



THE

# L I G H T

MAGAZINE

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'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a Future'  
- Jeremiah 29:11

# Ready to return?



410 N Harrisburg St,  
Steelton, PA 17113



4301 N Broad St,  
Phila., PA 19140

East, Central  
& West



1117 Wood St,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

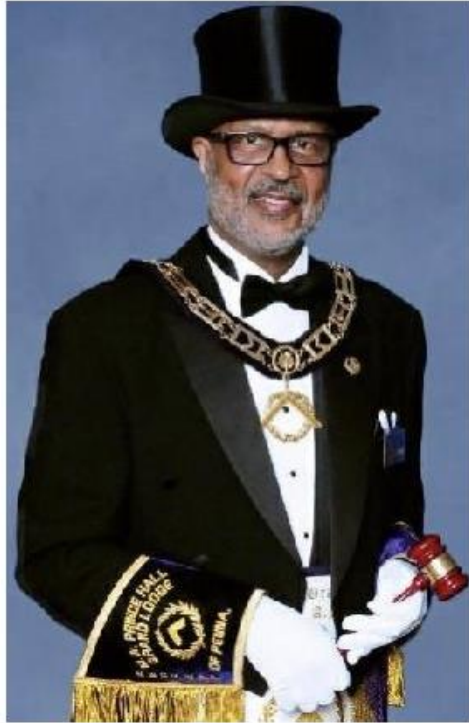


*"...how good and how pleasant it is for  
bretheren to dwell together..."*

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE F.&A.M.  
PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF ALL PRINCE HALL MASONIC BODIES OF PENNSYLVANIA

# FRATERNAL GREETINGS

From



**HONORABLE DONALD C. JONES NO. 120**

**MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER**  
**Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge**  
**Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania**

## *From The Editor*

With much respect and admiration, we would like to thank Theodore C. Mosley, Jr #74. Brother 'Ted', as he was affectionately called was raised in Philadelphia Lodge #74 in May 1994, during the administration of the late Past Master Earl F. Demby. He served his Lodge as Worshipful Master in 2000, and again in 2009.

In addition, he served as the Worshipful Editor of Light Magazine for the MWPHGL of PA for more than 15 years, when took over in 2002, achieving emeritus status in this office. He was also a member of DeMolay Consistory #1, AASR and a Grand Inspector General, 33° Mason.

Brother Ted was also a Past Worthy Patron of our Adopted Sisters, Deborah Grand Chapter, O.E.S., Inc. King Solomon Chapter #60, as well as, a Past District Lecturer. He will be sorely missed, and his contributions cannot be matched as the new committee moves forward, we will do the best job that we can.

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The goal of The Light Magazine is to highlight and share Masonry's commitment to the community. The Light Magazine is designed to showcase Masonry's initiatives and programs as well as to brand the organization as the organization of choice for civic minded men and women, also to allow the profane a glimpse of what we do in our communities and our works of charity

*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.*

*-1 Peter 5:6*



***PM Edwin F. Montoute, Jr., #138  
Editor Light Magazine***

***Jamila Robinson, PWM, #15  
Assistant Editor***

***Thomas S. Pugh, PM #138,  
Committee Member***

***Larry J. Banks, PM #138,  
Committee Member***

## Are We Ready to Return?

*Submitted by Assistant Editor, Jamila Robinson, #15*

With eyes set on a full post-pandemic reopening, we want to promote a safe return to work, leisure, and for us as a Masonic Body. We do realize many still have safety concerns brought on by the pandemic, and rightfully so. Please believe we are taking every effort to ensure everyone's safety and the necessary precautions will be taken. Rest assured that an action plan is being drafted now and will be rolled out in the coming months. However, we're going at the pace of the vaccine being rolled out to the public and the pace of the State and City at which they feel bringing back everyone will be safe. To date, the state reports it has only vaccinated roughly a third of its residents because of limited vaccine supply, despite having the capacity to vaccinate more people, it is only averaging about 5,500 people a week with current vaccine deliveries. We stay hopeful and that our return will be imminent.

We as a masonic body have pivoted well, making those adjustments that we so desperately needed, holding meetings virtually, and via conference calls, utilizing technology unlike before, and adjusting to the learning curve that many were at times unsure of. We have learned to move forward in the face of change. With this newfound ability to assimilate and utilize the new forms of communication, in many ways, has increased participation in the virtual arena, the question becomes ... "are we ready to return?"

As vaccinations are becoming more available to us, as an underserved demographic, we must try to change the narrative of "slow-walking" in making our vaccination appointments early and consider our true options of survival. It's challenging waking up to the feeling of being exhausted and needing a vacation from this pandemic; we expected that we would be able to re-enter a physical social environment and be nothing but excited. However we're finding it's a lot more complex than we anticipated. Even the face-to-face small social interactions of limited seating for meetings has become uncomfortable for some knowing the vulnerabilities of our health.



It can be easy right now to push ahead and move as quickly as we did when we started lockdown, trying to get back to the way things were. But we need to acknowledge that we're making another big transition and try to subdue our strong feelings of anxiety, and confusion and replace them with excitement, and empathy, and more compassion for one another. Many will ask do we have a plan ready. How much time will we need to adjust to this new change? Am I ready to get myself back into the groove of things? These questions do not come with readily and easy answers, however, we can face them all together sustaining our faith in God.



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

*PM Theodore C. Mosley, Jr. #74*

APRIL 23, 1953 - JANUARY 10, 2020

Our prayer: Heavenly Father thank you for the gift of human friendship and brotherly love, which is a real and tangible representation of Your love and care for us. We pray that at this hour you strengthen and be with our Brother. May he rest forever in Your loving arms.



How do you begin to honor a Giant; you can't. There are no words to fully express how important they have impacted others. There are no special adjectives to use that would encompass what an individual of this magnitude has done; nor how they have impacted so many with their time and talents.

Bro. Theodore "Ted" Mosley, Jr. was called to rest on Thursday, January 16, 2020, he was a Past Master of Philadelphia Lodge, No. 74, a Past Worthy Patron of King Solomon Chapter No. 60, Deborah Grand Chapter Order of Eastern, Star, Inc.; and a member of Pyramid Temple No. 1 A.E.A.O.N.O.M.S. of which he was part of the "1999 Herman E. Gaffney" Winter Class.

Bro. Mosley was the Grand Lodge Photographer for over 15 years for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and the Editor of The Light Magazine and Deborah News just as long if not longer. He was also known affectionally as "The Camera Man". Bro. Mosley reported verbally and visually on what was happening in and around our Order covering all the masonic houses.

There would be no "Light Magazine" without Bro. Mosley and its voice has been inadvertently silenced since his passing, but never forgotten. We hope to do him love and justice by bringing it back and making it what it once was and more. We encourage your participation and involvement by providing to us your content and submissions of charitable works, fundraising efforts giving endeavors, and gatherings. There is no news, like your news, and your news is news for the world.

# ACCEPTANCE ADDRESS OF DONALD CORINTHIAN JONES 105<sup>TH</sup> GRAND MASTER

October 12, 2020

First giving honor to the Almighty from whom all blessings flow, of which we are surely in need of at this time.

To the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Paul A. Hibner #18  
Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden, Timothy J. Cager #117  
Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden (Pro Tem),  
Elected Grand Lodge Officers Past and Present,  
Past Most Worshipful Grand Masters,  
Brethren All,

Good Afternoon,

Early in our Masonic experience we are taught to seek the aid of Deity before beginning any new undertaking. If we were in our traditional setting during a Session, my plan was to have PM William Moore from #114 come to the alter to take us to the throne of grace. Just to reflect PM Moore came into my office many years ago when I was the Asst Grand Secretary to take care of some lodge business and we bonded immediately. At that time, he said he would pray for me when I became Grand Master. I was surprised at the comment and told him that it was a prophetic statement and he didn't have to wait because everyone is always in need of prayer. He then made the same statement each time I was elevated to a new position. Bro. Moore is one of our senior members and in this Covid environment I thought it best that he remain at home and stay safe. Hopefully he'll be able to fulfill that promise in the future. In the meantime, I am asking that our Grand Chaplain Rev. Ronnie Bernard Tucker do the honors.

Prayer-

In 1982 as an eager and excited young man I knocked at the door of Freemasonry and it was closed. Seeing that I was frustrated and questioning my decision my sponsor, my father-in-law and my most ardent supporter, the Rev.

