolis Colts in 1987. On April 29, the day after the first round, the Bills announced that Dareus would wear jersey #99. On July 29, 2011, Dareus signed a four-year deal with the Bills. Dareus started all sixteen games and, despite suffering injuries to his shoulder and hand during the season, registered 5.5 sacks, the most for a Bills rookie since Aaron Schobel.

Dareus was named to his first Pro Bowl in 2013 as an injury replacement for Justin Smith of the San Francisco 49ers. He recorded 7.5 sacks and a career high 46 tackles that season. He was ranked 62nd by his fellow players on the NFL Top 100 Players of 2014.

In the 2014 season. He was named AFC Defensive Player of the Week for Week 5 with three sacks and a forced fumble against Detroit. He recorded 35 tackles, with 10.0 sacks under new defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz's defense as part of Buffalo's "Cold Front" defensive line, garnering another Pro Bowl appearance and being named to the All-Pro first-team for the first time in his career. His ten sacks led all defensive tackles for that season. He was ranked 53rd by his fellow players on the NFL Top 100 Players of 2015.

On September 10, 2015, the Bills signed Brother Dareus to a six-year contract extension. With this contract, Dareus had the most guaranteed money in the NFL for a non-quarterback. He finished the 2015 season with two sacks and 51 total tackles.

In the 2016 season, he appeared in eight games and recorded 3.5 sacks, 39 total tackles, and one pass deflected.

On October 27, 2017, Dareus was traded to the Jacksonville Jaguars. In the 2017 season, he appeared in 14 games, five with the Bills and nine with the Jaguars. He recorded 28 total tackles, three tackles-for-loss, and three quarterback hits. In the postseason, he had four combined tackles in the Wild Card Round victory over the Buffalo Bills. In the Divisional Round win over the Pittsburgh Steelers, he had one tackle and one quarterback hit. In the AFC Championship loss to the New England Patriots, he had five combined tackles and one quarterback hit.

In the 2018 season, Brother Dareus played in and started 15 games. He recorded 32 combined tackles, two quarterback hits, one sack, one pass deflected, one forced fumble, and one safety.

In 2023 Dareus appeared on the TLC network's Dr. Pimple Popper reality television program. As of late, he has been busy assisting children at Next Level Sports Camps 2023 in Birmingham.

Brother Dareus was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in May of 2013 and is a proud member of Holding Lodge No. 459.

<b>MARCELL DAREUS</b> ALABAMA CAREER PROFILE	
	<b>BCS NATIONAL CHAMPION (2010)</b>
	<b>BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MVP (2010)</b>
	<b>FIRST-TEAM ALL-SEC (2010)</b>
	<b>3RD OVERALL PICK IN 2011 NFL DRAFT (BILLS)</b>

# Military Affairs

## Keeping our MWPHGL of Alabama Veterans Informed

### Modernizing the Disability Claim Process

The VA is currently undergoing modernization efforts and using technology to improve the disability claims process. When a Veteran files a claim for VA benefits, there are several administrative actions needed before a decision can be made, such as gathering medical records and military service records. VA is automating many of these administrative tasks, allowing claims processors to focus on more complex and analytical duties. These improvements result in reduced processing times and faster decisions on claims to Veterans and their families.

Automated Decision Support (ADS) helps automate administrative tasks related to claims processing. ADS helps claims processors make fast, accurate, and consistent decisions for Veterans by reducing the amount of time spent on administrative tasks. ADS also provides a summary document of key information required for decision-making, making it easier for decision-makers to review records. Deciding VA disability claims can be complex, and ADS does not replace the need for claims processors to review and make decisions. Instead, ADS is a tool that assists claims processors with administrative tasks to help in the decision-making process.

ADS is currently used for specific medical conditions as the technology is being developed. If a claim includes a condition that ADS can assist with, the claim will be reviewed using ADS. Relevant medical data from a variety of sources, including medical treatment records, military service treatment records, VA claim exams, and electronic VA medical center health records will be compiled, and a summary document about the condition is uploaded into the Veteran's electronic claims folder. Technology is also used to scan handwritten documents and transcribe them into electronic records so they can be easily reviewed. Once all the information is gathered, it is sent to the claim's processor for further review and action.

As with any new technology, testing is critical to make sure systems are functional and efficient. For this reason, the VA initially designated one benefits office to serve as the prototype processing site. As ADS technology evolves, it will be rolled out to more benefits offices. Currently, there are more than 40 disability conditions ADS can assist with, and this technology is being used by 16 benefits offices. Modernizing the disability claims process is all about reducing decision wait times and getting decisions to Veterans and families in days, rather than months. Using technology to automate administrative areas of the claims process, while maintaining the human decision-making element, is just one of the ways VA is working to better serve Veterans and their families.



