



The Bee Hive



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

Summer 2016

Volume 22, Number 2

Prince Hall Founders Receive Historical Recognition



Pictured left to right RWGD Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58, RWJGW Donald S. Wilson #67, RWGD Charles A. Jones #81, RWSGW Richard Townes #235, Most Worshipful Grand Master Roger C. Brown #327, RWDGM Paige D. Cherry #3, RWGL Edward E. Lattimore #13, RWSGD Beverly W. Morgan #298, RWGL Kerry R. Brown #61, and RWJGD George T. Cutler, Jr. #80.

"Living the Purpose!"

WWW.MWPHGL-VA.ORG

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APPOINTED OFFICERS

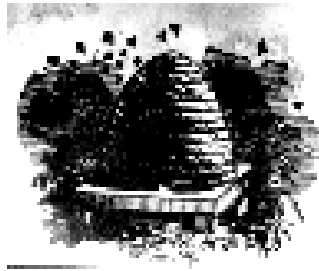
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Most Worshipful Grand Master Roger C. Brown receives comments from RWDGM Paige Cherry #3

Cover photo by WGP Joseph Williams #23

The Bee Hive

Vol. 22 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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Roger C. Brown #327
**The 78th Most Worshipful
Grand Master of the
MW Prince Hall Grand
Lodge of VA,
F & AM, Inc.**

As I come to the close of my term, I can say that I have been truly blessed by God, to whom I give all praises. He has allowed me to serve you and this Jurisdiction of Virginia as the 78th Most Worshipful Grand Master. I hope and pray that I have served you and this Jurisdiction with respect, honor and dignity. When I reflect back over this “Journey” to September 2005, when you elected me as Right Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon in Roanoke, Virginia, I never would have fathomed the amount of love that would be bestowed upon me now. I did not seek this position to be served, but to serve.

My love for this organization began long before I reached this position. My earthly father showed me the true meaning on how to be a Man and a Mason. He helped me to develop the skills and habits to work hard for the things that you want, as long as I was doing them with respect. He also taught me that earning respect was just as important as giving respect. Along with developing good work habits, he also showed me the importance of family values.

As I was elevated along this journey from RWJGD to MWGM, I did not forsake those skills and values that he taught me. So, that is why I did not ask you to do

anything that I would not or could not do. Nor did I ask you to place Masonry before God or your family. For God is the source of our existence, and family is God’s support system to our happiness. I believe that personal success and accomplishment will be in vain if you do not have family and friends to share it with.

My true joy as Most Worshipful Grand Master did not come by the designated accomplishments, whatever they may have been, but by the many friends that I have made along this journey. For I know that I will soon lose the title as MWGM, but I hope and pray that I will forever hold the title as being your “friend”.

Finally, I will continue to thank God for blessing me to serve as your Most Worshipful Grand Master from 2014 –2016 and for you electing me to the highest position in Prince Hall Freemasonry in Virginia. As this chapter of my journey is coming to a close, my book of Life will still be ongoing. I do not know when the book will be completed, only God knows that, but as long as God keeps breath in my body, I will continue to praise Him and forever be striving to “*Living the Purpose.*”

Fraternally submitted,

MWGM Roger C. Brown, 33^o



From the Editor

L. J. McCoy, Jr. #33

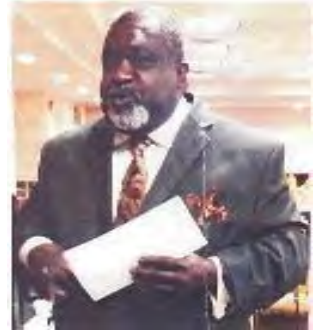


During the past twelve months, we've seen the lost of many African American iconic giants. Prince of the entertainment field, Muhammad Ali as one of the most prolific athletes and civil rights activist Julian Bond, all contributed to building role model characters of historic magnitudes.

These homegoings climaxed the ending of an amazing era that affects us all.

But our outer door has also been alarmed where we have seen the chapters close on our own Prince Hall family members.

Worshipful Past Grand Chaplain Rev. Jake Manley #80, Right Worshipful Past Grand Lecturer



Irvin "Bubba" Spencer #80 (top right), and Right Worshipful Past Grand Director Robert Leeper #23 (bottom left) have all traveled that narrow path but straight gate into eternity.

Thinking back, there has to be fond and challenging memories of those brothers. How can you forget, how Past Grand Lecturer



Spencer would sell Masonic shirts, caps, and even candy (sorry Past Grand Master Riddick) from his hotel room at the Grand Lodge Session until he found it more convenient to obtain a vendor's booth. And who could predict what Past Grand Director Leeper would approach the floor mike at the Grand Lodge Session and say next. Would he be detecting a violation of our Constitutional or on the brink of suspension for dissension? But through it all, Past Grand Chaplain Manley would bring it all home by saying, —Lets pray.”

As we witness the loss of young Black men, or see attacks on our law enforcement officers, or as we prepare for a critical presidential election, we should not forget the duties we have heard so frequently inculcated and forcibly recommended by our leadership. These great individuals, and so many others, may no longer be with us, but their beauty, strength, and wisdom should always give us a guiding Light to peace. Not just any peace, but a peace that we can believe in.