Edward F. Holley Jr. PM #120 told me not to withdraw my application and money. Being a very devout and spiritual person, he told me “The man upstairs has a plan for you, this happened for a reason,” and he was right. I was accepted the next year and was a member of the class called the Magnificent Seven which helped shape my love for Freemasonry. I was lucky to be placed in between 2 brothers, PM James F. Pierce Jr. and PM Ronald E. West Sr. Those brothers prided themselves in knowing and finding out everything they could about Freemasonry and really challenged me to keep up with them. We were dabbling in Duncan’s Ritual before getting our own Rituals. They are not here today, may they rest in peace, yet our families are still close friends. In our Masonic teachings we are taught to seek wise counsel and I didn’t have to look far for that. Within my own lodge, Sons of Light #120 were Brothers like PM’s George E. Dickerson and Robert Mannings. These gentlemen knew everything from A-Z when it came to handling a banquet or event. I learned a lot when they took me under their wings. When it came to the ritual my good friend and brother PM Robert Berkley was and is a “ritualist”. I’ve seen him perform the Funeral service for 3 different houses back to back for a deceased brother. We are also blessed to have PMWGM Lorenzo Cruger in our lodge who regardless of his rank, position or title is always there to help, aid and assist anyone at any time. We share a poignant moment every time he has assisted in regaling me at the altar. He and my Father-in-Law were classmates in 1958, so in essence he is my physical connection here on earth to my Father-in-laws spiritual connection above. He always whispers to me, “You know my classmate, your Father-in-law is looking down right now and smiling”.

Once we start our Masonic travels, we get to meet and befriend many brothers. PMWGM Melvin Alston and I connected through our Holy Royal Arch Chapter William Cooper #6. He strong armed me into becoming his Captain of the Host when I got out of the chair as Worshipful Master and we’ve been friends ever since. By the way something must be in the air in William Cooper #6 because they’ve ‘Arched’ 6 MWGM’s that we are aware of. When my friend and mentor PMWGM Charles A. Bishop found out I had some computer knowledge he suggested that I run for Asst Grand Secretary when he ran for Grand Secretary. We both were successful and I’ve been following in his footsteps ever since. If imitation is the highest form of flattery then Charles Allen Bishop, you have been duly imitated and flattered. Some of you may or



may not know that my Masonic career had an interesting journey. I went from an Elected position, to an Appointed and then Elected again. PMWGM Leonard A. Heard gave me my appointment as a WDDGM. I'll never forget his words of advice, "You have to do what I did and get yourself established as a Deputy and go from there." That's what I did and here I am now. Thank you sir. Last but not least, my love, my lady, my life, my wife, Carolyn Holley Jones. I didn't know it at the time but marrying a PM's daughter was one of the smartest decisions I made. She was familiar with and understood the time and sacrifices necessary in a Masonic career. We just celebrated 42 years of marriage in August and we look forward to many many more.

Now to the matters of this Grand Lodge. First and foremost, we just had a change of administration but the Covid-19 pandemic is still upon us. As my Pastor tells us, Covid-19 has *Infected* some of us, but it has *Affected* all of us. Our PMWGM Alston did not and neither will I as your current Grand Master put any of the craft in danger. Therefore, all meetings of all houses under this MWPHGGL of Pa. are at this time still cancelled until further notice. But that can change at any time. At the writing of this Acceptance Speech, we have already had several controlled and monitored events at the Grand Lodge Temples in the East and West, while adhering to the Pa. State CDC guidelines. We as an organization have to learn how to adapt to the situation and we're doing that now.

There are numerous areas of concern that we hope to address during this administration. The 3 main areas that I have been made aware of over the years which I will be focusing on are: Communications, Membership and Financial stability.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – When I was RWSGW I conducted a survey and found communications were one of the areas that needed to be addressed. During this Administration we plan on making it a priority. We will be using whatever technologies that are currently available. Throughout this Pandemic crisis with its everchanging scenarios, I think it is extremely important that the Craft is informed of what is going on with the Grand Lodge. I plan on making periodic updates available via 'live' and recorded broadcasts. We will also be using the Grand Lodge Website, email, voicemail and CallingPost as vehicles for communicating information.



**MEMBERSHIP** – This has been an ongoing issue not just for Prince Hall Freemasonry but for many organizations. We are not attracting or pulling from sources like we have in the past. In my discussions with brothers over the years I would ask, ‘What do you think we need to do to attract more candidates?’ I got numerous ideas and suggestions, but one response stood out that I feel hit the nail on the head. PMWGM Dr. Vernon D. Dobbs used a word that summed up everything and that is ‘**Visibility**’. We must be ‘SEEN’ in the public, in the community, doing what we do best, aiding, assisting and supporting our brothers and sisters. We must also work and partner with Community groups, reach out to local politicians, and more importantly get involved with ‘issues of concern’. We have always had the philosophy of waiting for candidates to come to us or as the term goes ‘Ask one to be one’. Instead of waiting for candidates to come to us, we have to develop ways to be more proactive and go to them. Another important aspect of membership that we must focus on is retaining and reclaiming our brothers. More information will be forthcoming.

**FINANCIAL STABILITY** – When PMWGM Leonard Heard enacted the \$100 dues structure with the COLA (Cost of Living Allotment) it helped us build a ‘firmer’ foundation. This took place in 2011 and we’ve been endeavoring to balance the budgets ever since. There are 2 methods to address your finances and they are, increasing your income or decreasing your expenses. We will be prioritizing the decreasing of expenses with an eye on finding ways to increase our income. One of the ways of decreasing the expenses is via tax relief. As part of our ongoing Restructuring program we’ve been trying to gain 501C3 status. It seems as if each new administration begins a new procedure every time a Grand Master takes office. We’re going to do it a little differently this time. For the sake of continuity, I’ve asked PMWGM Alston, and he has agreed to be the Point of Contact with the lawyer who is currently working on this project for us. He will head the Restructuring Committee and appoint those brothers who can help us achieve this goal. He has a thorough knowledge of the process and the people involved which should be advantageous for us. I will also be initiating a Grants & Scholarship committee that he will oversee.

**INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO** – Our Investments have been in a ‘cash’ only account status drawing minimal interest over the years. I’ve appointed Michael Watson, PM #74 to be the Chairman of that committee. His responsibility will

be to see if there are opportunities where we can get the maximum gain with minimum risk in this unpredictable market.

**PROPERTY REVIEW COMMITTEE** I will be appointing an Ad-Hoc Property Review committee whose sole purpose is to give us ideas and suggestions for the properties and land that we own. It will be composed of Real Estate Professionals who are experienced experts in their field. I've asked them to give an honest review and assessments of what we can and cannot do with our land and property. This committee in no way will interfere with our Restructuring program, but their findings may help us in future decision making.

**CHARITY**- My Health initiative will focus on **Prostate Cancer** Education and Awareness. I've heard many stories about brothers and their families who have been affected in one way or another by Prostate Cancer. Not long ago I attended a Webinar presented by an organization called PHEN (Prostate Health Education Network) that was started by an African-American author and cancer survivor. The mission of PHEN is to eliminate the African American prostate cancer disparity. PHEN has partnered with many organizations and churches around the country to educate men about this health issue. I've asked Bro. Donald X. Campbell, PM #129 also a cancer survivor to be my spokesperson and he will also be working with Dr. Crews #74 our Grand Lodge Medical Director. We can support this initiative as well as other charities like Sickle Cell Anemia of which our own PMWGM Malcolm E. Harris is very much involved in via Walks and other charitable related events.

**My Theme for this Administration is:**

*Prince Hall Proud -*

*Proud of our past, Proud of our Present and Proud of our Potential*

**Scripture Verse:**

'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a Future' Jeremiah 29:11

Song:

'Again I Say Rejoice' – Israel Houghton

On the day Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated, Robert Kennedy gave a speech in Indianapolis, he quoted the Greek poet Aeschylus who said:

*'Even in our sleep,  
pain which cannot forget  
falls drop by drop upon the heart  
until in our own despair, against our will comes wisdom''*

That Greek poet wrote those words over 2000 years ago and they can be applied to the situation today. Through '*suffering and despair comes wisdom*'. The *Despair* is Covid-19 and the *Wisdom* is how it has forced us to use technology to create innovative ways to move our organization forward. At a recent hearing on Covid-19, the Bucks County Health Director, stated "It's time to learn how to live with Covid-19, that we should focus on how we can do things, rather than why we can't".

Prince Hall Freemasonry is one of the oldest organizations for men of color in the world. In Pennsylvania we are over 200 years old and have survived World Wars, stock crashes, and major catastrophes. As the saying goes, 'this too shall pass', and this great and honored institution will move on.

*Proud of our Past, Proud of our Present and Proud of our Potential*

Fraternally Yours,



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Donald Corinthian Jones, PM #120  
The 105<sup>th</sup> Most Worshipful Grand Master  
and first Virtually Installed MWGM

## Introducing the Newly Elected Grand Line



*The Honorable Donald C. Jones, No. 120  
Most Worshipful Grand Master*



Paul A. Hibner #18  
R. W. Deputy Grand Master



Timothy J. Cager #117  
R. W. Senior Grand Warden



Wayne O. Tompkins #30  
R. W. Junior Grand Warden



Mike Watson #74  
R.W. Grand Treasurer



Tobin L. Adams #58  
R.W.A. Grand Treasurer



Joseph B. Jefferson #52  
R. W. Grand Secretary



Charles Carn #147  
R. W. A. Grand Secretary



Grand Trustee  
Russell Nichols #39



Grand Trustee  
Fred Jamison #143





Grand Trustee  
Arthur Edmunds #20



Grand Trustee  
Eugene Fairfax #26



Grand Trustee  
Gerald Hunley #115

**Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge  
Free and Accepted Masons, Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania**

To the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Paul A. Hibner #18  
Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden, Timothy J. Cager #117  
Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden (Pro Tem),  
Past Most Worshipful Grand Masters,  
Right Worshipful Elected Grand Lodge Officers Past and Present,  
Worshipful Appointed Grand Lodge Officers  
Worshipful Masters, Senior and Junior Wardens, Past Masters, and Brethren of  
all Lodges obedient to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and  
Accepted Masons, Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania

Greetings:

**PROCLAMATION No.1**

Pursuant to Article XIII, Section 1 of the Constitution and the Bylaws of the  
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of  
Pennsylvania and by the authority in me vested, I, Donald Corinthian Jones  
#120 Most Worshipful Grand Master of Prince Hall Mason for the Jurisdiction  
of Pennsylvania do hereby proclaim the following:

**Directive No. 1 – Meetings and Building Closure**

All Directives and Procedures by the previous Administration pertaining to the  
Coronavirus (COVID- 19) are still in effect. The Prince Hall Family being  
obedient to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted  
Masons of PA will adhere to this notice and govern themselves accordingly.

