



The Bee Hive



Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand
Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Incorporated

Summer 2017

Volume 23, Number 2

"Building Bridges: Past, Present, and Future"



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Knights of Pythagoras carry MWGM Paige Cherry's banner for the Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade

MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, INC.

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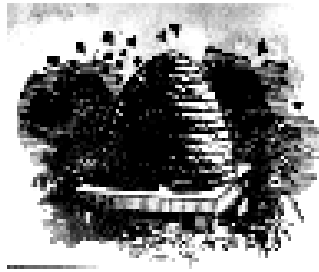
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Most Worshipful Grand Master Paige D. Cherry salutes the Grand Stand at the Annual Memorial Day Parade in Portsmouth.

The Bee Hive

Vol. 23 No. 2

THE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH WE STAND

1. Forever Loyal to our God.
2. Forever Devoted to our Grand Lodge.
3. Giving Due Respect to our Fellow Man.
4. Living Upright in our Community.
5. The Bee Hive Shall Be Non-Partisan and Non-Sectarian.

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Mission Statement

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. is a fraternal organization dedicated to the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

Our organization takes good men and develops them to be better men.

We dispense charity, promote family values and are endeavoring to significantly aid in the uplifting of humanity.

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Paige D. Cherry #3

**The 79th Most Worshipful Grand Master of the
MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of VA, F & AM, Inc**

The Honorable Paige D. Cherry

“Building Bridges: Past· Present· Future”



Brothers,

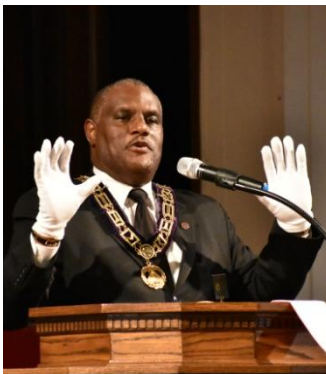
No man, and in particular no Grand Master, can guide an organization such as ours by himself. He must have able assistants to do the job well. I am fortunate that the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia is comprised of a core of officers who are willing and able workers ready to aid me in all of my undertakings. But beyond the assistance of my officers, something more is needed. The Grand Lodge needs the support and enthusiasm of all members of the Craft.

My vision for our Grand Lodge is fully captured in my theme, **“Building Bridges: Past * Present * Future”**. We are all aware and proud of our organization’s rich history that has prepared the Grand Lodge to soar to even greater heights. We are also mindful of our impressive present.

In order to make the most of the unlimited possibilities of the future we must ***Change the Way We Change***, to be

more proactive and forward thinking and less reactive, as we use ***Continuity, Change, and Growth*** as our guide. We will continue to do the things that work, while changing the things that don’t, as we continue to grow; growing, not necessarily in numbers but in well doing and good deeds. We must live up to our mission statement and endeavour to make the world a better place for the entire human race.

I challenge each of you to seize the moment and harvest the opportunities that are before us to make a better place for the next generation. We have much to look forward to and will have much to celebrate as we **“Build Bridges”** for the future. I invite each of you to join me on this journey.



From the Editor

WPM L. J McCoy, Jr. #33

Have you ever had the opportunity of hearing a silver tongue Mason like the late Past Grand Master B. B. Simmons spin his story of how he came into the Grand Lodge Session in full military uniform? You can appreciate the gravity of the organization if you take the time to engage in such conversations.

During the course of our banquets, Schools of Instruction, and of course our Grand Lodge sessions, many brothers can relate to the stories of their lodges and Grand Lodge. The good, the bad, and the ugly, but somewhere in our closing charge we are reminded to befriend and relieve every brother who shall need our understanding.

“Remember?”

I had an opportunity to track a few senior brothers who shared their history in this Prince Hall family. Come walk with me, and you'll have a better relationship with the fraternity you've joined.

Take Brother **Ernest Harris** (right) of Oceana Lodge #69 in Virginia Beach who was raised in 1974, oh, I'm sorry, you probably know him as “Sonny”. Sonny at 75 years old also served as one of our Past Grand Tylers under PGM Shelton Riddick #323. And did you know Past Grand Director **Ronald L. Carter** (left) of Ruth Lodge #92 was originally from New Orleans and became a Mason in 1972, after an extended military carrier. Asst. Grand Photographer Ricky McKnight of King David Lodge #28 in Richmond was initiated in Sluggard Germany in 1981. Brother McKnight at 58 years young stated this is his first Grand Lodge appointment.



But, hold on, there's more.

Norfolk native, **Dr. Albert Williams** (right) of Brighton Rock & A. M. Jones Lodge #79 in Chesapeake shared his experience with the Norfolk and other tidewater school systems. He found that neighborhood planning plays a major role in the school's development. Made a Mason in 1976, the former Richmond School Superintendent has taken his talents back to his lodge and the community in order to assist in creating a difference. Did you know, Past DDGM Curtis Gunn #3 originally was initiated in 1978 at Keystone Lodge #34 in New Jersey. But, during his military career Keystone lost their charter and his records. This forced him to become reinitiated in 1999 at Morning Star Lodge #3 in Portsmouth.



Another Past Grand Lodge Director **Floyd Brown, Sr.** (left) of St. James #128 in Disputanta worked with his county's planning commission. Pushing 87 years and counting, he continues to support the Grand Lodge as District Deputy Grand Master of the 11th Masonic District.



Retiring from the Norfolk & Southern Railroad, Past Grand Master **Herman Eggleston** (right) of Charlotte Lodge #146 in Chase City allows no grass to grow between his toes. The Past Grand Master now drives school buses, as well as performing as a substitute teacher in Lunenburg County. After retiring as the first African American captain of the Portsmouth fire department, Past WGM **Billie L. Thompson, Sr.** (right) of Alpha &



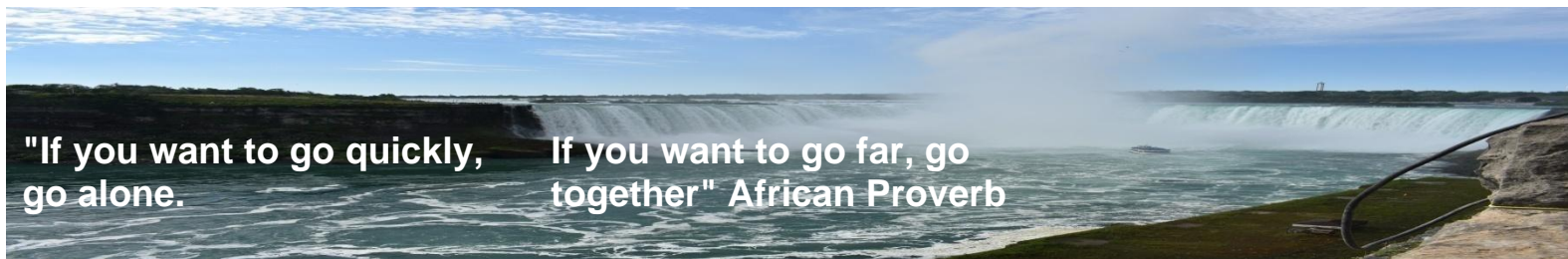
Omega Lodge #46 also managed his own carpet business for 43 years. But the DEAN of Past Grand Masters, PGM **Robert Harris** (left) of Lebanon Lodge #34 has a background in education also. The 82 year old Portsmouth native found his creative abilities in Henrico County where he resolved issues that confronted the educational system to promote it to levels well above the state's requirements.



As we have learned, the ways of nobility are beautiful. Understanding is attained by degrees. Supreme judgment dwells in contemplation, and there we must seek her. Let's not only take the time to listen to those seasoned brothers, but share their treasures with others. This wisdom generates into the fruits of our labor, and offer the gifts, we give to our future generation. Be they Past Masters, Past Grand Masters, or even



brothers that can provide interesting conversations and stories THAT will continue to amaze us. Let's continue with the history of these brothers in order that our history is documented and recoded for our children, great grand children, and the future of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free & Accepted Masons, Inc.



"If you want to go quickly,
go alone.