**In the likelihood of the Government shutdown, the Department of Veteran Affairs has provided the below field guide for veterans that may be useful.**



# VETERANS FIELD GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

As of October 1, 2023



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to provide quality, consistent care and services to Veterans, families, Caregivers, and Survivors. VA's mission allows no exception to this standard even when operations are limited by the absence of appropriations (commonly known as a "Government shutdown").



### SERVICES TO VETERANS NOT IMPACTED:



VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, and Vet Centers will be open.



VA benefits will continue to be processed and delivered, including compensation, pension, education, and housing benefits.



Burials will continue at VA national cemeteries. Applications for headstones, markers, and burial benefits processing will continue.



The Board of Veterans' Appeals will continue decisions on Veterans' cases.



VA Contact Centers (1-800-MyVA411) and the Veterans Crisis Line (Dial 988, Press 1) are open 24/7.



### SERVICES TO VETERANS IMPACTED:



VA will not provide veteran career counseling or transition assistance program activities.



VA education benefits contact center (GI Bill Hotline: 1-888-GIBILL-1 or 1-888-442-4551) will be closed.



VA benefits regional offices will be closed.



Public affairs and outreach to Veterans will cease.

No grounds maintenance or placement of permanent headstones at VA cemeteries.



Applications for pre-need burial at VA cemeteries will not be processed.

No printing of new Presidential Memorial Certificates.



No outreach to state, county, tribal, municipal, faith-based, and community-based partners by VA Central Office.



### HAVE A QUESTION? CALL US!

The one number all Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors can use to access VA resources 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year.

1-800-MYVA411 (1-800-698-2411)

In the event of a prolonged shutdown, VA will continue to review and update its plan in conjunction with the applicable legal requirements and circumstances. Please visit [www.whitehouse.gov/omb/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/) or [www.VA.gov](http://www.VA.gov) for updated information.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Download the VA Welcome Kit [www.va.gov/welcome-kit/](http://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/)

Subscribe to #VetResources [www.va.gov/vetresources/](http://www.va.gov/vetresources/)

Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988, then Press 1

Call 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411) or visit <https://www.va.gov/contact-us/>

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

# CHRISTMAS JOY

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

Angel  
 Bethlehem  
 Candy Cane  
 Cookies  
 Elves  
 Family  
 Holly  
 Jesus

Lights  
 Manger  
 Mistletoe  
 Nativity  
 Ornaments  
 Poinsettia  
 Presents  
 Reindeer

Santa Claus  
 Sleigh  
 Snowflakes  
 Snowman  
 Star  
 Stockings  
 Wisemen  
 Wreath



# REGION 4

## News and Events from Region 4

### Abraham Lodge No. 267 Volunteers in the Community



On August 26, 2023, WM Ferry Nye, and Bro. Leon McCord of Abraham Lodge No. 267 volunteered to work the chains for the Success Unlimited vs Trinity Christian football game. They believe in the power of community service and giving back. Volunteering to work the chains for high school football games is an excellent opportunity to give back to their community and support their student-athletes. Working the chains requires working with the referees, attention to detail, teamwork, and a commitment to upholding the integrity of the game.

*Contributor – WM Ferry Nye (No. 267)*

### Phoenix Lodge No. 428 Continues Its Support of the Community

Phoenix Lodge No. 428 ended the summer on a high note for the local children going back to school. The lodge gave scholarships to children going to college. While the funds may not cover the entire four years of a college degree, the lodge hopes, that it can fill the gaps of whatever else is for the student.

In addition to the scholarships, Lodge No. 428, along with Bro. Morgan's non-profit organization, were able to hand out over 100 bookbags filled with school supplies.

*Contributor – Bro. Jermaine Phillips (No. 428)*

*Pictured Right: WM Felton Harley and JW Andrews with the last of seven students that were able to be blessed with scholarships.*



# Hamilton Lodge No. 365 Continues Its Community Service

In August 2023, Hamilton Lodge members joined forces with the First Baptist Church's backpack giveaway initiative, generously contributing over 100 book bags for deserving children in the community. The lodge distributed these backpacks, along with snacks, to kids throughout the community, ensuring that they were well-equipped and supported for the school year ahead.