Masonic funerals will remain cancelled until further notice. Resolutions may  
still be sent to the family of the deceased and read by a member of the craft if  
present for any type of family memorial service.

Understanding that some functions, events or meetings have importance to the  
well-being and governance of our various Houses, they may be allowable only  
after approval of the Most Worshipful Grand Master and conforming to the  
local City and State CDC Covid-19 guidelines.

## Directive No. 2 - Virtual Grand Lodge Informational Seminar

On Saturday, November 14, 2020 at 9:00 am, The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge will conduct a Virtual Informational Zoom Seminar. I am requesting that the Elected and Appointed Line and Fiscal Officers, PMWGMs (Optional), Trustees (Optional), Worshipful Masters, Secretaries, W.D.D.G.M.s, W.D.L.s, Worshipful Directors & Co- Directors, Committee Chairman & Co-Chairperson be present. If the Lodge Secretary is unable to attend the lodge can replace him with either the Senior or Junior Warden. **There will be no cost for this event**, but you must register so that we can have a count for the IT Administrators. To register go to [www.princehall-pa.org](http://www.princehall-pa.org), Membersclick, Members Resources, select 2020 GL Seminar, then Online Registration.

Those persons requested to be present must register no later than Saturday, November 7, 2020. Please comply with the deadline date to ensure that all persons registering will be able to join the Zoom meeting

Those persons unable to attend will submit their name and reason for not attending in writing to the R.W.D.G.M. Paul A. Hibner, #17, at 4301 N. Broad St Philadelphia., PA 19140 or email at: paul239@hotmail.com

## Directive No. 3 - Proficiency Certificates/Masonic Diplomas

To assure the proficiency level of all Prince Hall fraternal bodies of this Jurisdiction, no Holy Royal Arch Chapter, Royal & Select Masters Council, Commandery, or Consistory will accept an initiate or confer any degree on any Master Mason, or permit the same to be done by others who are not in possession of a proficiency certificate/diploma. A Master Mason must show proficiency in all three symbolic degrees and be in good financial standing with his Subordinate Lodge and Grand Lodge for a period not less than six (6) months.

## Directive No. 4 – Conferring Symbolic Degrees

Conferring the Symbolic Degrees of freemasonry is a serious and solemn ceremony and should be performed in a manner that is impressive to the candidate and reflects credibility upon the craft. Unnecessary roughness toward candidates when conferring degrees, under no circumstances will be tolerated.

The office of the Most Worshipful Grand Master has a **ZERO TOLERANCE LEVEL** for misconduct with reference to a given brother's inward and outward demeanor always. Worshipful District Deputy Grand Masters and Worshipful District Lecturers must be present at all degrees conferred by a subordinate lodge. Worshipful Masters will be held accountable for the compliance with this directive as well as those Grand Lodge Officers mentioned.

### **Directive No. 5 – Lodge Youth Programs**

All subordinate lodges should establish a Youth Program. This program can include the Knights of Pythagoras, Adopt-A-School, Youth Educational Assistance Awards, and School Donation type programs, etc. These programs can be done by a lodge or lodges working together to achieve the desired goal via Dispensation. I am asking that those lodges who have a Youth Program make sure that they have the necessary Pa. State Child Abuse Clearance and to submit their activities in the form of a written notification to their Worshipful District Deputy Grand Masters.

### **Directive No. 6 – Holy Week/ Holiday Observance/Inclement Weather**

It is herewith directed and ordered that under no circumstances will a non-religious or social function (including meetings of any type) be sponsored or participated in by any unit of the Prince Hall Family of Pennsylvania during the following observances

Holy Week is observed from 12:01 AM Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021 through 12:00 (Midnight) Easter Sunday April 4, 2021

#### **Closure Dates for Holy Week:**

Palm Sunday - March 28, 2021

Maundy Thursday - April 1, 2021

Good Friday - April 2, 2021

Holy Saturday - April 3, 2021

Easter Sunday - April 4, 2021

All dates between Palm Sunday and Easter that are not listed means our buildings will be open and meetings permitted.

## National Holiday Observances

November 11, 2020 (Veteran's Day)

November 26 - 27, 2020 (Thanksgiving Day & Black Friday).

December 24 - 25, 2020 (Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Holiday).

December 31, 2020 -January 1, 2021 (New Year's)

January 18, 2021 (Martin Luther King Day)

February 15, 2021 (Presidents' Day)

May 9, 2021 (Mother's Day)

May 31, 2021 (Memorial Day)

June 19, 2021 (Juneteenth Day)

June 20, 2021 (Father's Day)

July 4, 2021 (Independence Day) Observed on July 5, 2021

September 6, 2021 (Labor Day)

## Inclement Weather:

During severe inclement weather conditions and for the safety of our membership either of the Masonic Complexes may be closed. This administration will follow the same precautionary measures and closings dictated by State and Local Municipalities and Public School Districts in their respective locations of the Jurisdiction.

## Directive No. 7 - Religious and Memorial Services

All Master Masons are encouraged to attend and participate in these services. All candidates for the Symbolic Degrees are mandated to attend all Religious/Memorial Services and Festive Days. They are to be dressed as Master Masons, with no aprons. Offering should not be taken at any Religious or Memorial Service of the Masonic Family. If an offering is required it will be addressed via the District Councils or Worshipful District Deputy Grand Masters that will record the collection and present it to the **"Officer of the Day"** in the assembly area. Any Religious service held at a Religious facility should have the Pastor or Presiding Officials name included on the written material identified as a program or booklet.

No service will be scheduled to begin before 3:00 pm. The assembly time will be 3:30 pm, the service will begin promptly at 4:00 pm.

## Directive No. 8 – Festive Days Observances

The following provisions will be adhered to in the observance of Masonic Festive Days in this Jurisdiction. There will be no public offering taken at any Festive Day or any other service of the Masonic Family. No Masonic functions shall be held on Festive Days by any Masonic body except by written permission of the Most Worshipful Grand Master. All requests are to be received in writing to the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary not less than 60 days prior to the date of the event. All Appointed Grand Lodge Officers must be in attendance at Festive Days unless they have a legitimate excuse.

All Festive Days will be observed on an **Area Level** and on the **Dates Listed**.

### **The areas are as follows:**

Philadelphia: First Masonic District

Eastern: Second, Third and Fourth Masonic Districts

Central: Fifth, Sixth & Ninth Masonic Districts

Western: Seventh & Eighth Masonic Districts

### **The Festive Days are:**

**Saint John the Evangelist Day:** Services will be held on **Sunday, December 20, 2020**. This occasion should be in a church. However, owing to the Christian Calendar at this time of year, it may be observed at a lodge hall or another suitable building. Worshipful District Deputy Grand Masters will be the Officers of the Day.

**Founder's Day:** This service will be held on **Sunday, February 21, 2021**.

Founders' Day Services allow us to publicly give honor and recognition to two of our organizations' founding fathers; Absalom Jones who was our first Grand Master and Richard Allen our first Grand Treasurer. The Worshipful Grand Lecturers will be the officers of the Day.

**Saint John the Baptist Day:** Services are to be held on Sunday, **June 27, 2021**. This service recognizes the life, legacy and attributes of one of our Patron Saints. The Worshipful District Deputy Grand Masters are the Officers of the Day

**Prince Hall and Americanism Day:** This Festive Day is to be held on **September 12, 2021**. This event celebrates the birthday of the founder of Prince

Hall Masonry among men of African descent. Prince Hall had a desire for us to unite as freemen with the principles upon which our government is based. Worshipful Grand Lecturers are the Officers of the Day.

### **Directive No. 9 - Proper Attire for Officers**

Unless specified in writing, the attire for Grand Lodge Officers at the **Annual** and **Mid-Year Sessions** will be **Tails**

1. All committee members may wear the usual dress.
2. Worshipful Masters and Wardens of constituent lodges may wear their station collars and aprons
3. Occasions not covered by the constitution must be by Dispensation of the Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master

Summer Dress for Grand Lodge Officers

Commencing after Memorial Day (May 31, 2021) and ending on Labor Day, (September 6, 2021) for all social functions during this administration.