OES M. D. Poindexter Youth Workshop

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – They played games and won prizes; they were served a delicious lunch; and they also got some ritualistic work done. On a cool Saturday March 26, 2016, the Maggie D. Poindexter State Youth Department of the Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star of Virginia PHA held their annual workshop at the Petersburg Masonic Temple.

Coordinated by Sister Sandra Mason #33 OES who is the Grand State Youth Coordinator, the workshop enjoyed the participation of over 25 youths in learning the fundamentals of the OES Youth Program.

State Youth President Charles Shelton III was joined by youth officers Derren Freeman, J. Howard, Ariel Moore, Sarah Scott, TeAsia Steele, and Tamia Taylor who shared in gaining more knowledge of the organization.

While State Youth Advisor Sister Sonya Freeman took the lead role, Sisters Bernice McDaniel GDDO #18, Magnolia Rivers GDDO #16, and Past Grand Worthy Matron Carlene Wooten provided additional guidance for the young men and women. Former financial manager at Wells Fargo Bank, Mr. Quinton Brown, gave the youths advice on managing money and encouraged them to begin saving early.

The event concluded with a spaghetti and salad lunch topped with a Mickey Mouse lollipop.



M. D. Poindexter Advisors and youth officers.



Adults and youth in attendance



Schools of Instruction



Bring Them All Together



Photos by WPM William Moore #92
Far left oldest Master Mason attending was WPM Braxton W. Mitchell #94 and youngest attending Brothers pictured above.

Tidewater's School of Instruction

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Virginia Beach – RW Deputy Grand Master Paige D. Cherry #3 stood before over 150 brothers at the February 6, 2016 School of Instruction at the E. Ray Cox, Sr. Convocation Center of New Hope Baptist Church in the absence of Most Worshipful Grand Master Roger C. Brown #327.

Welcoming 29 first time attendees, the RW Deputy Grand Master received Brother Dempsey Berry #67 who spoke for those brothers. RW Sr. Grand Deacon Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. #298 gave words of wisdom on the hardest part of any journey. RWDGM Cherry then presented 140th Year Tokens to the youngest brothers, Brothers Ezeal Bagby #167, Jerimey Carter #289, Tony Washington #167, and Willie Kelly #167, and the oldest brother, WPM Braxton Mitchell #94.

RW Grand Lecturers Kerry R. Brown #61 and Edward E. Lattimore, III #13 then instructed the Committee on Work to lead the floor work on initiating new brothers. Questions and comments came from Brothers Alfred Simmons #124, Henry Nathiel #268, Alexandria Duncan #92, Joe Brown #167, Armar Mays #66, Jerrimy Carter #289, James Baker #196, Michael Riddick #91, RWGD Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58, and Calvin Evans #13.

Certificates of Merit were presented to qualifying Brothers; lodges with the greatest attendance, and the highest percentage of attendance were also presented.

The School in Petersburg

Contributions by SW Jerrail Brown #33

Petersburg – Due to the funeral of Past RW Grand Director Robert Leeper, MWGM Roger C. Brown made a brief appearance in this condensed session. The Grand Lecturers continued instructions on the second section of the third degree initiation. They also received questions on the proceedings from Brothers Michael Anthony Smith #292, Bobby Claiborne #7, Charles Ross #158, and Andre Ellis #158.

Prince Hall Masons Celebrate the 141st Founder's Day

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Petersburg – Worshipful Grand Marshall James Brown #300 ushered in the Most Worshipful Grand Master Roger C. Brown #327 and his precession ahead of the upcoming severe weather. The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia held its 141st Founder's Day at First Baptist Church Harrison Street on Sunday May 22, 2016. Welcoming over 300 Masons, Eastern Stars, and friends, MWGM Brown #327 also gave updates on the progress of Prince Hall Masonry in Virginia.

The program's MC, RW Grand Lecturer Kerry R. Brown #61 welcomed the inspirational message from Rev. Dr. Robert A. Diggs #43. Developing his text from Psalms 100, Rev. Diggs emphasized the need of our organization to speak out, when we can assist people in need.

The history of the MWPHGL of Virginia was detailed by WPM Antonio Pride #43. Finding its roots from African Lodge # 459 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.

As an additional caveat, MWGM Brown shared a Proclamation from the 114th US House of Representatives, issued by Congressmen G. K. Butterfield and Bobby Scott on May 18, 2016. The resolution and letter congratulated the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Virginia on 140 years of selfless service, progressiveness, incredible accomplishments, and community activism.

The program concluded by laying a wreath at the foot of the Prince Hall Masons Memorial Monument in the church's courtyard.

31st Masonic District & District 26 OES Veterans Appreciation

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

Military Installation Fort Belvoir – On Wednesday, April 20, 2016, Brothers and Sisters of the 31st Masonic District and District 26 Order of the Easter Star gathered to pay tribute to service members and their families. The hard work, unwavering spirit, and dedication to community service over the past several years resulted in the 31st Masonic District being recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation.