If you want to go far, go
together" African Proverb



Committee on Work

Pictured left to right RW Grand Lecturer Curtis James, Sr. #67, Alfred W. Simmons #124, Lawrence Harper, Jr. #253, MWGM Paige D. Cherry, Morris Hicks #6, Dwayne Parker #314, RW Grand Lecturer Roger L. Redd, Sr. #109, (back row) James Parham #290, Larry T. Johnson #298, Jose Ortiz #34, Phillip Brannon #293, and WDDGM Antonio R. Pride, Jr. #43.

School in Richmond

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Richmond – Over 130 brothers assembled at Hobson Lodge for the February 11, 2017 School of Instruction. Most Worshipful Grand Master Paige D. Cherry #3 took the opportunity to recognize 13 brothers (pictured above) who were attending the school for the first time. Speaking on their behalf, Brother Padraic Hampton #327 stated he wanted to improve in Masonry who then received encouraging words from Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Richard Townes #235.

Grand Lecturer of the East, Curtis James, Sr. #67 and Grand Lecturer of the West, Roger L. Redd, Sr. #109 gave their attention to the brethren for their degree instructions. As the Committee on Work preformed their floor work, committee members Larry Johnson #298 and Jose Ortiz #34 did the active demonstration. Questions and concerns were received from Richard Mably #263, PGL James Williams #44, McArthur Myers #58, Arthur Smith #28,



Nevelle Welch #58, Chester Davis #41, Thomas Curtis #44, Sterling Hill #324, Millard Lowe #28, and James Brown #300.

MWGM Cherry presented Past GM Roger Brown and the members of Lord Hannibal #327 (bottom left) with a certificate for the most members present and St. James #300 who had the greatest percentage of members present.

Finally, Certificates of Merit were presented to Brothers Jerome Johnson #293, Michael Mitchell #65, and Albert Rogers #65.

Petersburg's School

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Petersburg – Blood pressure screening, promoting the KOP, and purchasing Masonic paraphernalia were only a portion of the program agenda at the School of Instruction for the 11th and 12th Masonic Districts.

On Saturday, February 4, 2017, Right Worshipful Grand Lectures Roger L. Redd, Sr. #109 of the West and Curtis James, Sr. #67 of the East held their second school for 2017. Most Worshipful Grand Master Paige D. Cherry #3 welcomed eight first time attendees to the school. Speaking on behalf of these brothers, Brother Robert Truly, Jr. #15 expressed his thoughts where RWJGD Edward Lattimore #13 responded.

MWGM Cherry took the opportunity to remind the body of the Grand Lodge Raffle which supports our students, participation in the Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade, the Grand Lodge Charity Ball, the Grand Lodge Cook-Out in Kilmarnock, and Grand Lodge assessments.

The Grand Lectures then prepared the stage for instructions. In a role model presentation, Committee on Work members Jose Ortiz #34 and Larry Johnson # demonstrated proper procedures in improving their lodge. Brothers Conrad Bradley #15 and PDDGM Curtis Gunn #3 made comments on the updates.

Certificates of Merit were presented to brothers Travis Edmonds #7, John Epps III #7, Damond Gady #15, G. Marshall #298, Cedric McCall #298, Gerald Riddick #46, and Keith Williams #11. Two lodges tied Pocahontas #7 and Eureka #15, for lodges with the most members and Mt. Nebo #43 received the distinction for the lodge with the highest percentage.



Tidewater School of Instruction

Contributions by RWGS Stevie Gray #314

Norfolk – The fourth School of Instruction was held January 21, 2017 at First Baptist Church Lamberts Point in Norfolk, Virginia. After properly receiving Most Worshipful Grand Master Paige D. Cherry #3, the Grand Master proudly welcomed 18 first time attendees to the session.

While Grand Lecturer of the Eastern District Curtis James, Sr. #67 and Grand Lecturer of the Western District Roger L. Redd, Sr. #109 took charge of the school, it was the Committee on Work that impressed the brothers with their ability to memorize the entire long version of the Middle Chamber work and symbolically step through King Solomon’s Temple.

MWGM Cherry then preceded to present certificates to the lodges with the most members present to both Progressive Lodge #139 and Eastern Star Lodge #13. Representing the lodge with the highest percentage of members was Washington Lodge #139.

Brothers who demonstrated their knowledge of Masonry by receiving their Certificate of Merit were Joseph Atkins #69, James Baker #196, Ronald M. Benion #4, Reginald Cheeseboro #196, Curtis Holland #256, George Sprately #268, Stanley Warrior #34, and Woodrow Wilson #288.



The Final School of Instruction in Goochland

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Goochland – During an unusual spring-like day in February, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia held its last School of Instruction at Caledonia Lodge #240 in Goochland.

While Brother Christopher Jones #226 (pictured left) was the only first time attendee, MWGM Paige D. Cherry #3 welcomed him there and asked RWSGW Donald Wilson to express words of wisdom to him.

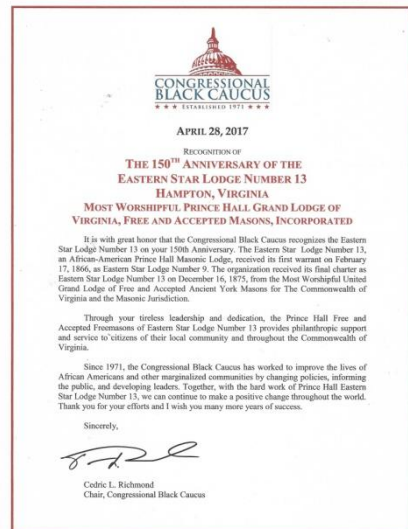
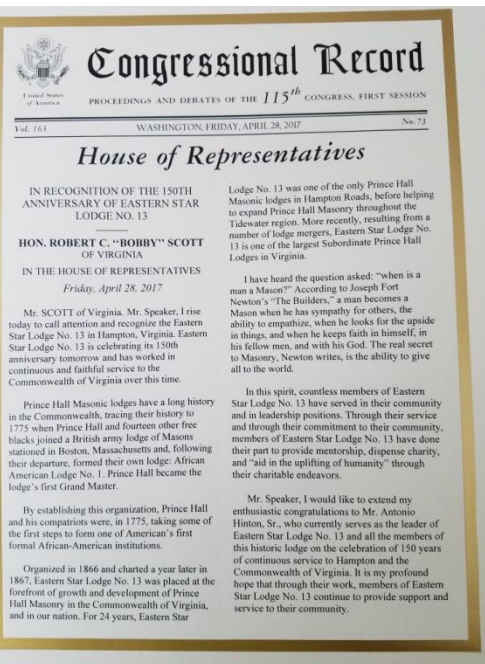
Directed by Right Worshipful Grand Lecturers Roger Redd, Sr. #109 and Curtis James, Sr. #67, Committee on Work members Alfred Simmons #124 and Jose Ortiz #34 provided an initiation demonstration. Grand Lecturer Redd then took the opportunity to explain and encourage members to take the Certificate of Merit test.

After a brief break and the roll call of lodges, MWGM Cherry presented Caledonia Lodge #240 a certificate for the most members present and Omar Lodge #226 as the lodge with the greatest percentage members present.

The US Congress honors Eastern Star Lodge #13

By WPM Raymond A. Sutton, III #13

Washington, D.C. - On Friday, April 28, 2017 the Honorable Robert C. “Bobby” Scott, Third District Congressman of Virginia, entered into the Congressional Record of the House of Representatives of the United States of America, a synopsis of Prince Hall Masonry and Eastern Star Lodge, #13’s history. He then extended his congratulations to WM Antonio Hinton, Sr. and all of the members of this historic Lodge on the celebration of 150 years of continuous service to the City of Hampton and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Lodge further received recognition and congratulations from the Honorable Cedric L. Richmond, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus for the Lodge’s philanthropic support and service to the citizens of their local community and throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.





The 15th Grand Master's Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Contributions by PGM Larry Christian #253

Williamsburg – On a comfortably clear day at the Kiskiack Golf Club in Williamsburg, ten teams competed for that omnibus title of first place in the 15th Annual Grand Master's Charity Golf Tournament. During the June 10, 2017 event, Past Grand Master Larry D. Christian #253 who organized the tournament was pleased that all the teams completed the course.