The attire for Grand Lodge Officers will be **WHITE COAT, (NOT OFF-WHITE, IVORY OR EGG SHELL WHITE), BLACK PANTS, WHITE SHIRT, BLACK TIE, BLACK SOCKS AND BLACK SHOES**

### **Grand Lodge Officers who are OFFICERS OF THE DAY**

Grand Lodge Officers who are THE OFFICERS OF THE DAY will wear tails. All others Master Masons will be Masonically Dressed.

### **Masonic Funeral / Memorial Services**

The Most Worshipful Grand Master along with the Elected Line will wear **WHITE GLOVES** and **WHITE APRONS** without **COLLARS** or **LAPEL PINS**. All other Master Masons will be attired in the same manner during a Masonic Funeral / Memorial Service

**Remember to remove all electronic devices from view and All cell phones should be placed on vibrate or silenced.**



### **Directive No. 10 - Location of Constituent Lodge Affairs**

All constituent lodge affairs will be held in the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania. No dispensation will be given by the Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master for **Out of State** Jurisdictional Affairs. The only exception is by written consent of the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

### **Directive No. 11 – Protocol Manual**

The Manual on Protocol as legislated by this Grand Lodge will be adhered to and will supersede all procedural directives from any and all fraternal bodies in conflict with the same. Only by written consent from the Office of the Most Worshipful Grand Master will any provisions be temporarily set aside.

### **Directive No. 12 - Printed and Electronic Materials**

All printed and electronic materials should be submitted to the Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master for approval prior to their use for any event. Items include tickets, journals, programs, flyers, ad forms, and letters. Any printing, posting, or publishing of the aforementioned materials without proper approval from the Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master will result in materials and said program or event being denied distribution, posting and result in possible disciplinary action.

### **Directive No. 13 - Acknowledgement at Social Functions**

Acknowledgement or recognition may be made to groups or individuals however these should be accomplished in a concise and timely manner. It is suggested that during any lodge or lodge associated function, where the public is invited, the presentations of awards or certificates of appreciation shall be done in a judicious manner so that the intent of the affair will not be lost.

### **Directive No. 14 - Joint Dismissal**

When there is a Joint Dismissal, during a Festive Day, the Master Masons present will form a protective circle around the female members of the associated bodies in attendance. The female members if appropriately attired, will form an inner circle. All will join with each other by interlocking their **“little finger”**. The females will do likewise.

### Directive No. 15 - Square Clubs

Square Clubs organized by a Masonic Lodge is for the purpose of assisting said lodge in its work both charitable and otherwise by sponsoring social functions and various fundraising programs. One example is a Beef and Beverage function. Since the Square Club can have By-laws which have been approved by the brethren of said lodge and the Grand Lodge of PA the Worshipful Master is Ex Officio of the Square Club and no other Group or Name shall be formulated without due proper notification.

### Directive No. 16 – Masonic Clothing

Every member of a lodge is required to be properly clothed before **entering** a lodge. On all Masonic Occasions every member must wear dark blue or black suit, including black shoes, socks, white shirt and a solid black tie or Bow-tie only. **Only on rare occasions may the Worshipful Master allow one of his members to enter otherwise dressed such as Para-Military attire.**

### Directive No. 17– Record Books

Refer to page 53 of the Grand Lodge Constitution **Article II Section 18.**

The record books of a lodge shall consist of:

- a. Large bound journal in which to keep a record of its proceedings.
- b. The approved Ledger Account Book – Record of Membership
- c. A Bound Journal- for Lodge Bylaws and Member Signatures
- d. Book with duplicate Vouchers for payments
- e. Book with duplicate receipts
- f. Secretary’s receipt book
- g. Visitors Register
- h. An Alphabetical Register – listing for rejected applications
- i. Electronic devices are not a substitute for the official and formal record of the Lodge. Your minutes are the history of your Lodge and must be transcribed, printed out and placed in a binder.

The Journals can be purchased in R.W. Grand Asst. Secretary’s Office

## Directive No. 18 – Invitations/Letters of Request

All Invitations and/or Letters of Request should be received 60 days prior to stated event in order to allow for the proper response. Such letters must contain **the LODGE LETTER HEAD** with the **Worshipful Master's** and **Secretary's Signatures** as well as the **LODGE SEAL**

The letters should be mailed to the following address;

**Attn: Most Worshipful Grand Master**  
**Donald C. Jones #120**  
**4301 N. Broad Street Philadelphia, PA.19140**

Due to the uncertainty of the Postal system at this time you can also send a copy via email to: [DonaldCJones@princehall-pa.org](mailto:DonaldCJones@princehall-pa.org)

## Directive No. 19 – Prince Hall Family /Festive Days & Annual Sessions

The Prince Hall Family should support each other by being aware in advance, of the dates which are significant to each Grand Body, so that other functions will not be scheduled at the same time.

There will be no events scheduled within the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania during the time that a scheduled **Grand Body of the Prince Hall Family is in Session** unless permitted by the office of The Most Worshipful Grand Master.

### Sessions/Convocations/Memorial Services - 2020

M.E.G.C.- H.R.A.M. Grand Convocation October 24, 2020

M.A.G.C. – Heroines of Jericho Annual Session, October 25, 2020

Pennsylvania COD Annual Convocation, November 7-8, 2020

M.R.G.C. of Cyrene Annual Memorial Service, November 15, 2020

### 2021 Mid-Year Session

The 206th Mid-Year Session is tentatively scheduled to be held at the Crowne Plaza Reading Hotel 1741 Paper Mill Road Wyomissing, PA 19610 on **Friday, April 9, 2021** thru **Sunday, April 11, 2021**. This announcement is made to

allow sufficient time for the craft to plan accordingly and to include their family in the activities that will be planned on stated week.

This Proclamation No.1 contains a statement of policy and administrative directives and is hereby given under my hand and seal of this office on this 12th Day of October 2020 A.D. 6020 A.L. at the Grand East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Brothers of the craft having due and timely notice will take heed and govern yourselves accordingly.

Fraternally Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald C. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

---

Donald Corinthian Jones #120  
105th Most Worshipful Grand Master

**Donald C. Jones, No. 120**  
105<sup>th</sup> Most Worshipful Grand Master

**Joseph B. Jefferson, No. 52**  
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary

**Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge**  
*Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania*



*Masonic Temple*

4301 North Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19140

Phone: (267) 774-5429 / (267) 774-5334

[WWW.PRINCEHALL-PA.ORG](http://WWW.PRINCEHALL-PA.ORG)

**PROCLAMATION NO. 2**

March 1, 2021

Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, Past Most Worshipful Grand Masters, Right Worshipful Elected and Worshipful Appointed Grand Lodge Officers, Worshipful Masters, Senior / Junior Wardens and Past Masters of all Constituent Lodges Encompassing and Obedient to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania

Greetings:

Know ye by these present that **I, DONALD C. JONES, No. 120, the 105<sup>th</sup> Most Worshipful Grand Master**, pursuant to Article XII, Section 1, of the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of PA, and by the authority in me vested, I do hereby; **SUMMONS ALL ELECTED AND APPOINTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**, and officially notify the Craft, wherever assembled, to **REGISTER** and be present for the convening of the **TWO HUNDREDTH SIXTH (VIRTUAL) MID-YEAR Session** at 6:30 P.M. on **Friday, April 23, 2021** and 8:30 A.M. on Saturday, **April 24, 2021** via the:

**THE GRAND ZOOM PLATFORM**

for the purpose of reviewing the State of the Craft, transacting all business that may constitutionally and legally confront us in this Session.

## **REGISTRATION**

The fee for Registration will be **FIFTEEN (\$15.00) DOLLARS**. Brothers of the Craft will register through their respective lodges using **Form No. 2** (Lodges) or **Form No. 3** (Grand Lodge Officers). **ALL FEES MUST BE PAID BY CHECK, MONEY ORDER or via the Grand Lodges online payment process which is accessed by going to** our Website at [www.princehall-pa.org](http://www.princehall-pa.org) then going to the **Members Clicks** tab on the main page and entering your I.D. & Password then login and go to Members Resources then click appropriate Forms (**No. 2 or 3**). You will then be prompted through the various registration steps.

These forms and appropriate payment must be forwarded to the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary, Joseph B. Jefferson No. 52, at [rwgsecretary@princehall-pa.org](mailto:rwgsecretary@princehall-pa.org) on or before **Tuesday, March 30, 2021. Remember, ALL Lodge Pillars, Grand Lodge Officers, Elected and Appointed have to register as per our Constitution.** For your convenience, Registration Forms (**No. 2 & 3**) are attached.

**NOTE:** Your Registration must include your email address which will identify you when entering the Virtual Mid-Year Session. After you register, you will receive an I.D. and pass code via your email to enter each event associated with the 206<sup>th</sup> Virtual Mid-Year Session.

## **Fundraiser Charity Virtual Event**

The Ways and Means Committee of the MWP HGL of PA. will be having a Charity Event on Friday, April 23, 2021. Proceeds from this Virtual event will be earmarked for our Educational and Building Funds. If you just want to support the Charity event and not attend the Session, the cost is **\$10.00**. Details will be forthcoming.