Also in August, Hamilton Lodge, in collaboration with the local fire station of the Montgomery Fire Department, extended a warm welcome to the children on the first day of the school year at Wares Ferry Road Elementary School. The lodge members greeted the kids with high-fives, warm smiles, and encouraging words as they accompanied them to their respective classrooms.

On September 18th, the men of Hamilton Lodge came together to celebrate a momentous occasion—the 96th birthday of Bro. James Herndon. Brother Herndon, an esteemed member for over 50 years, has not only held various lodge officer positions but has also been an active and dedicated contributor to the history of Hamilton Lodge.

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



*WM Belser participating in the book bag giveaway*



*WM Belser welcoming children back to Wares Ferry Road Elementary School.*



*Brothers of Hamilton Lodge and GDD Parks with Bro. James I Herndon*



# Bro. Brian "Blue" Smith of Hamilton Lodge No. 365 Hosts School Supply Giveaway

On August 3, 2023, Bro. Brian "Blue" Smith from Hamilton Lodge No. 365 held his 5th Annual Crystal Johnson FREE School Supply Giveaway in Montgomery, Alabama. This year Bro. Blue held three FREE School Supply Giveaways in Dothan, Montgomery, and Sylacauga, Alabama. Each event was dedicated to a child who passed away from an illness. The events were needed in the community because there are many less fortunate families. Every child who comes to Bro. Blue's event walks away with a backpack full of supplies for school, no matter what grade level he/she is in.

- ◆ Dothan School Supply Giveaway (AvaLynn James)
- ◆ Montgomery School Supply Giveaway (Crystal Johnson)
- ◆ Sylacauga School Supply Giveaway (Peyton Embry)

Bro. Blue brings all the community service groups in the city under one roof, to help give supplies to kids. The ultimate goal is to make sure our children have a successful school year. Between all three successful events Bro. Blue gave away 1400 backpacks, unlimited pens, pencils, notebook paper, and folders. Also, the Carver High School Drumline performed for the kids, to inspire them to pursue music and to keep them out of the streets. The goal for next year is 3000 backpacks. He gave thanks to Hamilton Lodge No. 365 & Alonza Mitchell Chapter No.636, OES for supporting him in the giveaway project.

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



# Mt. Nebo Lodge 511 Supports Prostate Cancer Awareness Program



*Brothers of Mt. Nebo Lodge 511 with Car Show winners*

On Saturday, September 30, 2023, in Tuskegee, AL, Tristate Auto Club and Macon M.E.A.N.S for Cancer support partnered with several organizations and hosted a prostate cancer awareness health fair, car show, and emergency preparedness event. This event was planned in observance of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Macon County has a very high rate of prostate cancer according to the Alabama Statewide Cancer Registry. Free screenings are not available to the men of this county; however, free screenings were provided at this event. Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 511 was one of the sponsors of this event, by providing a trophy for the car show and a monetary donation. Brother Dominguez Hurry is a member of Tri-State Auto Club and Mt. Nebo Lodge, he reached out to the membership of his lodge to help support this important event that supports men's health. Trophies were given out in several divisions of the car show, and it was an overall success. The main goal of this event was to empower the community and provide access to health screenings.

*Contributor – Bro. Dominguez C. Hurry (No. 511)*

# W.T. Woods Lodge No. 842 Hosts Public Installation of Officers Program

On August 6, 2023, W.T. Woods Lodge No. 842 held a public installation of officers at the Juliette Hampton-Morgan Memorial Library in downtown Montgomery from 2 PM-5 PM. All officers of the lodge, elected and appointed, were installed into their positions. The Honorable Mayor Steven L. Reed, Mayor of the City of Montgomery, was the guest speaker. The members of the lodge also took the opportunity to present Past Master Terence Gill the Benjamin E. Beasley, Jr. Masonic Excellence Award, for his exemplary dedication, leadership, and service. The lodge also presented Past Master Michael Snapp the Legacy Achievement Award and a farewell as he advanced to become Track and Field Head Coach at Mississippi Valley State University.

*Contributor – WM Terrance T. Myrick (No. 842)*





# REGION 5

News and Events from Region 5

## Pride of North Birmingham No. 319 Serving in Its Community

*"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"*

The Brothers of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 got the opportunity to use the trowel to spread the cement of brotherly love and affection in July. Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 was honored to fellowship and assist with the healing ceremony at Tuxedo Lodge No. 431.