First Masonic District Honors 50 Years of Service

By RWGD Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58

Norfolk – On Saturday, June 11, 2016 under the leadership of WDDGM Alton Miles #196, WADDGM Erskine Dawson #132, and WADDGM Shaun Howard #4, the 1st Masonic District honored its “50 Years of Service” members during their Annual District Banquet. MWGM Roger C. Brown #327 attended the event in which the following Master Masons were recognized: WPM Richard Pitt #2, Bro. Anderson Benson #2, Bro. Major Riddick #2, WPM Curtis Sherard #4, Bro. James Barnes #67, WPM Roosevelt Speller #67, Bro. Leavy Harold #67, WPM James Blakeley #67, WPM George Little #80, WPM Garfield Sims #80, WPM Leroy Fitchett #106, WPM George Joyner #106, WPM Freeman Harrison #106, WPM Willie Gray #106, WPM Herbert Smith #132, WPM William Spruill #136, and WPM Linnard McCoy #195. Photo credit: WPM James Clinton





Prince Hall Masons serve Our Veterans

Contributions by RWGD Charles Jones #81

Richmond – Grilling Ball Park hot dogs and juicy burgers out in the patio area at McGuire’s Veteran’s Administration Hospital was an annual task of the Prince Hall Masons that the residents and patients looked forward to.

On Wednesday April 20th, the Veterans Visitation Chair/RW Grand Director Charles A. Jones #81 spearheaded the 2016 VA Visitation at the Richmond area VA. He reached out for brotherly support from the 12th, 26th, 27th, and 28th Masonic Districts who cooked, served, and socialized with the veterans.

Over 200 patients and staff enjoyed the hospitality extended by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia. Even Most Worshipful Grand Master Roger C. Brown found the time and opportunity to contribute to the event.

Brother Jones was also fortunate to have the VA recreation therapist Ms. Danielle Orr involved to make the event a success.

Well in its tenth year now, MWGM Brown and RWGD Jones recognize that this small tribute to our men and women in armor will continue to demonstrate our everlasting gratitude for their service.



An Appreciation to Grand Worthy Matron Robin Brown

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Chesterfield – Adorned in a lacy snow white gown, Grand Worthy Matron Robin M. Brown was under the protection of the Knights Templar as her date, Past Grand Worthy Patron Floyd M. Brown, Jr. escorted her to the head table.

Master/Mistress of Ceremony Donald and Sandra Wilson had a lively approach as they led us into the Saturday April 9, 2016 Appreciation Banquet Honoring GWM Robin Brown. After an invocation by Grand Trustee Clyde Lindsey, Jr. scripture by W Grand Chaplain Jonathan Franklin, a welcome by WM #225 Nicole Tarver, and a response by Deborah Forbes, Interim Grand Secretary Synthia Martin introduced the Grand Chapter Officers and Grand Lodge Officers were introduced by RW Grand Secretary Isaac S. Hughes.

Following dinner, accolades of appreciation and presentations came from the GWM's pastor, Dr. J. Alfred Reid of First Baptist Church Disputanta; her brother, Dexter Middleton; her father-in law, WDDGM Floyd M. Brown, Sr.; Grand Worthy Patron Clarence Williams; MW Past Grand Master Robert E. Harris, Sr. from the Past Grand Masters; and a host of Grand Chapter and Grand Lodge representatives. Most Worshipful Grand Master Roger C. Brown enjoyed the honor of sharing a champagne toast with everyone to Sister Brown for all her outstanding efforts as Grand Worthy Matron.



The Grand Master's Annual Charity Golf Tournament

By MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253



Williamsburg – In a slow lifting fog, each golfer's footprints could be clearly detected across the mostly manicured grass on the course at the Kiskiack Golf Course on June 4th. It was the 2016 Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Master's Annual Charity Golf Tournament.

Event coordinator, MW Past Grand Master Larry D. Christian #253, enlisted an array of teams who competed in several categories for this year's prizes. Challenging the men, two teams of



women brought a refreshing touch of charm within the competition.

Beginning fourteen years ago, the event started at the Hampton Golf Club. There were three teams that participated then, after which it moved to KISKIACK Golf Course. The event has grown from three teams to twenty teams. The proceeds from the Golf Tournament assist our 2nd, 3rd and 4th year College students. We would like to thank MWGM Roger C. Brown for his donation of \$200.00 towards the insurance of the hole-in-one prize which was a 2016 Chevy Cruze.

Prizes were slated to be awarded for the longest drive, closest to the pin, a putting contest, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd places, and of course a hole-in-one. Winners included;

First Place - Devery Travers #11, Tony Thompson #58, Robert Green #58, Kenneth Lee

Second Place - Ike Curry #61, Wilbert Hopkins, Curtis Gunn #3, Billie Thompson #46

Third Place - Ardell Walker #63, Danny Morton, David Miller, Raymond Nicks

Longest Drive – Willie Maul, Hole #1 & Billie Thompson #46, Hole #18

Closest to the Pin – Rick Woodie, Hole #2 & Raymond Nicks, Hole #17

We would like to thank the Lodges, Districts and Individuals that sponsored holes. Promoting the event, the Golf Committee sold lapel pins, shirts, jackets, and caps; we also raffled off Kindle Fires, Gas Cards and Televisions at the seven Schools of Instruction.