Teeing off at 8 AM, the final team entered the clubhouse at 2:15 PM to offer their complete scores. The big board numbers indicated that the team of Ike Curry, Wilbert Hopkins, Curtis Gunn, and Billie Thompson were the first place winners; Sidney Burrell, Thomas Jefferson, Jamie Burrell, and Cedric Landrum were the second place winners; and Leonard Johnson, Kenny Lee, Tony Thompson, and Jimmie C. James were the third place winners.

Other winners included Brother Wilbert Hopkins #226 as closest to the pin; and the longest drive belong to WPM Bill Amado #13.

Realizing that profits from the tournament registrations will not cover the 34 continuing student scholarships; PGM Christian has incorporated a raffle, sales of Masonic paraphernalia, and donations to compensate the funding for our applying students. Your donations are encouraged not only to participate in future tournaments, but in supporting our scholarships for continuing education.



to the green; Erick Lemons as closest



Pictured top l to r GJD Lattimore opens for MWGM Cherry, lunch is served, & 1st place winners
 Pictured bottom l to r 2nd place winners, PGM Christian with Amado & GD Johnson, & Bros. Hopkins, Christian, & E. Lemons



Prince Hall Masons Celebrate Founder's Day

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33.



Petersburg – It happened 142 years ago at First Baptist Church Harrison St. when men from the Union Grand Lodge and the Ancient York Grand Lodge agreed on a pact that established the two Grand Lodges as one – The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia.

On Sunday May 21, 2017, over 250 Master Masons and Eastern Stars joined Most Worshipful Grand



Master Paige D. Cherry #3 to celebrate the founding of Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia.

Program MC Grand Lecturer of the West Roger Redd #109 welcomed expressions from PM James Parham #290, DDGM Antonio Pride #43, as well as, Petersburg City Council members John Hart #15, PADDGM Darrin Hill #43, and House of Delegate member Lashrecse Aird.

The history of the MWPHGL of Virginia was detailed by the Eastern Grand Lecturer Curtis James. Finding its roots from African Lodge # 449 in Boston Massachusetts, the lodge was chartered in 1787. But it was not until 1875 that the two Grand Lodges in Virginia made arrangements to unify to form the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia. In the late 1950's, the name was changed to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free & Accepted Masons, Incorporated.

The message of the evening was delivered by Worshipful Asst. Grand Chaplain Rev. Leroy Evans, Jr. #7 (top right) from the third chapter of Daniel which reminded us that of all the troubles we've been through - we don't look like, what we use to.

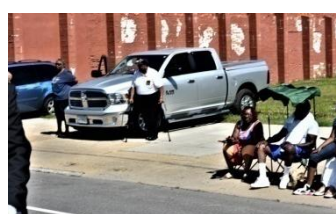
In closing, MWGM Cherry accompanied by a procession of Grand Lodge Officers and Grand Worthy Matron Ivery B. Knight which laid a wreath at the outside monument of the permanent dedication of the founding fathers.



PH Masons in the Annual Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade

Portsmouth – As the threat of rain yielded to mid 70 degree temperatures and blue skies, over 150 Prince Hall Masons assembled in the I. C. Norcom High School parking lot along with the floats, marching bands, and antique cars at the Portsmouth Annual Memorial Day Parade. This parade is labeled by many as the second, continuous longest running Memorial Day Parade of the United States. Under the direction of Most Worshipful Grand Master Paige D. Cherry #3, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free & Accepted Masons, Inc. participated along with over 79 other units in this historic parade on May 29, 2017.

MWGM Cherry, who also serves as Portsmouth City's Vice Mayor, encouraged all Prince Hall Masonic Lodges throughout the State to join with him for the first time. Even though the temperature and the mile and a half long parade route tested everyone's endurance and perseverance, waves and cheers were traded by both the fraternity and the crowds of on-lookers along the streets. Wearing their traditional black suits and ties, they can definitely be considered "the REAL men in black." **The Crowd**



Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter 2017 Joint Charity Ball

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Portsmouth – Brothers and sisters were extended a happy birthday to our honorable Most Worthy Grand Master Paige D. Cherry #3, during the Charity Ball on April 8, 2017. The Portsmouth ballroom was filled with over 400 brothers, sisters, and guests who lauded the gifts of charitable donations from the chapters and lodges of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free & Accepted Masons, Inc.

During the 2016 of giving season, the districts of Masons and Eastern Stars contributed over \$550, 000 to the surrounding communities. The Real Men in Black determined that the 31 districts donated \$382,872 and the 35 districts of the Eastern Stars donated \$137,737. In addition, Prince Hall Affiliate Bodies of the King Cyrus Grand Chapter, the Holy Royal Arch Masons, the Gilgal Grand Court, the Heroines of Jericho, King Baldwin Grand Commandery, the Knights Templar, and the Constituent Commanderies donated a total of \$29,753 to the cause.

MWGM commended all groups on their contributions and asked for their continued support in 2017.



Dinner
Guests
Enjoy
the event
& the
Grand
Master





The Summer Encampment of the KOP Celebrates “the King in You”

By WPM L. J. McCoy, Jr. #33

Petersburg – On Saturday July 15th, the Sovereign Prince Hall Grand Council Order of the Knights of Pythagoras Commonwealth of Virginia (KOP) concluded their Summer Encampment with an awards and installation banquet. The program which was conducted by youth Past Master Venerable Knight Cornell Bagley Council #6 of Middlesex County featured outgoing MVK Ronnie R. Williams, Jr. Council #5 and the installation of newly elected MVK DaMori Baker who is a rising senior from Petersburg.

During the three day encampment on the campus of Virginia State University, Adult State Director Carl A. Albritton, Asst. Director of the East Wilkton Shaw, and Asst. Director of the West William Crews were proud to have 72 young men registered for the session. The attendees ranging from ages 9 to 20 engaged in swimming, bowling, basketball, a pizza party, a cookout, an oratorical competition, and a cyber security session.

After youth Knight Alton Coston III and entrepreneur Mr. Denis Boateng who were both banquet speakers, awards were presented in academic achievement, attendance, high school graduates, and the oratorical competition. Over 60 Kindle Fire 7's were also presented to the youth Knights who attended all the encampment events.

Closing statements by Most Worshipful Grand Master Paige D. Cherry #3 reminded the young men that the “King” in them not only makes them better citizens, but makes this a better nation.



Thanking Our Vets

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Richmond – Parking on the curbs, on the grass, and even in the security zones – but we did it to show our respect for our vets.

On Wednesday April 19, 2017, Board of Director member and Chair of the Veteran Affairs committee Charles Jones #81 welcomed over 30 brothers from the 12th, 26th, and surrounding Masonic Districts to McGuire Veterans Hospital for our Annual Cookout to honor them. Wal-Mart representative Ms. Becky Higgins not only received donations from her company, but also joined to serve the patients.

Grilling burgers and hot dogs, WPM Ralph Gordon #81 didn't blink an eye over the smoky grill where the aroma of the delicacies filled the air.

This was only one of four such cookouts around the state. Northern Virginia, Hampton, and the Salem Veteran Hospitals had similar events that expressed the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Masons of Virginia appreciation for our military men and women.

Now in its eleventh season, Brother Jones has encouraged every brother to join him in the upcoming years to show their support for our veterans who have served our country



Salem Veteran's Administration Medical Center Visit

By JW Myles Jackson #109

Salem - On Tuesday, April 18, 2017, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia visited the Salem Veterans Medical Center for its annual visit. Over fifty Brothers attended and served a hot dog lunch, spent time visiting with the veterans, and played Bingo with them. The staff from the VA said how happy they are when the Masons show up and socialize with its veterans and they look forward to it every year.

Representing the Most Worshipful Grand Master Paige D. Cherry #3 at the event was the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Richard Townes #235, who spoke on how important it was for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia to recognize the service that our veterans have provided to this country, and that it was our honor to be in their presence. Over 75% of the Masons present for this event were veterans. Members of the Prince Hall Masons Lodges from Southwest and Central Virginia have visited Salem VA Medical Center every spring since 2006.