On July 31, 2023, WM Gerren K. Whitlock, Sr. 33°, Secretary Chevelle Lee, Senior Deacon Mikal Kearney, Junior Deacon Anthony Palmer, and Bro. Dr. Durvatheheir Esquire, Esq., traveled to Fairfield, Alabama to assist Tuxedo Lodge No. 431 with its healing ceremony. There were many brothers from other lodges present also. Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 was grateful to Past Master & Grand District Deputy (14) Walter Greene and the brothers of Tuxedo Lodge No. 431 for the opportunity to assist, fellowship, and spread the cement of brotherly love.

In keeping with their partnership and commitment to the Don Hawkins Recreation Center, On August 26, 2023, the brothers of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 had the pleasure of assisting with their 2nd Annual Community Fun Day event. This is an annual event organized by the Roebuck Neighborhood in conjunction with the Don Hawkins Recreation Center. The event was held at the Recreation Center in the Roebuck Community of Birmingham, Alabama.



*Pictured above: Brothers of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 with community at Annual Community Fun Day event*



There were many activities for the entire family. Activities included a slip and slide, bouncy house, games, and there were plenty of refreshments.

Special thanks to Worshipful Master Gerren K. Whitlock, Sr., Junior Warden Cordaro Simmons, and Secretary Chevelle Lee for their support. Everyone was very grateful for the opportunity to serve and give back to the community. This has allowed the lodge to build relationships, network, assess the needs of the community, and make a difference.

While traveling along Highway 78 in the Forestdale area of Birmingham you will notice signs that read: ADOPT-A-MILE PROGRAM; THIS SECTION OF ROADSIDE ADOPTED BY PRIDE OF NORTH BIRMINGHAM LODGE No. 319. Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 is honored to have adopted a mile on that stretch of Highway 78. This allows them to do their part in helping to keep the community clean and litter-free.

On Saturday, September 9, 2023, Brothers of Pride of North Birmingham Lodge No. 319 went out to Highway 78 in the Forestdale Community of Birmingham and maintained their adopted mile. They did what was necessary to clean up the litter and maintain the area. The Brothers of 319 are committed to doing the work of keeping it clean and litter-free.

The Brothers of Lodge 319 who participated in the litter pickup included: Secretary Chevelle Lee, Bro. James Austin, Bro. Gerald Garner, Bro. Denorris Dickson, Bro. Donell Lewis, Bro. Reginald Watts, and Bro. Mandrell McCrary. Lodge 319, continues to put in work!

*Contributor – Bro. Bro. Tony “O.” Lloyd (319)*



*Kids enjoying the day at the Community Fun Day event*



*Brothers keeping the community clean and litter-free*



*Brothers keeping the community clean and litter-free*





## P.S. Howard Lodge No. 516 Hosts Back-to-School Giveaway

In August 2023 P. S. Howard Lodge No. 516 and Brown Beauty Chapter No. 679, OES gave away school supplies during their Back-to-School Giveaway in the Roosevelt Community. Collectively, they were able to give away approximately 70 bookbags to the children of the community.

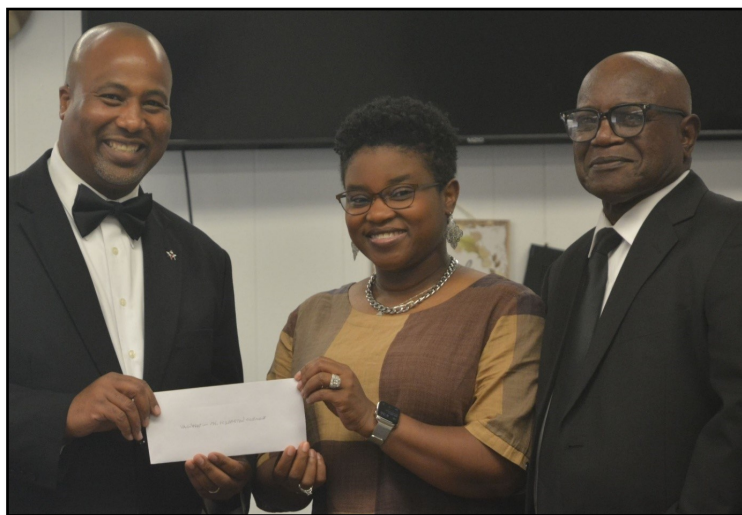
Later in August, P.S. Howard Lodge No. 516 and Brown Beauty Chapter No. 679, OES gave donations of a \$100.00 gift cards to three high school graduates to assist them on their college expenses.