Finally, a special thanks to WDDGM James S. Burrell, WPDDGM Thomas Jefferson, and WPM Michael Christian for attending all the Schools of Instructions and other Grand Lodge events to sell our Masonic paraphernalia. Our Fall Tournament will be held on October 15, 2016 at KISKIACK Golf Course.



MWGM Brown visits West Virginia Grand Lodge

Martinsburg, West Virginia – On Friday, June 29, 2016, Most Worshipful Grand Master Roger C. Brown #327 made an official visit to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of West Virginia, F&AM for their Annual Grand Lodge Session. Accompanying him in his entourage was Worshipful Grand Pursuivant Chester Hazelwood #327, Worshipful Grand Assistant Pursuivant Ray Simpson #327, Worshipful Grand Assistant Photographer Ricky McKnight, Sr. #28, and Senior Warden Antonio Adams #58.

The event was a special day for Brother SW Adams of Arlington Lodge #58 (MWPHGLVA) as his father, the Honorable Phillip R. Adams, Sr. was duly elected and installed as Grand Master for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of West Virginia, Free & Accepted Masons, Inc.

Other brothers who were distinguished from the Mid-Atlantic Region in attendance were Most Worshipful Grand Master Lee Taylor (MWPHGLMD) and Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden Quincy G. Grant (MWPHGLDC).



MWGM Brown far right (photo by WGAP Ricky McKnight, Sr. #28)

A Testimonial for MWGM

Roger C. Brown

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Chesterfield – Led by Worshipful Grand Marshall James Brown #300 with the procession of Assistant Grand Marshalls, Most Worshipful Grand Master Roger C. Brown #327 and his wife were escorted in to his testimonial banquet. The June 4th event featured MW Past Grand Master Larry D. Christian #253 as the Master of Ceremonies who had program participants WGC Rev. John M. Vaughan #324, WDDGM Edward T. Henderson #23, and W Asst. GC Charles Woodie #65 enlightening the evening.

While soft dinner music was provided by WADDGM Charles Shelton #307, RW Grand Secretary Isaac Hughes #314 gave the introduction of Grand Lodge Officers, dignitaries, and special guests. Visiting Grand Masters included MWGM Norman L. Campbell of Washington DC and MWGM Lee A. Taylor of Maryland. In addition to all Grand Lodge line Officers, MW Past Grand Masters Shelton Riddick #323, Herman Eggleston, Jr. #146, Larry D. Christian #253, Gilbert Tyler #27, Billie L. Thompson, Sr. #46, and Robert E. Harris, Sr. #34 were in attendance.

Presentations to MWGM Brown was the next order of business by family, friends, his church, his employment, and of the brethren. Expressing statements of love for their father's sacrifice to the fraternity, Stacie and Stefany told of memories where our Grand Master left them to make contribution to make us great.

Greetings came from the appointed committees, appointed Grand Lodge officers, District Deputy Grand Masters, Visiting Grand Masters, Knights of Pythagoras & OES Youth Dept., Grand Chapter OES, the Appendant & Adopted Bodies, the Grand Lecturers, the Grand Directors, the Past Grand Masters, the Grand Lodge Line Officers, MWPHGL of Virginia, 5th & 35th Districts of the OES, Lord Hannibal Lodge #327, and the 26th Masonic District.

The Honorable MWGM Roger Brown finally gave his most humble thanks and appreciation for everyone's expression of love to him and the love for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of Virginia.



Historic Year for the MWPHGL of Virginia, F & AM, Inc.

By RWGD Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58



District of Columbia – Under the leadership of MWGM Roger C. Brown #327, and RWDGM Paige D. Cherry #3, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free & Accepted Masons, Incorporated, was recognized by the 114th United States Congress for its 140 years of rich history and faithful service. On April 21, 2016, MWGM Brown led a delegation of Prince Hall Freemasons on Capitol Hill to articulate and share the square work all Brothers have been undertaking across the Commonwealth of Virginia. The delegation met with Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Rep. G.K. Butterfield (NC), Rep. Bobby Scott (VA), and senior staff of Senator Mark Warner (VA). From these meetings support for a Congressional Record and Congressional Proclamation was approved. Together, MWPGM Lionell Spruill, Sr. #189 and RWGD Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58 organized and laid the foundation for achieving this recognition for our Grand Lodge. On Saturday, July 16, 2016 after months of thorough coordination and leadership by RWGD Charles A. Jones #81, the MWPHGLVA was approved for and unveiled its historic marker in the city of Petersburg. The steadfast and harmonious efforts of everyone over the past 12 months reflect great credit upon the astute nature and class of men we have working together in our Grand Lodge and across the jurisdiction.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 25, 2016

I am pleased to join in celebrating your 140th anniversary.

Throughout our Nation's history, places of worship have brought us together in the spirit of faith and love. Offering space for celebration in times of joy and comfort in times of uncertainty, they help foster a strong sense of community and call on us to meet life's most sacred responsibility—to give of ourselves in service to others.

As you mark this special milestone, I hope you take pride in your community's commitment to faith. May the years ahead be filled with continued blessings.