All regularly and stated meetings of all Houses of the Masonic Family that are scheduled for **April 23, 2021 and April 24, 2021** are hereby **CANCELLED** and directions are hereby given for said Constituent and/or Subordinate Bodies to request/secure the proper **Dispensation**.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

In an attempt to maintain the attention of the attendees at all of the events of this Virtual Annual Mid-Year Session from **Friday April 23, 2021 thru Saturday April 24, 2021**, the following requirements are to be adhered to:

1. Attendees are to be in a secure environment away from non-member
2. Vehicle use restriction – no driving while attending the Virtual Mid-Year Session
3. Unless acknowledged by the chair, your microphone should be muted
4. Cell Phones should be muted or turned off
5. All uncontrolled noises of any kind should be quieted, or you will be dismissed from Session

### **MASONIC DRESS**

Black suits, black tie, white shirt, solid black socks, black shoes and aprons. **THE WEARING OF WHITE GLOVES WILL BE WAIVED DURING THIS SESSION.** All Grand Lodge Officers are to wear their Grand Lodge Collars to this **Virtual Mid-Year Session**. **NOTE:** Worshipful Masters and Wardens of all Constituent Lodges will be permitted to wear their Collars.

### **REPORTS:**

Elected Officers, Worshipful Deputy at Large, Worshipful Grand Lecturer, State Directors and Committee Chairman will submit a computer-generated report in a format readable by Microsoft Word in arial or Courier size (12) Font; *using the attached Grand Lodge stationary*, reports must be signed and for the time period



of **September 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021**. Reports are to be forwarded to the office of the Grand Master at [glsessionreports@princehall-pa.org](mailto:glsessionreports@princehall-pa.org) with a copy to the office of the R.W. Grand Secretary at [rwgsecretary@princehall-pa.org](mailto:rwgsecretary@princehall-pa.org) on or before **March 15, 2021**.

**WORSHIPFUL DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS:**

Must submit reports to the Worshipful Deputy at Large, Eric Williams No. 23 at [ewilliams08@verizon.net](mailto:ewilliams08@verizon.net) by **March 15, 2021**.

**WORSHIPFUL DISTRICT LECTURERS:**

Must submit reports to the Worshipful Grand Lecturer, Glenn T. Pembleton No. 8 at [Pembleton1@msn.com](mailto:Pembleton1@msn.com) by **March 15, 2021**.

**If you cannot attend the (Virtual) Mid-Year Session, please notify the following by March 30, 2021**

- ALL Worshipful District Deputy Grand Masters (WDDGM) must notify in writing the Worshipful Deputy-at-Large, Eric Williams, No. 23 at [ewilliams08@verizon.net](mailto:ewilliams08@verizon.net)
- ALL Worshipful District Lecturers (WDL) must notify in writing the Worshipful Grand Lecturer, Glenn T. Pembleton, No. 8 at [Pembleton1@msn.com](mailto:Pembleton1@msn.com)
- ALL other Appointed Grand Lodge Officers must send a letter to the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary, Joseph B. Jefferson (PMWGM) at [rwgsecretary@princehall-pa.org](mailto:rwgsecretary@princehall-pa.org) and R.W. Deputy Grand Master, Paul A. Hibner at [paul239@hotmail.com](mailto:paul239@hotmail.com)

**STATUS REPORT: A member of any Lodge, not in good financial standing with the Grand Lodge, will be not allowed at this Annual (Virtual) Mid-Year Session.**

**NOTE:**

- **This is an Official Summons not an option for Constituent Lodge Officers to choose not to attend, you are obligated to register and attend as per the Constitution.**

Due to the delay in the issuance of this Proclamation, the normal 3 readings is hereby waived. It is only required to be read at any meetings prior to the Session dates. This Proclamation No. 2 having been issued and proclaimed within the Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, and given under my hand and seal of office this day of March 1, 2021 A.D. 6021 A.L. at the Grand East Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, therefore Brethren of the Craft having due and timely notice will take heed and govern yourselves accordingly.

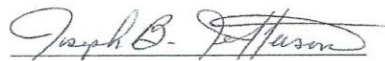
Fraternally,



Donald Corinthian Jones, No. 120  
105<sup>th</sup> Most Worshipful Grand Master



Attest:



Joseph B. Jefferson, No. 52  
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary

***Prince Hall PROUD  
PROUD of our PAST, PROUD of our PRESENT and  
PROUD of our POTENTIAL***

# **2019 Emeritus Recognition**

## **Submitted by The Light Magazine Staff**

We would like you all join in extending Congratulations to the outstanding recipients of the honorary title, Emeritus for their many years of distinguished services to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Emeritus status is an honor conferred to show respect for a distinguished career. It says, “even though you are no longer an official part of this organization, you have shown such merit that we claim you as a continuing part of our Order; we salute you.

### **First Masonic District**

Warren Montague, PM, No. 3

Worshipful Grand Marshal Emeritus

Jerry Wright, PM, No. 9

Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Emeritus

Wayne W. R. Howard, PM, No. 23

Worshipful Grand Lecturer Emeritus

James R. Wilson, II PM, No. 55

Worshipful Grand Deputy At Large Emeritus

John Cunningham, PM No. 114

Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Emeritus

### **Second Masonic District**

Edward M. Brooks, II PM, No 87

Worshipful Grand Deputy At Large Emeritus

## **Virtual Prince Hall University**

### **Class Schedule - April -August 2021**

The Prince Hall University was established to: Maintain the History of Prince Hall Masonry in Pennsylvania

Introduction to the history of Prince Hall Masonry in Pennsylvania

- Appreciate and Standardize the Ritual
- Know the laws and landmarks as presented in the Constitution
- Understand the best practices for good management
- Provide effective and knowledgeable leadership
- Introduction to computer technology

**All Prince Hall Masons** are encouraged to enroll in the Prince Hall University for \$25 per course plus a one-time \$15 registration fee due at the time of registration. Total cost: \$140

$\$25 \times 5 \text{ courses} = \$125 + \$15 \text{ registration fee} = \$140$  for all (5) five courses

**Note:** Individual courses can be taken for \$35 per course + a \$15 registration fee. Total cost \$50 for each course taken

**Classes will begin Saturday, April 17, 2021, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.**

### Historical Studies

- April 17, 2021
- April 24, 2021
- May 1, 2021

### School of Law

- May 8, 2021
- May 15, 2021
- May 22, 2021

### School of Light

- May 29, 2021
- June 5, 2021
- June 12, 2021
- • June 26, 2021

### Information Technology

- July 3, 2021
- July 10, 2021
- July 17, 2021

### School of Management

- July 24, 2021
- July 31, 2021
- August 7, 2021

**Note: Candidates must complete all (5) five courses of study to graduate from the PHU**

Please direct questions regarding the Prince Hall University to Rev. Dr. James Mitchell, Dean. [jl Mitchell2@verizon.com](mailto:jl Mitchell2@verizon.com)

To register online, log in to Memberclicks. If you go out to the Grand Lodge’s website (<http://www.princehall-pa.org/>) you will see a “MemberClicks” button in the upper left-hand corner of the page. Clicking on this button takes you to the portal to the Grand Lodge’s database for current members. Once there, click on the link for Prince Hall University, upper right-hand side of the page. In the drop-down list, that will appear, choose, Prince Hall University Courses. Scroll down towards the bottom of the page and click on the link, [ONLINE COURSE REGISTRATION](#).



*Pictured: Worshipful Deputy at Large Eric Williams No. 23, Worshipful Grand Lecture Glenn Pembleton No. 8, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Donald C. Jones No. 120, Most Worshipful Grand Master Melvin A. Alston, Sr. No 9, Rev. Dr. James L. Mitchell No. 45, Dean of the Prince Hall University, and Senior Steward Raymond Lyons No. 138. Picture from March of 2020.*



## Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge *Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania*

*Masonic Temple*  
4301 North Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19140  
Phone: (267) 774-5263 / (267) 774-5334  
[WWW.PRINCEHALL-PA.ORG](http://WWW.PRINCEHALL-PA.ORG)

# Brotherly Love Matters

## Am I My Brother's Keeper? Yes, I Am!!!

Let us talk about something important to us all, especially for men!



### Prostate Health



Join **Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Pa** and **Prostate Health Education Network (PHEN)** for this program on men's health. Learn about the importance of your prostate, how to recognize a prostate problem before it becomes one and the options to address the health of your prostate. While this program is focused on men's health, it is open to all.

When: **Thursday, 06/17/2021**

Time: **7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

Where: <https://zoom.us/j/98894428229>

Meeting ID: 988 9442 8229

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,98894428229# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,98894428229# US (New York)

For more information:

**PM Donald X Campbell, #129**                      **215.327.9951**

**PM James D Marshall, #9**                      **888-246-8280**

**PM Michael Roepel, #45**                      **215-292-5503**

[prostatehealth@princehall-pa.org](mailto:prostatehealth@princehall-pa.org)

# Temple Clean Up! – Earth Day

## Submitted by The Light Magazine Staff



*Most Worshipful Grand Master  
Donald C. Jones, #120*

During April, the world recognizes National **Clean-Up Day** and **Earth Day**. This is a time for many organizations to network with grassroots organizations and with community members to **clean up** green spaces, urban landscapes, and waterways across the U.S. With opportunities to spread the action to those near and far.