Tidewater District's Annual Hampton VAMC Visitation, 2017

By WPM Raymond A. Sutton, III, #13



Hampton - Our MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge, under the direction of MWGM Paige D. Cherry #3, set the third Wednesday of April as the date of our Annual Visitation to the Veterans Affairs Medical Centers in the Jurisdiction of Virginia in 2017. The ten o'clock start time was designated for each of the VAMCs in the State and each program kicked off in unison at the several locations. Here, in Hampton, VA, the morning sun gave way to a cloudy sky. The scattered rain showers kept all of us indoors, except for those stalwart souls who manned the grills and those that transported the barbecued repast into the day room. As pre-planned, we assembled in the Day Room of Building #148 for our annual demonstration of appreciation to our veterans. The indoor facility assured that our honorees would not be exposed to any potential weather influences that may prove detrimental to their health.

The efforts of Hampton's seasoned program leaders, WDDGME Thomas L. Jefferson, Jr. #94, WADDGM Henry Badgett #268 and WDDGME Raymond A. Sutton, III #13 were supported by the many Brethren whose previous volunteer experiences at this annual venture provided the required services to ensure a smooth flow and a truly exceptional duty performance. Any and all of the necessary oversight required from our Grand Lodge's perspective was ably provided by RWSGW Donald S. Wilson #67 and supported by MWPGM Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr. This program was initiated some nine years ago under the Administration of then MWGM Vaughan. There were eleven Brothers present from York Star-Zedekiah Lodge #167 and the sign in roster determined them as the Subordinate Lodge with the most members present. Volunteers from the GC, OES of VA included: GAC Jacqueline T. Sutton #150, PWM Ellen A. Stewart #150, WM Alisa Brooks #3, PWM Margaret S. King #3, and Sis. Linda C. Whitfield #3. The Veterans Affairs Medical Center/Veterans Affairs Volunteer Services Personnel performed under the supervision of Mrs. Judith Curtis, Director of Veterans Services and the hands-on instructions of Recreation Therapists Ms. Monique Harris and Ms. Monica Adams. They engaged the assistance of Volunteer Services Personnel and Volunteers Mr. Webster Rose, Mr. Robert Ballard, Mr. Walter Copeland, Mrs. Ellen A. Stewart and Phillip. Their performances assured that everything was accomplished on time and that all Masonic volunteers met their assignments and assigned tasks bringing the indoor picnic/cook-out to fruition. The menu of hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, smoked sausages, baked beans, potato chips, corn chips, tortilla chips, pretzels, popcorn, cheese puffs, punch and water was only surpassed by two of the most beautifully and artfully decorated double sheet cakes which looked good and tasted even better. This 'topper' referenced our support for our disabled veterans and their professional caretakers..... There were 54 Masons and five Sisters of the OES on the sign in roster who provided the necessary support to ensure that our Grand Lodge's program was a success. Please find a listing of the Masonic Family Volunteers attached.



MWPHGL OF VA HAMPTON VA VISITATION 4-19-2017



HAMPTON VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER ANNUAL VISITATION APRIL 19, 2017

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ted Price, #2 | SW Willie Barnet, #67 | Robert Scott, #167 |
| WPDDGM Curtis L. Gunn, Jr., #3 | Jermaine J. Jones, #67 | Ezeal Bagby, III, #167 |
| WM Ron Benion, #4 | WPGP Larry Spence, #67 | Richard Davis, #167 |
| WPM Willie Ray Allison, #4 | JW William E. Jones, #79 | Za'lom Scott, #167 |
| Andrew Evans, #9 | WGP Isaac L. Curry, III, #79 | Willie Sheppard, #167 |
| JW Calvin M. Wilds, Jr., #13 | WPGD Maurice J. Holland, #79 | WDDGM Alton Miles, #196 |
| WM Antonio Hinton, Sr., #13 | SW Albert Williams, #79 | WM James Arrington, #196 |
| WDDGME Raymond A. Sutton, III, #13 | WDDGM Billy C. Peters, #92 | Coty Welborn, #196 |
| Taiwan Dancy, #34 | WGP William E. Moore, Jr., #92 | WAGP James N. Clinton, #196 |
| WPM Jose Ortiz, #34 | WDDGME Thomas L. Jefferson, Jr. #94 | Phillip Wright, #196 |
| WPM Ray Smith, #34 | WPM Billy R. Johnson, #124 | WPDDGM Curtis Holland, #256 |
| WDDGM Elbert E. Scott, Jr., #46 | SW Lawrence Claiborn, #136 | Byron Lawrence, #256 |
| WDDGM Kalomo B. Omo, #48 | WDDGM John E. Amos, #167 | WADDGM Henry Badgett, #268 |
| WPM Clifton F. Bowers, #48 | WPM Donald W. Livingston, #167 | WPM Thomas R. Turner, #268 |
| WPM Calvin D. King, #54 | WPM Brown, #167 | Donnie R. Hick, #268 |
| WDDGM Joe Williams, #66 | WPM Charles Brooks, #167 | Anton Gilliam, #268 |
| RWSGW Donald S. Wilson, #67 | Deleror K. Wilson, Sr., #167 | James L. Stamps, #268 |
| MWPGM Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr., #67 | Gerald Spragan, #167 | WGAP Calvin Ruff, #268 |

Volunteers from the GC, OES of VA included: GAC Jacqueline T. Sutton, #150; PWM Ellen A. Stewart, #150; WM Alisa Brooks, #3; PWM Margaret S. King, #3; and Sis. Linda C. Whitfield, #3.





GWM Ivery B. Knight



GWP Clarence Williams

Grand Chapter School of Instruction of the West

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Victoria – On a picture perfect spring day April 15, 2017, the Order of Eastern Star held their School of Instruction of the West at the Peoples Community Center in Victoria, Virginia. Grand Worthy Matron Ivery B. Knight received over 175 sisters and brothers as they observed Grand Lecturer Janie E. Cunningham of the West conduct their order of business.

Beginning with a standard agenda where Grand Chapter Secretary called roll and Grand Worthy Patron gave greetings, Grand Lecturer Cunningham gave instructions on opening a chapter ritualistically. While designing a session to give new sisters and brothers a better understanding of the proceedings and changes, it gave the senior members a format to receive the updates.

The session gave instructions on initiations, secretary/treasurer duties, the OES history, dress codes, IRS tax status, and the public burial ceremony. Additional guidance came from Committee on Work Chair PM Cynthia Hodges, Past GWM Charlotte Dunston, Grand Secretary Synthia Martin, Grand Treasurer Katrina Flowers, Asst. Grand Lecturer Virginia Robertson, Grand Assoc. Matron Sylvia Jackson, and Grand Lecturer of the East Demetria Pringle-Wilson.

As Past Grand Worthy Patron Michael Hodges and Grand Associate Patron Curtis Holland gave insight on parliamentary procedures and merging chapters, Grand Worthy Matron Ivery B. Knight made closing remarks.



Grand Chapter School of Instruction of the East

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Virginia Beach – While rain clouds threaten a downpour at any time, the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star convened their final School of instruction at the Virginia Beach E. Ray Cox Convention Center located at New Hope Baptist Church. The call to order was shared by Grand Lecturer of the East Demetria J. Wilson and Grand Lecturer of the West Janie Cunningham.

After being introduced by Grand Worthy Patron Clarence E. Williams, Grand Worthy Matron Ivery B. Knight was proud to receive over 220 sisters and brothers who were present to review and learn new procedures. Taking questions on ritualistic burials, the Grand Worthy Patron also commented on depositing the floral star, cremations, Master Mason burials that are OES, and dispensations. While Sister Yvette Robinson gave updates on District Deputy Organizer responsibilities, Grand Secretary Synthia Martin and Grand Treasurer Katrina Flowers addressed their expectations.

Grand Worthy Matron Knight concluded the session by giving important event dates and thanking the attendees for their participation.



Appreciation Banquet Honoring Grand Worthy Patron Williams

Contributions from Cynthia Pegram-Wyche



Petersburg – “The Biography of a Blessed Man” with scriptures from Psalms 1:1-3 were the words from guest speaker Rev. Dr. Kevin M. Northam about Grand Worthy Patron Clarence E. Williams.