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House of Representatives

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, INC. AND ITS SUBORDINATE LODGES

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention and recognize the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Incorporated and its subordinate lodges, who will be celebrating Founder's Day on Sunday, May 22nd in Petersburg, Virginia. This organization has worked in continuous and faithful service for 140 years within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Prince Hall lodge has a long history in the Commonwealth, tracing its own history to 1775, when Prince Hall and fourteen other free blacks joined a British army lodge of Masons stationed in Boston, Massachusetts and, following their departure, formed their own lodge: African American Lodge #1. Prince Hall became the lodge's first Grand Master.

By establishing this organization, Prince Hall and his compatriots were, in 1775, taking some of the first steps to form one of American's first formal African-American institutions.

Established in Virginia in 1875 as Universal Lodge Number 1 in Alexandria, countless members of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free & Accepted Masons have served in community and elected leadership positions.

Through their service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and our nation, members of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free & Accepted Masons and its subordinate lodges have sought to "inspire noble principles, moral values, and profound convictions in the lives of each individual" their work touches. They have sought to teach the principles of family, the values of philanthropy through charity and volunteer work, and the convictions of acceptance and compassion through honor, integrity, and respect.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my enthusiastic congratulations to Roger C. Brown of Richmond, Virginia, who currently serves as the 78th leader of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia and to all its Grand Lodge Officers, Worshipful Masters, Worshipful Past Masters and members on their recent celebration, on December 16th, 2015, of 140 years of continuous service in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and on the celebration of Founder's Day on May 22, 2016 in Petersburg, Virginia. It is my profound hope that through their work, members of the Grand Lodge continue to inspire and provide support and service to communities in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PROCLAMATION

RECOGNIZING THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, INCORPORATED AND ITS SUBORDINATE LODGES

WHEREAS, the first lodge, Universal Lodge No. 1, was formed in February 1845 and the Grand Lodge for Prince Hall Masons in Virginia was organized on the 16th Day of December 1875; and

WHEREAS the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Freemasons of the Commonwealth of Virginia has a history of outstanding charitable contributions and community efforts that Prince Hall Freemasons continue to perform in Virginia; and

WHEREAS countless members of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Incorporated and its subordinate lodges have served in community and elected leadership positions both in the State and throughout the Nation; and

WHEREAS the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Freemasons of the Commonwealth of Virginia inspires noble principles, moral values, and profound convictions in the lives of each individual they touch; and

WHEREAS the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Freemasons of the Commonwealth of Virginia is committed to teaching the principles of family, the values of community and philanthropy, and the convictions of acceptance and compassion; and

WHEREAS through their work, the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Freemasons of the Commonwealth of Virginia has provided outstanding support and service to the citizens of Virginia and will continue to benefit generations to come; and

WHEREAS through their tireless leadership and dedication, on the 16th day of December 2015, the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Freemasons of the Commonwealth of Virginia celebrated 140 years of continuous service in the State of Virginia; and

WHEREAS the 139 subordinate lodges chartered under the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Freemasons of the Commonwealth of Virginia headquartered in Richmond, Virginia be duly recognized by this Congressional Proclamation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, G. K. Butterfield, U.S. Congressman, First Congressional District of North Carolina, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, wish to congratulate the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Freemasons of the Commonwealth of Virginia, currently under the outstanding leadership of the Grand Master, The Honorable Roger C. Brown #327, on 140 years of selfless service, progressiveness, incredible accomplishments and community activism.

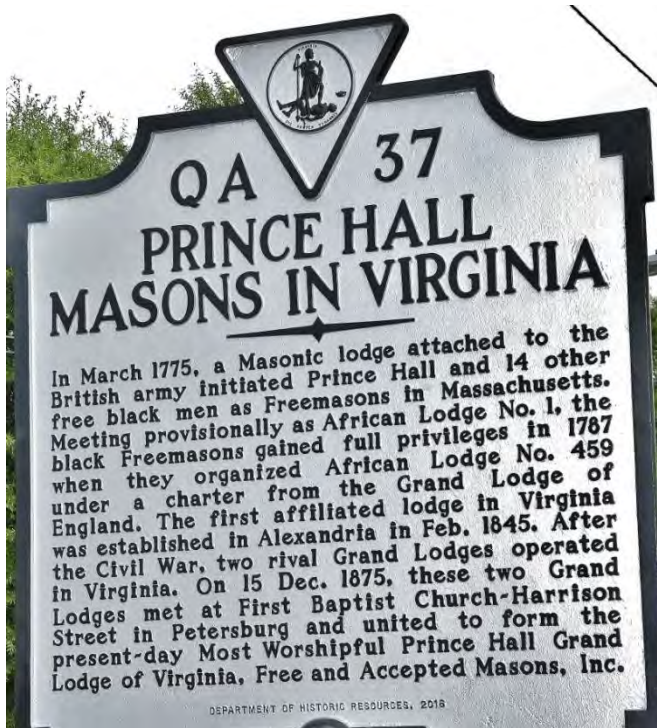
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on the twenty-second day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and sixteen.


G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress
Chairman – Congressional Black Caucus



Prince Hall Masons Unveil Historic Marker in Petersburg

Article by Mr. Scott P. Yates, Progress-Index.Com Website: <http://www.progress-index.com/news/20160716/prince-hall-masons-unveil-historic-marker-in-petersburg>



PETERSBURG — The City memorialized one more reason it is the seat of significant Virginia history on Saturday, July 16, 2016.