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge is not too far behind on Saturday, April 24, 2021, at 10:00 am the Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge along with the Brothers & Sisters of all the masonic house will meet at the Masonic Complex 4301 N. Brad Street. Phila., PA (East), 1117 Wood Street, Pittsburgh, PA (West) and 410 N. Harrisburg St, Steelton, PA (Central) to clean up the areas surrounding our temples in addition to the grounds themselves. Supplies will be provided by those respective Cities mentioned and we look forward to you all joining us for this event.



*Earth Day Emblem design by  
Damien Manley, #138.*



*Some of the supplies that were waiting for the  
volunteers.*

# In Loving Memory

## Submitted by The Light Magazine Staff

During the passing of a loved one, many of us are not ready for their departure. No matter the circumstance, you are not fully prepared to lose that physical connection. They are at times snatched without warning from us, and other times we know the end is near, but we do not want them to leave. The bonds and ties that have held you together for so long are abruptly cut, and you are left feeling alone and without. How do you fill that void? That space, that absence.

We as an Order know all too well the feelings of losing one of great importance and significance and one who was dearly loved and admired. We not only experience the great accomplishments with them but also feel the great loss of their departure. There is no replacement, nor filler. However, we can be comforted in knowing they are with “HIM” that knows no pain or sorrow and they’re always walking with us.

This has been a brutal year on many counts—a year of incredible loss and disproportionate suffering. As we look forward to a sunnier future, we’re taking a moment to commemorate the lives of those Brethren we lost. This is not a comprehensive tribute—this year, more than most, an all-encompassing list would have been impossible—but rather a brief but heartfelt reminiscence of those figures who held meaning to our lives. We salute them with our love, our words, and our fond memories of them, may they continue to rest in peace.

### 1<sup>st</sup> District

- Bro. Edward L. Miles, Olive Branch, No. 8
- Bro. James H. Sanders, Olive Branch, No. 8
- Bro. Robert Wright, Prudence No. 11
- Bro. Charles Hammond, Prudence No. 11
- Bro. Ronald Thomas, Temple No. 22
- PM Leon Jones, Bethel No. 47
- PM Floyd J. Lewis, Bethel No. 47



- Bro. Richard Fleming, Bethel No. 47
- Bro. Leon Johnson, Bethel No. 47
- Bro. Herbert Riley, Bethel No. 47
- Bro. Rev, Dr. Sidney Jefferson, Bethel No. 47

### 2<sup>nd</sup> District

- PM, Joseph Felder, Rose of Sharon, No. 39
- Bro. George Williams Jr, Franklin, No. 58
- PM, Frank Lee, Linwood, No. 87

### 5<sup>th</sup> District

- Bro. Carl M. Johnson Sr. Paxton, No. 16

### 7<sup>th</sup> District

- PM Meredith E. Willis



"Isn't it strange  
 That princes and kings,  
 And clowns that caper  
 In sawdust rings,  
 And common people  
 Like you and me  
 Are builders for eternity?  
 Each is given a bag of tools,  
 A shapeless mass, A book of rules;  
 And each must make —  
 Ere life is flown —  
 A stumbling block  
 Or a stepping stone."

***"A Bag of Tools"***  
*by*  
*R.L. Sharpe*

# Sealed with a Kiss

Kyle R. Benson, PM Tyree No. 147

My brothers my contribution to light in masonry is entitled, sealed with a kiss. All of us in our varying masonic travels have heard, “you will detach your hands and KISS the holy bible.” This was done after you took a solemn oath and obligation. The OB’s you took you did so without any hesitation, mental reservation or self-evasion. Masonry required you to take them in order to bind you strongly to the brotherhood of the craft. You should remember the word BINDING, as in binding myself under no less penalty. Then you said, “so help me God.” By saying that you asked God to help you maintain the OB you just swore to by the power of His might. You called on Him to give you the strength to fulfill the oath and obligation, knowing that you, a flawed human being need His awesome help to do so. But that wasn’t enough. You then heard, “in token of your sincerity you will detach your hands and kiss the holy bible.” In token of your sincerity kiss the holy bible. What does that mean? Well let’s look at the meaning of a kiss.

A kiss by definition transmits affection, support and complicity. Complicity in a relationship (in this case you and masonry) means that an individual takes full ownership of their contribution and responsibility to the wellbeing of the union. A union between two people or an individual to a sacred bond. When a man and woman marry the minister, presiding calls on the man to kiss his bride. This is to solidify the vows taken by the individuals and is their way of indicating that they are going to do their part in fulfilling those vows.

Harry S. Truman, the 33rd President of the United States of America and imminent mason and Past Grand Master of the jurisdiction of Missouri was a man who took masonry seriously. He was initiated in 1909 into Belton Lodge and was instrumental in helping to establish a new lodge called Grandview lodge in 1911 and became its Worshipful Master. And yes, that was 2 years after his initiation. Truman, when he took his oath as a senator in Missouri and as president he did so with his hand on the holy bible. Now I’m going to go out on a limb and say that most of us have witnessed the swearing in of a politician. But while out on that same limb I would say that most, if not all of

us have NOT seen that politician or politicians KISS the holy bible afterwards. Truman did, every time. He took the oaths seriously and then sealed them with a kiss. By doing so he took responsibility for his part in fulfilling the obligation. This man, whose affiliations other than masonry included the Sons of Confederate Veterans and almost the KKK in 1948 as President signed Executive Order 9981 establishing the Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services, thereby committing the government to integrating the segregated military. Whatever his feelings may have been toward people of other races his obligation to the oath he took to the American people, ALL American people was made more binding after he sealed it with a kiss. My brothers, Romans 10:9 KJV says “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” So, I therefore conclude with this, you were asked where you were first prepared to be a mason. You then took an oath and obligation, asked God to grant you the power to fulfill it and then detached your hands and sealed it with a kiss. By doing so you became complicit in upholding that which you spoke with your mouth and believed in your heart.

I charge you my brothers to reread ALL your OB’s where you said things like furthermore, I do promise and swear and recall how you then, sealed them with a KISS.

God bless you.



# Community Relations East Clean Up

Submitted by PM, Frontis Cue Jr., #137

As a member of (Community Relations East) of the MWPHGL of Philadelphia under the Leadership of State Director James Marshal, we decided to clean up the surrounding area of Prince Hall Elementary School. It's the only school in the World named after our Founder! This began on January 19th, across the street directly in front of the main entrance. This was a site for poor eyes! With the assistance of Brother M. Brown SW out of #147, MM Kalfli Graham out #137 and MM Kevin Braxton out #151 we got the job done on two occasions! March 21 we were there again! We are Prince Hall Proud!



For some time now we have been looking for a way to move towards a more technology-friendly



environment in the Grand Lodge. At the same time, that we are making these advancements, we are doing so without violating or breaking our constitution. Over the past number of years the Grand Lodge has put together an IT team to move us forward. Their first major project is with the MemberClicks web solution.

If you go out to the Grand Lodge's website ([www.princehall-pa.org/](http://www.princehall-pa.org/)) you will see a "MemberClicks" button in the upper left-hand corner of the page. Clicking on this button takes you to the portal to the Grand Lodge's database for current members.

## MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF PA

MWGM Donald C. Jones No. 120



Username

Password

[Retrieve Username](#) | [Reset Password](#)

Keep me logged in

### Quick Links

- [GL History Book](#)
- [Grand Master Address](#)
- [Directive No.20 Reclamation](#)
- [Directive No.22 Building Closed](#)
- [Directive No.23 Building Grant Fund](#)

### Upcoming Events

No events:

**\*\*Click the image to the left to go to the login screen. \*\***



Don't have login details? Don't worry! To request your user id and password just click on the "Retrieve Username" or "Reset Password?" links. On the subsequent screen enter your email address and your details will be emailed to you. If you do not receive your information, please contact your secretary. You can also send an email to the IT Team: [ithelpdesk@princehall-pa.org](mailto:ithelpdesk@princehall-pa.org) or [itsupport@princehall-pa.org](mailto:itsupport@princehall-pa.org).

With the web solution in place brothers now have a single repository for looking up brother's addresses, contact information, lodge affiliations, etc.

Within MemberClicks you can send broadcast emails to all of the members. This is a great idea for communicating events to other lodges. As well as having a single point where you can send out emails to all of the members of your lodge.

Not to mention all Grand Lodge forms will be stored out on this system for easier access to the craft.

There is a community bulletin board and a forum where you can post questions to other brothers in addition to promoting events or enlisting support.

There is a calendar within the system that lists all Grand Lodge dates for meetings, events, festive days, etc.

Please note, that some of the features described here are only accessible by the secretary of the lodge. This is a phenomenal tool for keeping track of membership details for the individual lodges and the Grand Lodge. All lodge secretaries will be able to print lodge rosters, mailing labels, directories, and more from one source.

Eventually, all Grand Lodge tax bills will be generated based on the number of members listed against each lodge within this database.