*Contributor – PM Carlos D. Black (No. 516)*



*Members of P. S. Howard Lodge No. 516 and Brown Beauty Chapter No. 679, OES at the school supply giveaway*

## Steele Scepter No. 649 Holds Its Annual Lodge Banquet



*WM Yohance Prioleau presents Sis. Tomeka Yow and Bro. Billie Clemons Jr. with a scholarship check for Sis. Kiersten Clemons who is currently a student attending Tuskegee University.*

The brothers of Steele Scepter Lodge No. 649 held their Annual Banquet benefiting the lodge and its charities on Sunday, September 17, 2023. Brother Arthur Rutledge, Sr., received the Edgar Vann Award for Lifetime Achievement and Dedication to the lodge for his forty-three years of loyal service. Brother Kelvin Luster from Pride of North Birmingham No. 319 gave an inspiring message that encouraged and uplifted those in attendance. Sister Kiersten Clemons of Vann Chapter No. 660, OES was awarded a scholarship as she continues her studies at Tuskegee University. The event was a great success, and the lodge is looking forward to continuing to serve the community in the years to come.

*Contributor – WM Yohance Prioleau (No. 649)*

# Woods Joy Lodge No. 752 Provides Community Service



*Woods Joy Lodge No. 752 making water donation to Miles College.*



*Woods Joy Lodge No. 752 participating in Ensley free school supply event*



*Brothers of Woods Joy Lodge No. 752 accepting community award*

On August 3, 2023, Woods Joy Lodge No. 752 provided a pallet of water for the Miles College Band. The summer months were hot and challenging for the band members. So, the lodge members stepped in to bring a little relief. This is the second year the lodge has provided hydration for the young men and women of the band.

The band director, Willie Snipes, and his assistant were grateful to receive the water. Lodge members present included the Worshipful Master Eric Reese, Senior Warden Cedric Evans, Sr., Junior Warden Jonathan Perkins, and Brother Corey Howard.

On August 5, 2023, Woods Joy Lodge No. 752 along with other local organizations in conjunction with Be Kind Birmingham gave the kids of the Ensley Community free school supply backpacks, food, games, and entertainment. Woods Joy members were on the grill and serving the people in attendance. A few of the local OES sisters assisted the lodge with this venture. They were very helpful. Over 250 hamburgers and hotdogs were served.

On September 24, 2023, Community First Birmingham, an organization that provides goods and services to the community of Wenonah and other areas, recognized Woods Joy Lodge No. 752 for the work the lodge does in the community every year. The honor was spearheaded by the lodge's Treasurer-elect, Abdul Alwahiid. This brother has been working with Community First Birmingham, as well as, his lodge for several years! The lodge appreciates him, the work he does, and the motivation he brings to the lodge. Cedric Evans, Sr., Senior Warden of the lodge, accepted the great honor on behalf of the brothers of the lodge and its Worshipful Master, Eric Reese.

Brothers Corey Howard, Mark Shaw, Past Master, Anthony Jordon, Walt Wilson, and Treasurer, Abdul Alwahiid were present to accept the award. Woods Joy Lodge No. 752 appreciates Community First Birmingham for recognizing their lodge and other awesome organizations for their hard work in the community.

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



# New Beginning Lodge No. 970

## Serving in Its Community

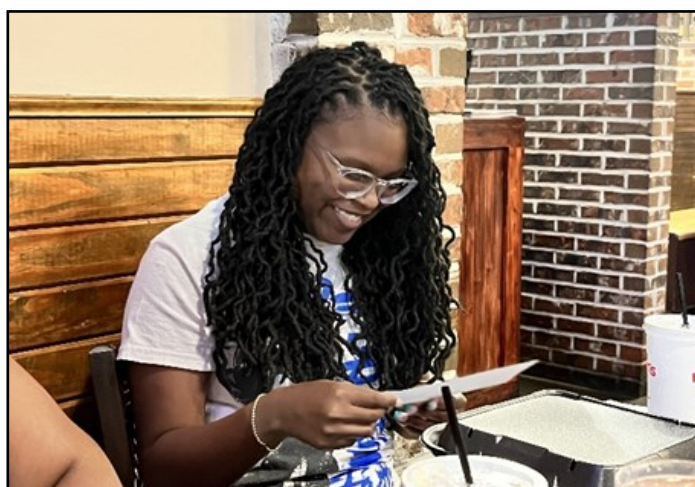
On August 9, 2023, brothers of New Beginning Lodge No. 970 came out to support a free health and wellness fair held at the Center Point Senior Activity Center in Center Point, Alabama. The fair was free and open to the public, showcasing various vendors providing vital information for the senior community such as hospice, retired and senior volunteer programs, estate planning, etc. New Beginning Lodge No. 970 kindly donated \$200.00 worth of shaved ice cups to the senior attendees as well as food and refreshments for those in attendance. The Mayor of Center Point, Bobby Scott, Jr., was in attendance and thanked New Beginning for its volunteering endeavors for the fair.