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia F&AM, Inc., unveiled an historical marker memorializing the formation of the organization over 140 years ago during a ceremony at First Baptist Church in Petersburg on Saturday.

Under the guidance of Master of Ceremonies Julius D. Spain, Sr., a Right Worshipful Grand Director of the Grand Lodge and member of Arlington Lodge No. 58, Arlington, Va., representatives of lodges from around Virginia gathered in the very church in which the lodge was founded in December 1875.

City representatives David R. Coleman and Councilman Darrin Hill made remarks on the significance of the Prince Hall Masons' role in fostering the wellbeing of the citizens of Petersburg.

Jim Hare, the director of Division of Survey & Register at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, also spoke about the importance of recognizing the contributions Prince Hall Masons have made to the state of Virginia. —It's always good when an organization can show where it began," said Robert E. Harris Sr., senior past grand master. —At this organization has a long, rich history."

In March 1775, a Masonic Lodge attached to the British army initiated Prince Hall and 14 other free black men as Freemasons in Massachusetts. Meeting provisionally as African Lodge No. 1, the black Freemasons gained full privileges in 1787, when they organized African Lodge No. 459 under a charter from the Grand Lodge of England.

The first affiliated lodge in Virginia was established in Alexandria in February 1845. After the Civil War, two rival Grand Lodges operated in Virginia. On December 15, 1875, these two Grand Lodges met at First Baptist Church on Harrison Street in Petersburg and they formed the organization which is the present-day Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Inc.



The 17th MD has Divine Sunday

By ADDGM Walter Davis #295

(Pictured right)

Sutherlin - On May 28, 2016 the 17th Masonic District Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons Celebrated 5th Sunday Service (Divine Worship) at Laurel Grove Baptist Church Sutherlin, Virginia. Pastor James Cabell Jr. delivered the inspirational message.



MWGM Brown Attends Zerubbabel Day

By WPM William Moore #92

(Pictured right)

Stafford – On April 24, 2016, our Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Honorable Roger C. Brown #327 celebrated Zerubbabel Day with King Cyrus Grand Chapter HRA of Virginia PHA. Most Excellent Grand High Priest Samuel L. Rivers, Jr. was present to greet him.

The event was held at the United Faith Christian Ministries at 150 Susa Drive in Stafford, Virginia.



Petersburg - On Sunday February 21, 2016 at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Petersburg, Virginia, WPADDGM Darrin L. Hill preached his initial sermon in front of a sanctuary full of anxious listeners.

During the 8am service, his sermon was titled "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize" and he used scripture from Matthew 14: 28-30 for reference. After the Deacons and congregation provided their approval the Right Reverend Hill received his license from the Pastor, Brother Dr. Robert A. Diggs Sr.



Following the service Rev. Hill and members of the local lodges enjoyed breakfast in the church's Community Life Center.

26th Masonic District has



Back to School Give-a-Way

Brother Edmonds receives 25th Year Pin

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – Brother Arthur Edmonds #7 was pinned by WPM Montgomery #7 for over 25 years service to the Grand Lodge. The ceremony included MWGM Roger C. Brown #327 who presented him with the certificate.

"Start where you are, Use what you have, Do what you can."
Arthur Ashe

King Baldwin Grand Commandery Gives BIG

By HPREGC Tommy E. Campbell JR

Petersburg – On Saturday, 26 March 2016, Right Eminent Grand Commander Ronald D. Johnson presented St Jude Children's Research Hospital as part of its annual charitable giving program. Representing St Jude Children's Hospital is Ms. Jacey Bender from the hospital's Virginia Beach office.

King Baldwin was able to make this contribution through the Grand Lodge Raffle Ticket sales. Overcoming a few glitches, the order was able to make the presentation and finally did so in March.

Brother Hill Delivers his Initial Sermon

By WADDGM Antonio Pride #43

**GWM Robin M. Brown and
PGWP Floyd Brown
Makes Special Visit to Grace
Chapter #239**

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



Triangle – On June 23, 2016, Grand Worthy Matron Robin M. Brown and Past Grand Worthy Patron Floyd Brown, Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia, Prince Hall Affiliation, made a special visit to Grace Chapter No. 239 (Article written by Worthy Matron Robin Watterson. Photo Credit: PWP Robert Hanna, Grace Chapter No. 239.)

**Pride of Fairfax Chapter #225
Volunteers at Streetlight
Community Outreach Center**

By RWGD Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58



Woodbridge – Pride of Fairfax Chapter No. 225, Order of Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliated, has been blessed with the opportunity to give back to the community by volunteering at Streetlight Community Outreach Center every 2nd Wednesday of each month. This Community service action was introduced to the chapter 2 years ago by our very own Sister Natasha Haynes, who has been instrumental in coordinating the monthly activity. Streetlight Community Outreach Center is a Christian organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for impoverished men, women and children

(including the homeless). This is achieved through their pantry service, a weekly community outreach dinner, financial aid for those in crisis and supportive housing. Streetlight Outreach Center also reaches out to teens from impoverished homes through its At-Risk Youth Program. Pride of Fairfax Chapter No. 225, happily assists the Outreach Center during their Dinner Services (which takes place directly after a church service for the Community) as well as individual clothing/shoes donations. As with Streetlight Community Outreach Center – we are **working to help build a stronger community. Matthew 6:1-4**

**St. John is Celebrated in the
17th MD**

By WADDGM Walter Davis #295



Danville – On June 12, 2016 the 17th Masonic District celebrated St. John's Day.