## Brother SPOTLIGHT

# NICK KAMAU, ESQ

Court of Common Pleas Judicial Candidate

A candid interview with Nick Kamau out of Bethel No. 47.

On a lazy Saturday afternoon, where I can hear the kids outside playing, my new neighbors moving in across the street, and the faint sounds of my dog snoring in the background, it created the perfect backdrop to have a candid conversation with a fellow brother of the craft. With all of us living in midst of a pandemic, what would have been two brothers grabbing a couple of seats, at a local eatery, has been reduced to, the new normal, “a zoom call.”

Having spoken to Nick, on one of the many other Zoom calls, I wanted to get some insight from him. Personally, this is a great opportunity for me, to speak with Nick, who happens to be running for judge on the Court of Common Pleas, in Philadelphia. A great opportunity as I currently sit on the planning commission of my township and have set a five-year window for myself to run for a county commissioner’s seat. After sharing my aspirations Nick shared the following, “You are a brand, you are a product. Your consumers are the voters.” Great insight as I had never thought of it in such a manner. “Brand recognition within a short amount of time,” is the key in securing your position with the voters and ultimately winning any race. I also gained from Nick the idea of getting in and running, even when you’re not ready, as the best experience to prepare you for the job. I like the idea of what I call, ‘trial by fire,’ and adopting the branding of yourself concept.

Now that I have unapologetically, procured some free political consulting, let's talk more about the brother Nick Kamau. Just 3 years young in the order and when I asked about his reasons for joining the order, I was pleasantly surprised with his response. Nick is a 15-year member of Mother Bethel AME Church. One day, he saw the square and compass in the stained-glass window and the legacy of that image piqued his interest. From there he took the time to learn more about Richard Allen and how great of a leader, founder, mason and man that he was. This newly acquired knowledge eventually lead him to Bethel #47. After being raised Nick was looking forward to traveling the several houses of the order, but then the pandemic struck. Being a God-fearing man, Nick figured that it was a good

*"Always be a  
salesman; make  
sure your value  
is known!"*



The above image of a set of stained glassed windows at Mother Bethel AME Church. The Square and Compass are seen at the bottom of the first panel of windows, on the left.

thing, because he knew he wouldn't have been able to commit himself if he was running for a public office.

Nick has been in Philly for the past 29 years, but he grew up in Denver and then moved to Maryland for about 10 years. He has an 11-year-old son and a 7-year-old daughter who are excited and have been helping him with his campaign efforts. They have been helping with handing out literature as well as assisting with the social media blitz to get the word out. "It is empowering (for a child) seeing a parent looking to do something more." "Having a vision and helping to work towards it." The support from home has been great as well as the support from his brothers of Bethel #47. Nick



commented that, “It’s encouraging to see that,” “the whole idea of supporting each other’s endeavors and aspirations.” We both share the same opinion that back in the day we supported each other more. The idea that you could go to a meeting and see politicians, business owners, businessmen, and prominent community figures. Some of if not most, were able to strive and achieve their high higher status from the support of their brothers. Something that is not as prevalent in today’s Masonic environment.

As our call progressed it was funny how similar the two of are. As mentioned earlier, we have both been on several Zoom calls, but we’ve never taken the opportunity to just sit and talk amongst ourselves. Seems that we are both introverts by nature. Which may not seem like the case, but yes, we are! We both agree that fundamentally that everything isn’t about the individual, although the individual is an important piece of the puzzle. In the sense that the organization doesn’t revolve around individual brothers, but as a collective we are very important in keeping the organization functioning. As some strive to advanced degrees and functions they forget, from whence they came, and try to dictate without input from the brothers who helped to get them there. Which ties in directly with the sense of humility. We both have very strong feelings about having humility, especially as you travel the several stations within Masonry. It is great to be the one in charge but having a sense of humility will make people gravitate to you and want to work with you, as we all have once come from humble beginnings. Finally, we are of one mind about building and gaining trust. We believe that people want to know who you are before they are willing to trust in you. Once you have gained their trust, then they will support you and look forward to following your lead.

Nick is a brother that believes in equity, believes in taking responsibility for one’s actions and truly believes that experience plays a big part in how we live our day to day lives as well as working in our professional lives.

# Prince Hall School – Answering the Call!

## Submitted by The Light Magazine Staff

As the only school, in the United States, named after our founder, it becomes our duty and honor to support them when necessary. This past year, the principal, Mrs. Donna Ragsdale reached out to us as the children were in need and we stepped up. In light of our efforts we can do more and should do more to ensure that they aren't in these type of situations in the future...

Donald C. Jones, No. 120  
105<sup>th</sup> Most Worshipful Grand Master

Joseph B. Jefferson, No. 52  
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary



### Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge

Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania

Masonic Temple  
4301 North Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19140  
Phone: (267) 774-5263 / (267) 774-5334  
[WWW.PRINCEHALL-PA.ORG](http://WWW.PRINCEHALL-PA.ORG)

December 8, 2020

**To the Heads of Houses, Brothers and Sisters of the Prince Hall Family,**

Greetings,

The First Masonic District has been approached by the Prince Hall School on a matter of importance (*see attached correspondence*).

We are all aware that these are very difficult and demanding times for not only the Prince Hall Family but also all families in general. I am appealing to you not only as a member of the Craft but as a concerned citizen and parent to participate in this fundraiser. We want our children to be able to compete in this highly challenging environment and not be left behind when this **COVID** crisis subsides. This is our chance to stand up and be counted. You can do this by contributing to this fundraiser with at least a minimum contribution of \$5.00.

Prince Hall School is the only school in the country named after our founder and is the adopted School of this MWPHGL of PA. I do not have to tell you the importance of education. It is very personal with me. My wife is a retired Educator, two of my daughters are current Educators working in the Philadelphia School System dealing with the current virtual online environment, and they are aware of the challenges. Darryldawson01@gmail.com

Let us **step up, stand out,** and be **Prince Hall Proud.** By the way, my *CashApp* contribution of \$100 is already in the books.

I thank you in advance for your support. Continue to stay safe and stay healthy.

Fraternally,

Donald Corinthian Jones, No. 120  
105<sup>th</sup> Most Worshipful Grand Master



Attest:

Joseph B. Jefferson, No. 52  
Right Worshipful Grand Secretary



Prince Hall was an American Revolutionist, Abolitionist, Businessman, Minister, and Educator. He was instrumental in the initiation of the establishment of one of the first public schools for Blacks of Boston in 1798 at No. 8 Smith Court, where the first Black church in Boston was located. He also organized the first Black Masonic group and is given the title of FATHER OF THE FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS. **Prince Hall School is the**

**only school in the United States named after this great gentleman.**

Prince Hall School is located in the West Oak Lane section of Philadelphia. Prince Hall opened in 1973. Originally the school was to be named the West Oak Lane School. The community, Mrs. Virginia Lee, Past Matron of Henry R. Shockley Chapter No. 68 Order of Eastern Star, Deborah Grand Chapter [PHA.PA](#) (1st President of the Home and School), and Past Grand Master Howard A. Accooe, Past Master of Tuscan Morning Star Lodge No.48 PHA, PA petitioned the School Board of Philadelphia to name the school PRINCE HALL. Prince Hall School's mascot is the "Wise Owl" and our colors are Sky Blue and Grass Green which accounts for the school's motto: **"THE BEST BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH."**

### **Our Mission**

At Prince Hall School, our mission is to develop students intellectually, socially, and emotionally so that they become life-long learners and productive citizens of the world.

### **Our Vision**

"Our vision at Prince Hall is for 100% of our students to be college and career ready, demonstrate leadership skills, and continue their commitment to academic excellence and community service within the school and the global community."

### **PRINCE HALL PLEDGE**

I do promise to accept and follow the ideals of The Prince Hall School.

P Promptness each day!

R Respect for teachers and one another!

I Improvement in school achievement!

N Neat in appearance, uniform, and work!

C Conscientious!

E Enthusiastic, efficient in all I do!

H Helpful to those around me!

A Ambitious and eager for success!

L Leadership having the strength to guide others!

L Loyal to school, family, and friends!

"These I Do Promise."



*Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald C. Jones, # 120, and Darryl Dawson, # 12, President of the First Masonic District are holding a check for \$4,000 to cover the cost of 500 headsets, for the students of the Prince Hall School.*

*Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald C. Jones, # 120, and Mrs. Donna Ragsdale, Principal of the Prince Hall School, displaying one of the purchased headsets.*



## **Investment into the Future**

### **Submitted by Jason Brown, PM No. 43**



*Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald C. Jones, # 120, PM Jason Brown, #43, Jessica Brown, and PMWGM Malcolm E. Harris, # 58*

Greetings Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald C. Jones, No. 120 and PMWGM Malcolm E. Harris, No. 58

I wanted to provide you with an update regarding an investment the Grand Lodge made in my daughter a few years ago. She was one of several bright students to be awarded money towards their education. Jessica made the Dean's List again in the Fall Semester of 2020 (during a pandemic), while working two on-campus positions and will graduate in May with honors.