On August 18th, New Beginning Lodge No. 970, following the example set forth by The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama of supporting higher education, was humbly blessed to support a young lady whose future appears very bright. Miss Jahia Franklin, daughter of Ms. Eryka Glaster, and a graduate of Pleasant Grove High School in Pleasant Grove, Alabama, was the recipient of New Beginning's 2023 One Time Student Financial Aid for \$1,000.00. In an essay she has written, she expressed a desire to pursue studies to become a Criminal Defense Lawyer. The Brothers of New Beginning Lodge No. 970 treated Miss Franklin and her mother out to dinner at a local Birmingham restaurant when the check presentation was made. We also congratulate Jahia on being accepted into an HBCU, Lawson State Community College. May continued blessings be upon her and her future endeavors!

*Pictured Right Top: New Beginning Lodge No. 970 at the Health and Wellness Fair with the Shaved Ice Truck*

*Pictured Right Middle: Check presentation to Ms. Eryka Glaster and her family*

*Pictured Right Bottom: Ms. Eryka Glaster is all smiles as she admires the student financial aid check*







As the summer heat intensified, New Beginning Lodge No. 970 answered the call and extended its support to the Woodlawn High School football team located in the Birmingham area through a hydration initiative. On August 28th, recognizing the importance of staying hydrated during intense physical activities, the lodge donated 24 cases of water and powder Gatorade to the team. Head Football Coach Clarence Williams greatly appreciated the generous contribution. Helping to ensure the players' well-being, New Beginning Lodge No. 970 demonstrated its commitment to supporting local athletics and nurturing young talent. The lodge's contribution left a humble impression on both the coaching staff and team players.



During August and September, New Beginning Lodge No. 970 provided a strong supporting role with the Pacesetters Program in the Birmingham area, a free seniors walking program designed to promote a healthy lifestyle for elders. Every Tuesday and Thursday, each session would be set up with a tent for shade while water, power drinks, and fruit were distributed to participants with music playing in the background as the senior men and women walk around a large parking lot. Pacesetters became a platform for seniors to socialize, share stories, and strengthen their bonds with fellow community members. The event served as a powerful reminder that age should never limit one's ability to lead an active life. On one occasion, the walk was covered by local news when National Senior Citizens Day was being observed. The Pacesetters have demonstrated that age is nothing but a number.

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

*Pictured Above: Brothers of New Beginning Lodge No. 970 making water and Gatorade to Woodlawn High School football team*

*Pictured Right Below: Brothers of New Beginning Lodge No. 970 with the Pacesetters Program for National Senior Citizens Day*





# REGION 6

## News and Events from Region 6

### Evening Star Lodge No. 6 Participates in Adopt-A-Mile Project

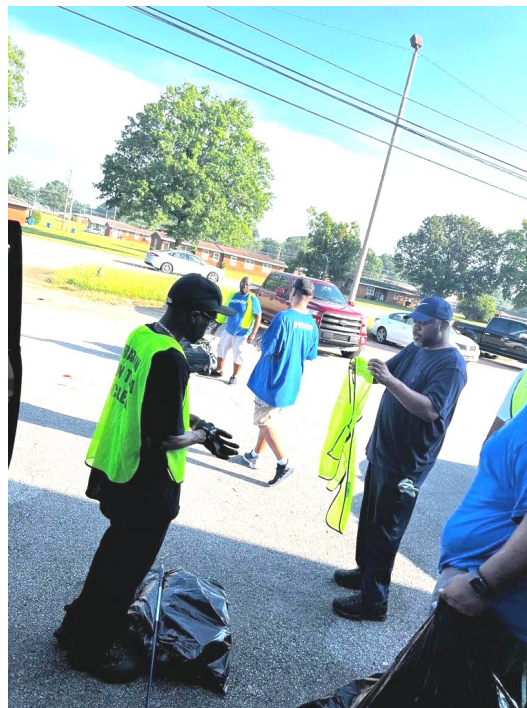
On August 26, 2023, members of Evening Star Lodge No. 6 participated in the Adopt-A-Mile Green Team Clean-Up Project. The location is in the Cavalry Hills section of town on Poplar Avenue, NW Huntsville, AL. This is an ongoing project with Evening Star and is performed every month when weather permits. The project lead is Junior Warden Andrien Fuller, not pictured, as he was taking the photo. Over the past year, lodge members have seen a remarkable change in the community's attitude toward littering, which makes their jobs a lot easier. With community outsiders coming in to help beautify and keep the streets clean, the community members are more apt to do the same.