On Saturday April 29, 2017, Grand Chapter Officers, Grand Lodge Officers, and guest enjoyed a banquet program that reflected the accomplishments of GWP Williams. As Asst. Grand Deputy Organizer of the 16th OED District Yvette G. Robinson acted as Mistress of Ceremony, Minister Cheryl Northam, Event Chair Ruby W. Evans, Grand Secretary Synthia Martin, Past DDGM Joseph Diggs, and Brother Thomas Williams #7 supported the program.



After reflections from Rev. Dr. Lynn G. Robinson pastor of Rocky Branch Baptist Church, Rita Winckler Worthy Matron of Sunbeam Poplar Grove, Thomas Hooker #247, and Sylvia Jackson Grand Associate Matron, Grand Worthy Matron Ivery B. Knight expressed that working with WGP Williams throughout Virginia was a joy.

Representing MWGM Paige D. Cherry #3, Deputy Grand Master Robert Townes #235 spoke on his 20 year relationship with GWP Williams and admired his skills as a Grand Worthy Patron.

The program concluded by presenting the Grand Worthy Patron with a bouquet of roses that he could enjoy and smell in this life.

M. D. Poindexter State Youth Workshop

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Petersburg – Shining young angels presented themselves as members and candidates of the Order of Eastern Star of Virginia, PHA’s Maggie D. Poindexter Youth Department Workshop at Metropolitan Baptist Church in Petersburg. On March 25, 2017, Grand State Youth Coordinator Sandra Mason instructed over 58 youths in their services to promote unity and new memberships.

Conducting administrative duties, Youth

Advisors Sandra Sills-Wyche and Malika Winzor received the children whose ages ranged from three to sixteen years old. While the young ladies could be members by blood line of their father or grandfather, the young men, like their Masonic counter-parts, were free to join.

After their ritualistic opening and initiations, the youths received words of wisdom from District Deputy Organizer of the 16th District Magnolia Rivers and Vice Mayor of Petersburg the Honorable John Hart #15.

Before closing, the children, advisors, and guest received lunch and special honors reflective of the event.

Our Youth – “Preserving Our Past, and Honoring Our Future”

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – Adorned in their respective African attire and comforted by traditional mother-country music, the Maggie D. Poindexter State Youth Department held their annual African-American program. On Saturday February 25, 2017, Youth President Derren Freeman hosted the event with support from TaNuah Taylor, Ariel Moore, Kimora Taylor, and Demond Middleton.

After the history and purpose of the program were given, entertainment in the form of song, dance and the spoken word was performed by Taize Parson, Jada James, Sarah Jefferson, and Lamiyah Robertson.

Grand State Youth Coordinator Sandra Mason then gave remarks and thanks for those in attendance before welcoming Grand Worthy Patron **Clarence E. Williams** (pictured right) to the podium. After expressions were given by Associate Grand Worthy Patron Curtis Holland, the Grand Worthy Patron introduced Grand Worthy Matron **Ivery B. Knight** (pictured right). While she gave brief facts on African-American history, she also advised the youth to set their goals high, and it will be incumbent on all of us to learn and bring attention to our history.



17th Masonic District Banquet

By WADDGM Walter Davis #295



Danville - On April 29, 2017, the 17th Masonic District Prince Hall Masons Danville Royal #104, Murdock #163, Olympia #179, Judah #205, Almagro #217, Shockoe #205, Brandon Chapel #282, and Golden Rule/ Nehemiah #295 celebrated their Annual Scholarship Award Banquet at Mary's Diner. The Speaker was former Mayor of Danville, Virginia Master Mason Sherman Saunders #205.



They Raised nearly \$7,000 in Charitable Donations

By RWGD Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58



Arlington - On February 25, 2017, the membership of The Bee Hive Club Inc. presented a community gospel stage play entitled "I've Been Changed" at Kenmore Middle School. Nearly 300 people attended the event. Under the club's president, Bro. Charles Aaron III #58, Vice – president Bro. Tony Thompson #58 served as the led organizer for this grand event.

The play is an inspirational gospel performance that has taken the east coast of Virginia on a spiritual journey. The writer/director, Margie V. Sumiel was pleased to announce they had recently celebrated their first year anniversary.

Within that year, they completed seven shows with a total audience of nearly 5,000 people. This musical comedy attracts an audience of all ages and has become a fundraiser for a variety of organizations. The overall theme of the play is to show that you can overcome whatever struggles life brings your way.

A group of men who were members of Arlington Lodge #58 founded the Bee Hive Club, Inc., in the early 1940's. They formed the club to assist Arlington Lodge #58 in raising funds for various sponsored civic and community programs. The Bee Hive Club continues to be a charitable organization that dispenses charity and performs other civic assistance when called upon by its members. Additionally, the club has an educational scholarship program that benefits deserving students residing in Arlington, Virginia and the surrounding areas.

Since 2010, the Bee Hive Club in collaboration with Arlington Lodge #58 has awarded over \$20,000 in scholarships. The primary goal of the Bee Hive Club Inc. continues to be as the sole fundraiser for Arlington Lodge #58 and to contribute in a myriad of other areas it may be called to assist in.

Trinity Recognizes their First Worshipful Master

By WM Hagans #44



Richmond - On April 22, 2017 several members of Trinity Lodge #44 erected a headstone on the grave of MWPGM Robert Emmitt Jones. PGM Jones served as Most Worshipful Grand Master from 1898 to 1900.

MWPGM Jones was a member of Trinity Lodge #44 and was it's first MWGM. MWPGM Thomas Minor (1978 – 80) also was a member of Trinity Lodge #44.

PM Thomas Curtis #44 created and designed the headstone.

Capital City Lodge #107 Donates \$\$ to Breast Cancer

By SW Glen Hence #107



Richmond - October is usually celebrated as Breast Cancer Awareness month; however the members of Capital City Lodge #107 made it aware to the Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation, that we were celebrating the cause by making a donation on April 17, 2017, to be exact.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer afflicting women in the United States, regardless of race or ethnicity. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, reports that one in eight women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in her lifetime. In 2013, more than 40,000 women and 464 men died of the disease. In 2017, more than 250,000 women and over 2,000 men are expected to be diagnosed with the disease.

The men of Capital City Lodge #107 made the commitment to make a financial contribution in the amount of \$500.00 toward helping to eradicate the leading health crises for women in our communities. "Each year, thousands of people across the country give their time, energy, and resources, and this is why we were as passionate about donating to those who have been affected", stated W.M. Edwards.

Ms. Katy Sawyer, Executive Director, stated "it is only through the generous support of our donors that we are able to make great strides in the fight against breast cancer". "Today, your generosity is what allows us to fulfill our mission and positively impact so many lives" and to Capital City Lodge # 107, we say Thank You !!!

Alleghany-Dunbar #109 – Percy Plummer Scholarship Awards

By JW Myles Jackson #109



Ms. Haley Foutz, SW Johnson, and Ms. Taylor Eichelberger

Roanoke - “Let your light shine within our community,” is a favorite saying within Alleghany-Dunbar #109, Roanoke. The lodge had a small scholarship fund that was established by the family members of the late Percy Plummer #109. Because of his strong desire to help young people, Senior Warden Bernard Johnson #109 asked the Lodge to form a scholarship committee and it was decided that the Lodge was going to present a scholarship to a graduating high school senior in the Roanoke City area with a \$500.00 scholarship award. As the months went on, it was determined that the lodge had additional funds available from the proceeds of our selling Grand Lodge Scholarship Raffle tickets for the past two years and a recent fundraising banquet. With this additional money, the lodge would be able to present two \$600.00 scholarship awards.

On Sunday, June 11, 2017, during their Graduate Sunday Awards program at Pilgrim Baptist Church in Roanoke, SW Johnson presented Ms. Haley Foutz of William Fleming High School and Ms. Taylor Eichelberger of Patrick Henry School, each with a \$600.00 check which could be used towards their future college endeavors. Ms. Foutz will be attending University of Virginia-Wise and Ms. Eichelberger will be attending Norfolk State University.

During the service, the Pastor of the church, Rev. Dr. Dwight Stelle, himself a Prince Hall Mason, acknowledged the work of Alleghany-Dunbar #109 and prayed the Brothers would continue to represent to Brotherhood of Prince Hall Masonry in the Roanoke Valley and “let their light shine.”