WDDGM David L. Wilson #104 found support from the Order of the Eastern Star in a joint celebration at Camp Grove Baptist Church in Danville.

**The 12th MD Celebrates St.
John with the 11th MD**

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33



Petersburg – Prior to the service, Brothers Leroy Dale #17, Rendell Briggs #43, and Latrell Gillespie gave the first, second, and third obligations in order to re-obligate our voids to Masonry.

The brothers then assembled to enter a public program on the first floor with family and friends. While Worshipful Associate Grand Chaplain Clarence Williams #247 acted as Master of Ceremonies, Brothers WPADDGM Rev. Darrin Hill #43, WM Terry Taylor #43, WADDGM Antonio Pride #43, WM Darrell Brown, #17, and JW John Epps III #7 conducted the program of activities.

The purpose of the program was given by WM Conrad Bradley #16.

WPM Rev. Leroy Evans #7 then delivered the address from Romans 8:38-39 with a topic of –In it, to Win It". Emphasizing that Masonry celebrates St. John twice a year, he stated that we must stop playing Masonry and start doing Masonry. After explaining what he saw and corrected, he concluded that nothing should separate us from the Word of God and we should always ask God for strength to endure.

After being introduced by WDDGM Joseph Diggs #43, MWGM Roger C. Brown #327 thanked Rev. Evans, Grand Worthy Matron Brown, WDDGM Diggs, and the attending Districts for being present. He also recognized that the brethren have to attend these events in order to support their areas.

In closing, the Grand Master thanked everyone for their attendance.

**31st MD and the District 26
OES Celebrate St. John's
Day on June 12th**

Photo by RWGD Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58



The words of Holocaust survivor Vikto Frannkl related to the Charleston, SC shooting, –Man is that being who invented the gas chambers of Auschwitz; however, he is also that being who entered those gas chambers upright, with the Lord's Prayer or the Shema Yisrael on his lips."

The Rock has 50 Years

By WM Howard Hill #167

Yorktown – Beginning his travels in Masonry in June 1965, WPM James Lee Williams was awarded his 50th Year Pin on October 12, 2015 by WDDGM John E. Amos #167.

Originally initiated at York Star Lodge #206, the esteemed Worshipful Past Master now serves at York Star-Zedekiah Lodge #167. Brother Williams became Worshipful Master at York Star Lodge #206 and has since served many positions at the lodge.

As the present tiler of York Star-Zedekiah Lodge #167, he is considered the Rock of the lodge and the entire Tidewater community.

Trinity #44 Awards Scholarships

By WM Dwight Hagans #44



Richmond – Building a better community, Trinity Lodge #44 held its Scholarship Day Sunday June 26, 2016 at Second Baptist Church 3300 Broad Rock Blvd. Through the efforts of the Grand Lodge Charity Raffle and other lodge events, the lodge was able to award Tiffany Harris and Janell Chavis \$750.00 each.

Finally, we believe we can effectively support students in their efforts to achieve a quality education in order to promote a positive community of citizens.

Continuing To Strive for Excellence

Martha Chapter No. 10, under the leadership of Athena Neblitt, Worthy Matron (2015 – 2016) proudly returned to two of our Chapter's traditional goals: Scholarship and Charitable Donations.

With apprehension and apathy vexing our environment, prompted by a decline in active membership and the continuous struggle to thrive (resulting from an aging membership), WM Neblitt chose as a theme for her administration,



Preservation of Martha Chapter: Where We've Been; Where We Are; Where We're Going. Her mission was to celebrate our past while embracing our present to move optimistically into our future.

Additionally, Martha Chapter made a charitable donation of \$250.00 to the Alzheimer's Association – Southeastern Virginia Chapter. This organization was selected by the WM to place our Chapter among those contributing to the continued advancement for a cure for Alzheimer's, as well as honor our members living with this disease. During this presentation by the WM and PM Raylin Neblitt, Chapter Secretary, Gino Colombara, Executive Director extended heartfelt thanks to all the members of Martha Chapter for being part of the solution and a champion in the fight against Alzheimer's disease.

MWGM Brown Visits Oldest Prince Hall Lodge in Commonwealth

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



MWGM Roger Brown takes photo with members of Universal Lodge

Alexandria – On Tuesday, June 14, 2016, MWGM Brown visited WM Al-Hadid Rollins and Brothers of the oldest Prince Hall lodge in our jurisdiction. Universal Lodge #1 was formed in February 1845 and remains today as a pillar our strength and unity in a divergent city comprised with over 150,000 citizens.