Evening Star Lodge No. 6 plans to continue this project and even expand it to get the community involved more.

*Contributor – WM Ben Long (No. 6)*



*Members in the photo are Bro. James Monroe, Bro. Ron Adams, and WM Ben Long.*



*Members of Evening Star Lodge No. 6 getting ready for their Adopt-A-Mile clean-up.*



# Morning Star Lodge No. 50 Continues Community Service Projects

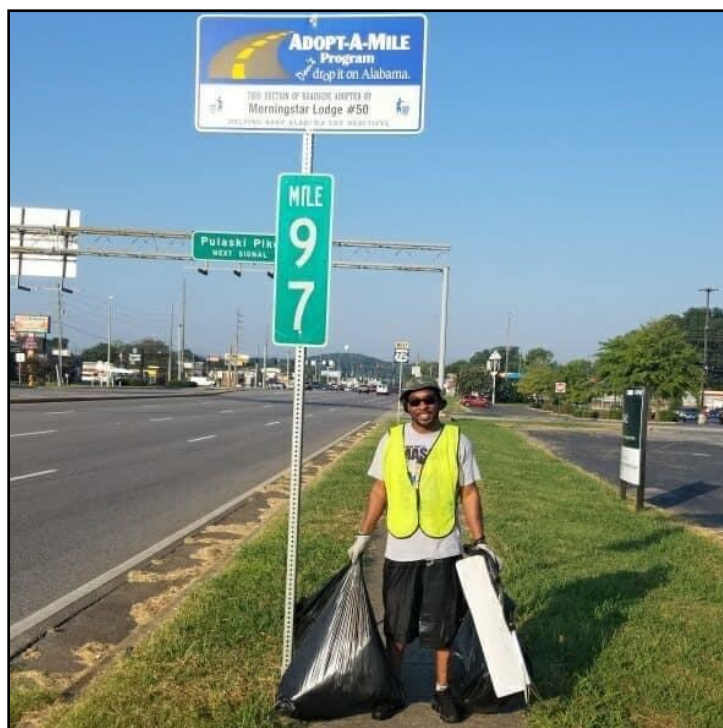
On August 26, 2023, the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 continued their support and commitment to the Alabama Department of Transportation's People Against a Littered State (PALS) "Adopt-A-Mile Project." The lodge has a mile marker bearing its name on University Drive in Huntsville, Alabama that the lodge has agreed to keep clean and presentable in our beautiful community. The brothers arrived at 7:00 a.m. Saturday, August 26 equipped with plastic trash bags, gloves, and a special tool used for picking up glass and trash along the curbsides. The dedicated members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 picked up trash and cleaned up the surrounding area stretching a mile distance on both sides of University Drive from the corner of The Parkway (East) to the end of Klondike Avenue (West). 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, alcoholic beverage containers, and other trash that attracts wildlife that can endanger their children and any other individual in the community.

This is just an example of community service programs that Morning Star Lodge No. 50 proudly supports, which stresses the importance of getting out in their community to make a difference. Lodge brothers are looking forward to their continued efforts to serve and make their community better.



*Above Left to Right: Bro. Jeremy Upshaw, Bro. Mark Debro, SW Gregory White, Bro. Chris Fletcher, Bro. Brian Smith, JW Brandon Wesley, Taurean Dawkins, Jr., WM Taurean Dawkins, Sr. and Bro. Keynon Jones. PM Larry D. Tisdale (Photographer)*

*Below: JW Brandon Wesley standing next to Adopt-A-Mile marker after picking up litter along the curbside*





*Members of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 with children from the Harvest Youth Club*



*WM Taurean F. Dawkins and Bro. Dave Silas organizing donations at the Harvest Youth Club*



*PM Larry D. Tisdale, WM Taurean F. Dawkins and Bro. Chris Fletcher with Catholic Center of Concern employees*

On August 30th, 2023, Morning Star Lodge No. 50 provided the Harvest Youth Club with snacks for their afterschool program, and a pizza party, and spoke on the importance of giving back to its community and 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. Over 500 dollars was raised for 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 has been around for over 20 years.