The Brothers of Alleghany-Dunbar #109 want to thank the Percy Plummer

family for the establishment of this scholarship fund and for their continued support of this great endeavor.

20th Masonic District Saint John’s Day

By JW Myles Jackson #109



Roanoke - The Brothers of the 20th Masonic District celebrated Saint John the Baptist Day at the Trinity Missionary Baptist Church in Roanoke, Virginia, where our own District Deputy James Border #109 serves as Senior Deacon.

Past Assistant District Deputy, 20th Masonic District, Donnell Freeman #109 served as the Worship Leader during this Divine Celebration. Most Worshipful Grand Lecturer of the West, Roger Redd #109 (pictured above) presented the congregation with the reason for the service and the great attributes of Saint John the Baptist, in which all Masons strive to achieve.

The pastor of Trinity Missionary Baptist Church preached a sermon of the life of John the Baptist and his anointing as the messenger from God preaching about the coming of Jesus Christ.

At the conclusion of the service while presenting his remarks, District Deputy James Boarders #109 presented a love offering from the 20th Masonic District to the church.

12th Masonic District Gala

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Petersburg – Smooth magical jazz captured the attention of the evening’s

guests at the 12th Masonic District Gala held at the Virginia State University Gateway Banquet Center.

While SW Harold Johnson #15 directed the program as MC, a warm welcome was extended by WDDGM Antonio Pride #43. He then took the opportunity to introduce Grand Lodge officers and stated the purpose of the event which recognized brothers who made outstanding accomplishments with their lodges. Recognitions included Pocahontas #7 to James Roberts & Larry Taylor; Abrams #10 to Rodney Tucker; Eureka #15 to Harold Johnson & Antonio Miller; Jerusalem #16 to David Wright; Sheba #17 to Mosley Williams, John Dowd & Jerald Jones; Shiloh #33 to Marquell Tucker; Mt. Nebo #43 to the late Terry Taylor & PDDGM Joseph Diggs; Moses/Gravel Run #290 to John Harvell, Edward Patrick, & James Parham; and C. V. Wilson to Richard Spencer & Dwayne Gilliam.

After WADDGM Hosza W. Bagley, Sr. #17 formally introduced WDDGM Pride #43, the DDGM presented the District Mason of the Year Award to Past WDDGM Joseph Diggs #43. DDGM Pride emphasized that the success of this event would depend on brothers who made great sacrifices and would guarantee the event to continue in 2018.

Divine Sunday in the 12th Masonic District

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Chesterfield – It was a blessed day at Union Branch Baptist Church in Chesterfield, Virginia where over 20 brothers and ten sisters fellowshiped for Divine Sunday.

Welcoming DDGM Antonio Pride #43, ADDGM Hosza Bagley, DDGO of the 16th OES Magnolis Rivers, and the Masonic family, Pastor Kenneth E. Roeland, Jr. guided us from John 20:19 on “The Relevance of the Resurrection II”. Everyone was convinced that with all of today’s technology, Jesus was still needed.



Grand Chapter OES State Youth Department Visits the Nation's Capital

By MWPGM Larry Christian #253, RWGD Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58, & Sis. Saundra Mason

Washington DC - On Saturday, June 24, 2017, the brothers took nearly 100 youth and chaperones from across Virginia on a visit to our nation's capital. Teamwork and collaboration made this memorable event a remarkable success, and for first time it was many of the youth first visit to Capitol Hill.

Organized by Grand State Youth Coordinator Sister Saundra Mason OES #33, she along with her counterpart Sister Sharon Thomas and others planned the event.

The day on Capitol Hill began at 8:30 a.m. with the youth meeting Master Masons, WPM Konah Terry #161 (Current Capitol Hill Staffer), RWGD Julius D. Spain, Sr. (Former U.S. Senate Staffer), WPM Gordon Renfrow #58 (Photographer), and Bro. Antonio Adams (Worshipful Master of Arlington Lodge #58) near the U.S. Capitol for brief introductions. Of note, MWPGM Larry Christian #253 and Master Masons from Pocahontas Lodge #7, Sheba Lodge #17, and Trinity Lodge #44 traveled with the youth group as well.

Celebrating St. John in the 12th MD

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Petersburg – After an informative 12th Masonic District meeting in the upper room, over 100 brothers, sisters, and

guests gathered in the lower fellowship hall of the Halifax St. Temple to commemorate the festival of St. John the Baptist. WM Darrell Brown #17 opened the June 11, 2017 where Past ADDGM Darrin Hill #43 conducted the program of events.

With an invocation by WM Rodney Tucker #10, scriptures were read by WM Darrell Talley #290 and Grand Lodge Officers were recognized by WDDGM Pride #43. Defining today's purpose was the task PM Conrad Bradley who gave a brief history of the patron saint.

Introduced by Brother Hill #43, our speaker Rev. Dr. Robert A. Diggs #43 admitted his desire was to present another sermon for our fallen Brother Terry Taylor #43. Brother Diggs selected the scriptures of II Samuel 12:20 & 23 to form a subject of "I'll See Him Again". As he stated he enjoyed having conversation with WPM Taylor, but realized this conversation would only occur in the next life.

The program concluded with love gifts and thanks from WDDGM Pride for everyone who made the sacrifice to attend.

Eastern Star #13 has Sesquicentennial Anniversary Program

By WPM Raymond A. Sutton, III #13



Hampton, VA - On Saturday, April 29th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Eastern Star Lodge, #13 held Anniversary Banquet to celebrate 150 years of service, faith and commitment to the Hampton, Newport News, and Yorktown Communities and to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Worshipful Master Antonio Hinton, Sr. #13, skillfully guided his Anniversary Committee, consisting of his entire Lodge, to a successful and outstanding program. They could not go wrong with the selection of our Most Worshipful Grand Master Paige D. Cherry #3, as the keynote speaker and our Right Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon Edward E. Lattimore, III #13 as the Master of Ceremonies.

During the program the Worshipful Master presented recognition awards to each of his line officers for their support extended to the Lodge and his administration during his tenure. He made special note and awards to his Secretary, WPM Curtis M. Barbour, Sr. #13 and his Treasurer, WDDGME Raymond A. Sutton, III #13 for their long, dedicated service and professionalism to the Lodge. The music for the program was produced by Bro. Michael Broadhead #13 with the song styling of Pierre Whitlow & Legacy. At the programs close, Most Worshipful Grand Master Paige D. Cherry admonished all that this milestone began with that first step by dedicated members whose eyes remained on the prize. And, it is continued today, by these Brothers of today who must remain equally as vigilant, pressing on into the future toward the next 150 years.

Divine Sunday in the 17th & 32nd Masonic Districts

By WADDGM Walter Davis #295



Danville - On Sunday April 30, 2017, the 17th and 32nd Masonic Districts came together to Celebrate Divine Worship Service at Mount Calvary Baptist Church. Rev. Jeffrey M. Millner pastor's the church on North Main Street Danville, Virginia.

Joining the brothers, the Order of Eastern Star Prince Hall Affiliation Gladiola Chapter #194 of Danville were Worthy Matron Doris Farmer, Worthy Patron Walter H. Davis, Sister Rhonda Jefferson, Sister Mary Woods, Martha Mable Carter, Associate Matron Clara Harper, and Sister Shanna Godwin.



Joint Anniversaries are Celebrated by Lily of the Valley #44 OES & Shiloh

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



AP Charles Shelton, PWM Myra Shelton, WP Jerrail Brown, PM Odell Williams, DDGO Magnolia Rivers, & GWP Clarence Williams

Colonial Heights – Lily of the Valley #44 PHA OES at 100 years young and Shiloh Lodge #33 at 141 years young presented to the world they were still relevant. Both chapter and lodge meet in the oldest building standing in the city of Hopewell had a joint anniversary celebration on April 30th.

Associate Worthy Patron and DDGM of the 26th MD Charles Shelton served as the MC who first welcomed Sisters Edna Mason, Monica Bufford, DDOD 16 OES Magnolia Rivers, Shelley Hill, and Renee Baucum as program participants. The history of the lodge which was chartered in 1876 was presented by PM L. J. McCoy and the chapter which was chartered in 1917 by Sister Christina Thomas.