31st Masonic District Celebrate Divine Sunday

Photo by RWGD Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58



MWGM Brown attends Ascension Day Service

By WPM William E. Moore #92



Petersburg – Our Most Worshipful Grand Master the Honorable Roger C. Brown #327 celebrated Ascension Day Service with the Eminent Grand Commander Ronald Johnson of King Baldwin Grand Commandery, PHA York Rite Heads of Houses Sir Knight and the Order of Cyrenes at Gilfield Baptist Church in Petersburg, Virginia. Pastor Rev. Dr. George W. C. Lyons #43 conducted the service which was held on the morning of April 30, 2016.

Alleghany-Dunbar Lodge #109 has Fund Raiser

By Brother Myles Jackson #109

Roanoke - The Brothers of Alleghany-Dunbar # 109 held a "Hot Dog and Hamburger Cook-Out," as a fund-raiser for its community service project. After its quarterly "Adopt-a-Street" Clean-up project, the Brothers came together and set the grills up and started cooking. The weather was great on July 9th and it appeared that everyone in Roanoke was having some type of cook-out fund-raiser, so competition was heavy. While the profits were slim, the fellowship among the Brothers was great.

Arlington Lodge #58 Adopts-a-Highway

By RWGD Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58



Arlington – The Virginia Department of Transportation’s (VDOT) Adopt-a-Highway Program is focused on cleaning, improving and preservation of the state’s environment. After one and a half years of unwavering leadership by the former Bee Hive Club president Neville Welch, and current president Antonio Adams, criteria was met for eligibility in June 2016. VDOT recognized the efforts by erecting two signs along 2.0 miles of highway on S. Glebe Road between US 50 Arlington Blvd. and 24th Rd. S. For the next three years, Arlington Lodge #58 is responsible to schedule one of their two yearly pickups during April to coincide with “Earth Day” or in the fall to coincide with the autumn —“Day to Serve”. According to VDOT, each year nearly 17,000 Adopt-a-Highway volunteers collect more than 25,000 bags of waste along Virginia’s highways.



An Election Surprise

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Hopewell – During their annual election of officers, WM Edna Mason and the Lily of the Valley #44 OES were excited to have a surprise visitor. MWGM Roger C. Brown #327 and his Grand Pursuivant Chester W. Hazelwood, Sr. #327 were in attendance. In support of his close friend WADDGM Charles E. Shelton #307, the Grand Master came to witness the

election of the WADDGM’s wife Mayra Shelton who became Worthy Matron of the chapter.



After DDGO Magnolia Rivers conducted the elections, Worthy Patron L. J. McCoy yielded to WGP Hazelwood who conducted installation of officers.

While on the eve of his wedding anniversary, the Grand Master was not candid in expressing his pleasure in seeing an overwhelming attendance in a chapter which had struggled in the past to regain its membership.

Alleghany-Dunbar Lodge #109 Supports Back-to-School Church’s Program

By Brother Myles Jackson #109



Roanoke - The Brothers of Alleghany-Dunbar # 109 showed their support for a local community service project by supporting the High Street Baptist Church Annual Back-to-School Community Celebration. The church annually collects school supplies to give to those children that may be in need of some help in obtaining items for the school year.

This year, AD #109, selected High Street Baptist Church as a community organization to help with this great community service program. The Brothers of the Lodge, dug into their pockets, and donated over two hundred and fifty dollars’ worth of school supplies for this program.

On Sunday, August 7th, 2016, several Brothers presented this school supplies to the Back-to School Community of High Street Baptist during the Sunday Morning Service. Paper, notebooks, glue, pencils, pens, crayons, folders, and book bags were just some of the items that were bought and given to the church. The Lodge was recognized several times during the church service during the church’s power-point church announcements. Representing AD # 109 were W Past Master Roger Redd, Senior Warden Bernard, Johnson and Junior Warden Myles Jackson.

MWGM Brown Fellowships with the Royal & Select



Richmond – The LOCOP were proud to receive the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Honorable Roger C. Brown #327, to their Annual Adoniram Day Services. Along with RGTIM David L. Wilson, RGPM Arterita C. Brown, and Grand Council officers of the LOCOP, the event was held at the Fourth Baptist Church 2800 P St. Richmond, Virginia.

The message was given by Senior/Pastor & Teacher Emory Berry, Jr.

Grand Lodge Cook-Out in the West



Chase City – Fried fish and fried chicken was on everyone’s plate. And down home satisfaction was placed on the plates per MWGM Roger C. Brown.



Grand Lodge Session Agenda of Events for 2016

Monday, September 12, 2016

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

Tuesday, September 13, 2016

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

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

- 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 15, 2016

- 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 16, 2016

- 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 17, 2016

- 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 Appendant Bodies
- 10:00 a.m. Reception of Visitors from Sister Jurisdictions
- 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 Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Richmond-Midlothian 1021 Koger Center Blvd. Richmond, VA 23235



From the 109th Communication in 1984 (left to right) Past Grand Master Carl L. Wilson of Dayton, Ohio, Past Grand Master Landon H. White, (then) Senator L. Douglas Wilder, Past Grand Mast Robert G. Davis, and Past Grand Master Pitman C. Rock.

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

“Deal with yourself as an individual worthy of respect and make everyone else deal with you in the same way.”
Nikki Giovanni

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
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia,
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P.O. Box 14646
Richmond, VA 23221-4646**