On September 29th, the brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 continued their support and commitment to the “Catholic Center of Concern.” This facility has supported women who have been abused, displaced, or homeless for the last 50 years. They provide food, clothing, and shelter for teenage mothers who have no place to go. The CCOC relies on the community for donations in the form of monetary or items of need. One of the facility’s needs is pampers for babies of all age groups.

The brothers of Morning Star Lodge No. 50 led by Worshipful Master Taurean F. Dawkins organized a Pamper Drive to support the CCOC. This is just another pledge to support their community during this year. During September, the brothers collected and donated pampers of all sizes which culminated with the delivery on September 29th. Often good deeds go overlooked but, the deeds performed by the Catholic Center of Concern is a beacon of light that is noticed throughout the community.

Proverbs 19:17 reads *“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the lord. And he will reward them for what they have done.”*

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



# Athelstine Lodge No. 71

## Hosts Scholarship Awards Brunch

On July 8, 2023, Athelstine Lodge No. 71 held its 2nd Annual Past Master Johnnie L. Pryor Scholarship Awards Brunch at the Round Island Creek Missionary Baptist Center in Athens, Alabama. Two scholarships for \$500.00 were presented to deserving high school graduates from the Athens-Limestone County School District. This year's scholarship winners were Ms. Ariyanna Macklin and Ms. Janae, both graduates of Athens High School. Both young ladies plan to pursue college degrees. In addition to the lodge scholarship awards, No. 71 presented the Community Service Awards to "Pastor of the Year" to Pastor Keith Shoulders and the District 17 Community Service Award to Bro. Mike Bailey. Pastor Shoulders heads David Temple in Tanner AL. Pastor Shoulder's services extend beyond his congregation through providing community COVID-19 vaccination sites, support to Tanner High School with supplies, community food boxes, and a young men's ministry. Bro. Bailey was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the Athens community through the several organizations he belongs to.

On Sunday, August 13th, Bro. Tito Redus hosted his Annual Back-to-School event providing several items to help kids in Athens get back to school properly equipped. The Back-to-School Event is a collaboration of local businesses, fraternities, churches, and civic organizations supporting community children and families by providing school supplies and other items. The event was held at Lincoln Bridgeforth Park from 4 to 7 P.M. in Athens, AL. Bro. 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.

This year Athelstine Lodge No.71 donated \$200.00 for food and school supplies. There were plenty of activities, including games, music, and food, for participants to enjoy. Bro. Redus provided free haircuts and hairstyling so kids would look their best to start the new school year. Bro. Redus said it was another successful year and thanked the lodge for their participation.

*Contributor – WM Johnathan Scott (No. 71)*

*Right: Community children and families attending the annual Back-to-School event*



*Above Pictures: Members of Athelstine Lodge No.71 presenting Ms. Macklin and Ms. Janae with their lodge scholarship awards.*





# Temple Lodge No. 98 Continues Its Work



*Members of Temple Lodge No. 98 and Twilight Chapter No. 788, OES attending the Adopt-a-Mile community cleanup*



*Left-top: Members of Temple Lodge No. 98 and Twilight Chapter No. 788, OES attending Back-to-School Drive.*

*Right: Bro. Jason Wilson transporting vegetables from the Madison County Farmers Market.*

In August, Temple Lodge No. 98 and Twilight Chapter No. 788, OES partnered to complete the chapter’s monthly Adopt-a-Mile community service Cleanup at 3100 Stringfield Rd., Huntsville, AL. Although, the ambient 90-degree temperature posed a challenge, the lodge and chapter were not deterred. The team collected several pounds of debris and provided an aesthetic environment for local churchgoers on Sunday morning.

Twilight Chapter No. 788 OES requested Temple Lodge No. 98’s assistance with a Back-to-School Drive. No. 98 helped the sisters, and they assisted Calhoun Community College in collecting and staging a record number of 1,000 backpacks filled with school supplies.

Brothers Jayson Wilson, Jason Jordan and Jabari Wilson answered the call from Enable Madison by carefully transporting over 187lbs, and on other days 105lbs., and 59lbs. of vegetables from the Madison County Farmers Market processing center to Enable’s Vegetable Garden which directly impacted aiding the assembly of food packages. The trips deliver time-sensitive produce from Madison, AL to Huntsville, AL, so distribution is the same day to prevent spoilage due to extremely hot temperatures.

*Contributor – WM Carl Cooney. (No. 98)*



# 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](mailto: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 2024.** These articles should include events from **October 2023 - December 2023**. 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.

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