While thanking her chapter line officers, Worthy Matron Myra Shelton also presented all of her past matrons and patrons with framed award certificates. Sister Shelton also thanked all program participants and along with PM Odell Williams #33 acknowledged our most recently deceased brothers and sisters.

Closing for MWGM Paige Cherry #3, DDGM Shelton reminded everyone that besides the church, our grandparents and great grand parents had only the organizations of the Masons and Eastern Stars to share a legacy of our history.

Commemorating Brotherhood, Universal Lodge #1 Celebrates 172 years in Alexandria.

Contributed by Alexandria Gazette Packet writer Vernon Miles

Alexandria - There are few cities with as visible a Masonic presence as

Alexandria. The National George Washington Masonic Memorial has become a symbol of the city. The Freemasons are fraternal organizations commonly known today for their dedication to charity and their attire. But beneath the apron and chains, the Freemasons of Universal Lodge #1 have a long history of brotherhood and overcoming segregation.

“To the uninitiated it looks like pomp and circumstance,” said Dgessey Major, “but to those who understand ... it means everything.” “It’s about the continuum of taking care of society, especially with regard to widows, orphans and charity,” said Macarthur Meyers, a member of the lodge. “You take a good man and make him a better man.



At the time of our founding, people didn’t want blacks to be Freemasons, they wanted them in positions of servitude. That’s why we were [sponsored] by an English lodge, not an American one. Even under slavery, though they were viewed as second class, they still took it upon themselves as humanitarians to enhance the quality of life for all people. It’s a responsibility.” The Universal Lodge #1 held its 172nd year anniversary at the Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, the oldest black church in Alexandria, on Feb. 5, 2017.

Before the service began, the Masons filed into the church wearing the vestments of their order. The Masons of Universal Lodge No. 1 were joined by the leadership of lodges from D.C. in the celebration of their anniversary. After the service, the Masons presented Worshipful Past Master John Morgan of Universal Lodge No. 1 with a special pin

E108 CONGRES

HONORING THE PRINCE HALL UNIVERSAL LODGE NUMBER 1 OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 31, 2017

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 172 years of service of the Prince Hall Universal Lodge Number 1 of Alexandria, Virginia. The Prince Hall Free Masonry began in Alexandria in 1845. Over the past 172 years, Universal Lodge Number 1 has worked on significant issues such as slavery, education and schools, church buildings, and the general welfare of African Americans. I greatly commend their many years of service to the Alexandria community.

marking 50 years of service to their lodge.

“Stars in Motion”; In the 16th OES District

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Petersburg - On a comfortable spring day in March, the 16th District Order of the Eastern Star held their Annual Prayer Breakfast at the Masonic Temple in Petersburg. Grand District Deputy Organizer Magnolia Rivers and her assistant Mrs. Yvette Robinson were pleased that Most Worshipful Grand Master Paige D. Cherry was also in attendance.

While an invocation came from Sister Ada Johnson OES #44, Chairperson Cynthia Pegram-Wyche who conducted the order of the program also acknowledged the support of her Vice Chairperson Myra Shelton. Entertainment was from Rev. Charlotte Mays Simms.

The speaker for the event, Rev. Kevin Northam, coined his text from John 17:1 with the subject of “Prayer is Always On-Time”. Noting that Jesus prayed four times in the Bible, Pastor Northam gave us even more reason to pray.

The program concluded with the crowing of the 2017 queen. After raising the greatest sum of money, Sister Shirley Brown of Electra #7 was crowned the Queen of the 16th District

Brothers of Acacia Lodge #32 Recognized

By RWGD Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58



McLean – On April 28, 2017, two members of Acacia Lodge #32 located in Alexandria, VA were recognized by the National Urban League during the

Northern Virginia Chapter Annual Community Service and Scholarship Gala. Right Worshipful Past Grand Director Leo Brooks, Sr. #32 and his son, Bro. Vincent Brooks #32 (4- Star General, U.S. Army, were both honored with the distinguished Leadership and Military Service Award for their decades of service in the community and military. Also that evening, Congressional Bobby Scott (VA-03) was also honored with the Congressional Leadership Award. These men epitomize what it means to be an upright Freemasons and dedicated public servant.

**Alleghany-Dunbar #109
Appreciation Banquet**

By JW Myles W. Jackson #109



Roanoke - On April 22, 2017, AD#109 held its 2nd Annual Scholarship/Charity Fundraiser in Roanoke, Virginia. The theme for this year was “As We Honor Our Own.” This was our time to show our appreciation to two Brothers from Alleghany-Dunbar #109, Right Worshipful Past Grand Lecture of the West, Brother Daniel Hale, Jr., and Past Assistant Grand Chaplin Rev. Dr. E.T Burton and our Sister from Order of the Eastern Star Fidelity Chapter #54, Past Grand Worthy Matron Sister Charlotte Dunston.

Our guest received a warm welcome from AD #109 Worshipful Master Silas Chapman, who explained the reason for the banquet, which was a fundraiser for the Lodge’s Scholarship and Charity Fund. WM Chapman spoke on the importance of giving back to the community and that this was just one of the many community activities that AD #109 does annually.

Our Master of Ceremony, 20th Masonic Assistant District Deputy Jerome “Bumper” Morgan, kept the program moving with his sense of humor during the evening. We were blessed to have the “Divine Movement” Praise Dancers from Pilgrim Baptist Church who performed a musical selection reflecting on our “old-time” religion called “Back

at The Old Church.” These seven young ladies did an outstanding job and their performance was a blessing to those in attendance. We were also blessed with a solo from Past Assistant District Deputy, 20th Masonic District, Donnell Freeman.

After a fine meal, it was time to honor our honorees. Each honoree was introduced to our banquet guest by a member of their respective organization. We heard a short biography about them and their contributions to their respective fraternal organization. Each honoree was presented a plaque in recognition for their service from AD #109. The honorees spoke on the importance of their fraternal organization and how much it has meant to them to be a part of it and thanked AD #109 for this appreciation banquet.

Past Worshipful Master (AD #109) J.C. Taylor provided words of inspiration to the audience. Brother J.C. Taylor spoke on the importance of “giving flowers” to folks while they are alive. Too many times, we wait until it is too late to tell someone how we feel about them and how important they are in our lives.

To close out the evening, Right Worshipful Junior Deacon Beverly W. Morgan, Jr., offered greeting from the Most Worshipful Grand Master Paige D. Cherry and acknowledge the contributions of each of the honorees.

Special guest in attendance were Past Right Worshipful Grand Master George Clements, City of Roanoke School Board Superintendent Rita Bishop, City of Roanoke Sheriff Tim Allen, and City of Roanoke NAACP President Brenda Hale.

To show our appreciation to our guest, several won door prizes that were donated by businesses and individuals in the Roanoke Valley community.



St. John the Baptist Celebration 2017

**Adah Chapter #20
Celebrates 110 Years**

By WPM Raymond A. Sutton, III #13

Norfolk - Adah Chapter No. 20 celebrated its 110th Anniversary with

a luncheon held on Saturday, March 25th, 2016 at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church in Norfolk, VA. The Anniversary Program was flawlessly brought to fruition under the guidance of Worthy Matron Cheryl H. Hicks, Worthy Patron Donald S. Wilson and Past Matron Lula Sears Rogers, the Mistress of Ceremonies. This event’s profile was highly rated and warranted the presence of our Most Worshipful Grand Master Paige D. Cherry, Grand Worthy Matron Ivery B. Knight and Grand Worthy Patron Clarence E. Williams.

The program was highlighted by the Reverend Charles Turner, the Minister of Music of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. His mini-concert was centered on their Anniversary Theme, ‘Praise ye Him, sun and moon; Praise Him all ye stars of light from the 148th Psalm. His medley of songs included “Your Grace and Mercy”, “God Has Been Good To You”, “My Soul Is Anchored In The Lord” and “The Lord Is Blessing Me Right Now”. These songs have provided soul stirring belief to all of the membership over the years. To God be the glory for keeping the members of Adah Chapter No. 20 strong in faith, loyalty and unity for 110 strong years.

The organization of the Chapter was etched in faith by people of faith whose strength and belief in the Bible was the foundation of their lives. Adah Chapter No. 20 organized on October 16th, 1906 and is the second oldest Chapter in District No. 2 of the Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star of Virginia (PHA). Leah J. Lynch was the Chapter’s first Worthy Matron and James P. Bolling, the first Worthy Patron. Acknowledging that those early members had established a pathway of faith for today’s members, the beliefs of the twenty-first century membership are forged rock solid in that same Word and they’re prepared to surge forward for another 110 years.

17th MD has Divine Sunday

By ADDGM Walter Davis #295

Danville - On July 30, 2017 the 17th Masonic District Prince Hall Masons celebrated 5th Sunday Service Divine Worship at Prospect Missionary Baptist

Church in Danville, Virginia where Pastor Crews Pastor gave the message.



Former Police Chief Receives Prestigious Award

By RWGD Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58



Alexandria – On March 2, 2017, former Alexandria Police Chief, Brother Earl Cook of Universal Lodge #1 received the esteemed Community Service Award from the Developmental Progressive Club, Inc. (DPC) of Alexandria, VA. The DPC was organized on September 27, 1927 to provide support to community groups concerned with improving the general welfare of the Alexandria Community.

Attending the event to support Bro. Cook was WPM Lawrence Robinson #1, former Alexandria Mayor Brother William (Bill) Euille #1, and Junior Warden McArthur Myers #1. To learn more about DPC's mission visit www.dpc1927.org.

Arlington Lodge #58 and the Bee Hive Club, Inc. Award \$4,000.00 in Scholarships

By: Scott McCaffrey, INOVA Newspaper &
RWGD Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58



Arlington - Music filling the air at Mount Zion Baptist Church in the Nauck Community of Arlington, Virginia is a regular occurrence. On the evening of April 30, 2017, the uplifting sounds emanating from the sanctuary were aimed at saluting the achievements of our young people.

That night, Arlington Lodge #58 and its affiliated organization, The Bee Hive Club, Inc. presented their annual songfest and scholarship program, designed to provide selective honored high-school seniors with a sense of

purpose and inspiration as they transitioned to college. Receiving \$1000.00 scholarships that evening were Ms. Dominique Bynum, who is headed to Towson University; Ms. Danielle Gilliam, Old Dominion University; Ms. Ashley Jones, Hampton University; and Ms. Vittoria Valentine, College of William and Mary. (Valentine, a senior at J.E.B. Stuart High School, earned a full-tuition scholarship at William and Mary, and returned her scholarship to the club, to be distributed to another student next year.

More than 60 local high-school seniors have received scholarships over the past 20 years. Throughout the year, members of The Bee Hive Club, Inc. routinely host events to raise funds for this annual program. Recipients have gone on to positions ranging from teacher and social worker to a pastor and chemist.

"They have excellent in grades, but they are also excellent in their community, as well," said Bro. Charles Aaron III #58, who served as president of The Bee Hive Club from June 2016 – June 2017.

WM Neville Welch #58 encouraged the four 2017 scholarship recipients to remember their roots and their foundation as they move on to the next stage of their lives. Also attending the event were WGAP Gordon E. Renfrow #330, DDGM Charles James #11 and ADDGM A. Marque Pitre #298.

Turning the pages on the next Hundred Years

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Chesterfield – In a small house on the edge of the Appomattox River in Bermuda Hundred of Chesterfield County, brother Senise Johnson has called home for over seventy years. But now, this veteran, former boxer, and retired factory worker has achieved that centurion age rank envied by so many.

Brother Johnson born July 14, 1917 has reached his 100th birthday.

With his daughters Gloria and Marianne by his side he also welcomed his Masonic Shiloh Lodge #33 brothers

Jerrail Brown, Jimmie Hill, Sr., Avon Miles, Sr., and L. J. McCoy, Jr. (not pictured) to his home to commemorate the event.

After reviewing his family history, Brother Johnson thanked those who were present and asked that they continue to remember him and others like him who prospered as he had.

WM of Universal Lodge #1 visits United Grand Lodge of England

By: RWGD Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58



London - On Saturday, May 27, 2017, Worshipful Master Kent D. Carter of Universal Lodge #1, located in Alexandria, Virginia, had the unique opportunity to visit Freemasons' Hall located at the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), London, United Kingdom while on personal travel. During this time, he also attended the stated communication for Grosvenor Lodge No. 1257, Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London, of the registry of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), London, UK and was presented with the UGLE 2017 Tercentenary Medal.

According to their website, 2017 is a special year for UGLE as it traces its roots to this historic meeting. The high point comes in October with a celebration of Freemasonry at the Royal Albert Hall followed by a dinner in Battersea Park where they expect to welcome over 4,500 guests. The history of Prince Hall informs us that a "Warrant of Constitution" was issued for African Lodge No. 459, by the Grand Lodge of England; signed and sealed on September 29th, 1784 under the authority of His Royal Highness, Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, Grand Master, by R. Holt, Deputy Grand Master and attested by Williams White, Grand Secretary.



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Sample Sale Items



Visit the website often as we begin to add more items.

Grand Lodge Session Agenda of Events for 2017

Monday, September 11, 2017

- 10:00 a.m. Grand Lodge Office Set-Up
- 4:00 p.m. Prepare kits

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

- 8:00 a.m. Prepare for Registration of the 141st Session

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

- 10:00 a.m. Training with Worshipful Masters, Treasurers, & Secretaries,
- 3:00 p.m. Registration & Credentials, close at 10 p.m.
- 7:00 p.m. **Prince Hall Day & Lodge of Sorrow**

Thursday, September 14, 2017

- 7:00 a.m. Registration & Credentials, close at 5:00 p.m.
- 7:30 Devotionals
- 8:30 a.m. Ceremony of Opening
- 10:00 a.m. Official Opening of Grand Lodge
- 11:30 a.m. Presentation of MWGM Brown
- 12:30 p.m. Grand Lodge called Off
- 1:30 p.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 4:00 p.m. Grand Lodge Called Off
- 4:15 – 6:30 p.m. Committee meetings
- 7:00 p.m. **Grand Lodge Gospel Concert**

Friday, September 15, 2017

- 7:00 a.m. Registration & Credentials close at 8:30 a.m.
- 7:30 a.m. Devotionals
- 8:30 a.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 8:30 a.m. Final Credentials Report
- 9:25 a.m. Grand Lodge called Off
- 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. Voting & Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 12:45 p.m. Reports
- 4:00 p.m. Grand Lodge Called Off
- 7:00 p.m. **Grand Lodge Annual Banquet**

Saturday, September 16, 2017

- 7:30 a.m. Devotionals
- 8:30 a.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 9:00 a.m. Results of Voting
- 9:15 a.m. Unfinished Business
- 9:45 a.m. Reception of Visitors from Sister Jurisdictions
- 10:00 a. m. Reception of Appendant Bodies
- 12:00 p.m. Reception of the Knights of Pythagoras
- 1:00 p.m. Grand Lodge Called Off
- 1:45 p.m. Grand Chapter OES
- 3:45 p.m. Grand Lodge Called On & Installation of Officers
- 4:30 p.m. **Ceremony of Closing Grand Lodge**
- 7:00 p.m. **Grand Master Post Board Dinner Meeting**

* All events held at the Chesapeake Convention Center 900 Greenbrier Circle, Chesapeake, VA 23320



From the 111th Annual Communication Grand Lodge Officers 1986-87 seated from left Brothers Willie Massenburb, Williams, C. C. Crawford, Billie Thompson, and Mack. Standing from left Brothers Johnson, Crenshaw, Boyd, Harris, Milton, Spruill, Mills, J. Williams, and Spence.



A Tribute to Our Sisters of the Order of the Eastern Star

"I freed a thousand slaves. I could have freed a thousand more, if only they knew they were slaves." Harriet Tubman

We encourage you to continue to furnish the **Bee Hive** with PERTINENT and RELEVANT information regarding your lodge and district activities. ALL INFORMATION for PUBLICATION and questions relative to the **Bee Hive** should be addressed to: **Editor, Bee Hive Magazine, 2417 Osborne Rd. Chester, VA 23831** or e-mail to mccoysgitlo@verizon.net.

**The Most Worshipful
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