As of March 22, 2021, Jessica, will be returning to Shippensburg University to pursue a master's degree in Organizational Leadership and Development. She has also accepted the position of Resident Director which will provide her with a cost-effective way to pay for her studies. On behalf of my family, thank you for what you have done for Jessica and numerous other students in pursuit of higher education.

## **Honoring Our Heritage**

### **Submitted by Jason Brown, PM No. 43**

On October 3, 2020, Worshipful Master of Chosen Friends Lodge #43 was installed. We are so very fortunate to have his leadership to help us navigate this historic time. Since 1866, Chosen Friends and the brothers have been an integral part of the fabric of the city of Harrisburg.





*Left to right (WM Robert Gadsden, #43, PM Jason Brown, #43)*

As the Immediate Past Master, I had the pleasure of placing the Worshipful Master pin on the lapel of WM Gadsden, assisted by Past Master Tommy L. Long Jr., in front of the newest monument in Harrisburg named “A Gathering at The Crossroads” on the same day. The monument pays tribute to the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Amendments, allowing black men and all women the right to vote.

The structure includes the names of 100 influential residents of the Old Eighth Ward surrounded by 4 life-sized bronze statues representing legendary Pennsylvania orators who visited or resided in Harrisburg in the late 1800s. They are civil rights activist William Howard Day, Harrisburg native, journalist and lawyer Thomas Morris Chester, abolitionist and suffragist Francis Ellen Walker Harper, and musician and restaurateur Jacob T. Compton.

Jacob T. Compton was the 1<sup>st</sup> Worshipful Master of the lodge back in 1866. On the day of WM Gadsden’s installation, his statue was not in place. However, on November 16<sup>th</sup>, the final two statues were delivered, and the monument was completed. To celebrate this day, there was a ceremony open to the public with speakers including the historical committee, the Mayor of Harrisburg, WM Gadsden, and the Grand Historian for Prince Hall Masons in Pennsylvania Felix Gardenhire #74.



*Left to right (Grand Historian Felix Gardenhire #74, Worshipful Master Robert Gadsden #43)*

This beautiful structure also includes 25 names of Prince Hall Masons, many from Chosen Friends Lodge, 3 of which are Past Most Worshipful Grand Masters for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. They are:

John W. Simpson (1891)  
James Grant (1908-1909)  
John P. Scott (1914-1915)

More information regarding the monument can be found at the following link <http://monumentpaus.com/>

Matthew 22:14

“For many are called, but few are CHOSEN”

## **Wilson L. Underwood Lodge #100 – Celebrates 100 Years**

**Submitted by. PM LeRoy Mickens, II # 100  
Worshipful Grand Orator of the East**

Wilson L. Underwood No. 100 celebrated 100 years of Blessings. The humble beginning of Wilson L. Underwood Lodge, No. 100 began with the issuing of a charter from the most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 1920, and of Masonry A.L. 5920 in Morton Pennsylvania by, then Most Worshipful Grand Master Andrew S. Coles and William H. Miller, Right Worshipful Grand Secretary.

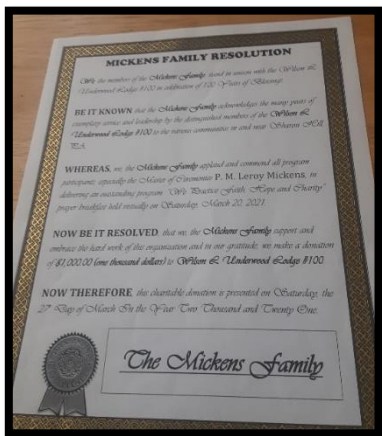
The said warrant was granted to our humble founders with then appointed Bro. Thomas H. Burnett W.M., Bro. Arthur Cooper S.W. and Bro. Joseph Quintin J.W. and so the seed was sown, and the fruits of the vineyard carried on. The lodge was unable to celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary on December 13, 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. W.M. Henry Jackson

appointed P.M. Leroy Mickens II as Chairman of the 100<sup>th</sup> year black-tie lodge celebration.

Although the event was put on hold due to COVID-19, chairman P.M. Mickens decided to have a 100<sup>th</sup> keepsake Souvenir Journal published with the 100 years of history of the lodge and pictures of all the deceased P.M. The Journal was 156-pages with Ads, Pictures, and 100 years of history of the lodge. Chairman P.M. Mickens insisted there be a celebration of some kind on Dec. 13, 2020; so several Brothers of the lodge attended Church Services at Felton Street Fellowship Baptist Church, 627 S. Felton St. Phila, PA 19143, to thank God for 100 years of blessing the lodge and the Brethren.

Fulton St. Fellowship Baptist Church is the church home of Chairman P.M. Mickens. God still blessed the lodge to celebrate in a different fashion so W.M. Jerry A. Fulton Jr. advised chairman Mickens on September 3, 2020 to continue the celebration with the proper adjustments. We pray to God that he will allow the lodge to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in grand style with a banquet on Dec.11, 2021 and a church service Dec.12, 2021 and we stay ever hopeful this will happen.

A Copy of the Keepsake Journal was presented to M.W.G.M. Donald C. Jones, No. 20. In addition, a copy was also placed in the grand lodge museum library. The keepsake souvenir journal was the only souvenir journal published for blue lodges in the jurisdiction due to the COVID-19; and the first and only journal in the year of 2020 to have a picture of our newly installed, The Honorable 105<sup>th</sup> M.W.G.M. Donald Corinthian Jones, No. 120, in full regalia.



*Mickens Family Resolution*

Bro. Mickens was honored to be asked by the M.W.G.M. Donald C. Jones No.120 to open and close the 206th Annual Mid-Year session on Zoom, April 24, 2021 under the leadership of W.M. Jerry A. Fulton Jr. No. 100 there



were (19) members of the lodge in attendance. . It's not the Dog in the fight, It's the fight in the Dog

The lodge continued to celebrate with a Zoom prayer breakfast held on March 20, 2021, with P.M.W.G.M. Murphy J. Keller III No. 20, P.M.W.G.M. Malcom E. Harris, No. 58, W.D.D.G.M, Claude Clements No. 39, W.D.L Quinton Brown No. 142, W.D.L. Herman Hall, No. 45,

W.G.C. WM. Rocky Brown, 3<sup>rd</sup>,



*Picture taken December 7th, 2019.*

*Current lodge officers in this picture as of September 3rd, 2020.*

*Front Row L-R W.M. Jerry A. Fulton Jr., P.M. Henry Jackson, P.M. Leroy Mickens II, W.G.O.E., S.W. Charles McCoy, Back Row L-R Robert Ramos S. D. Bro.*

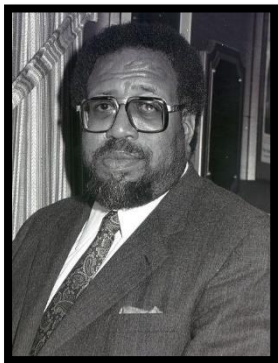
*Brandon Brown, P.M. David E. Francis, Treasurer. J.D. Biyi Oyefule, P.M. Chester Blair, Secretary. Bro. Brent Tucker, Chaplain. Bro. John R. Kortue.*

No. 58 and P.M. Lloyd Hudson, No. 58 and all the worshipful masters of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Masonic District. They all Zoomed in, the stage was set and Rev. Malcolm E. Harris, No. 58 preached the word; P.M. Lloyd Hudson, No. 58 delivered the invocation and table blessings.

The late Marvin Gaye sang the Star-Spangled Banner, we were blessed to have 86 participants on the Zoom, including 30 members of the Mickens Family as well as other members of the Prince Hall Family. The Mickens Family who participated on the program also donated \$1,000.00 towards the pray breakfast charity fund, in all the lodge was blessed to be able to raise a total of \$2,000.00 towards this endeavor; Won't God Do It!

# Do You Remember this Brother?

## Submitted by The Light Magazine Staff



*David P. Richardson, Jr., #11*

Bro. David P. Richardson, Jr. was a Pennsylvania State Representative who turned his youth work against gang violence into a political career as a champion for black causes, he passed in August of 1995 while still a serving member of the Pennsylvania House.

Prior to his political career he was employed as an anesthesiologist's aide at Mercy Douglas Hospital from 1965 to 1966, he then worked as an insurance agent for the Provident Home Insurance Company from 1966 to 1968 before becoming a recreation specialist with The Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation, a position he held from

1968 to 1969. He then became an increasingly visible public figure in his capacity as executive director of the Greater Germantown Youth Corporation from 1968 to 1972.

He represented his neighborhood of Germantown, in the 201<sup>st</sup> District in the House, where he was the fourth-ranking Democrat and most senior black member. When he was first elected in 1972, at the age of 24, he was the youngest representative in Pennsylvania history at that time, he went on to be re-elected 12 times thereafter. During his tenure, he was appointed to the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts in 1981 and continued to serve in that capacity until 1995.

Among those mentored by Richardson during his time in the house was Donna Reed Miller. He was also a member of Prudence Lodge No. 11.



# The Prince Hall Family Celebrates National Freedom Day, A Local Legacy

*(Reprinted from the Spring 2010 Issue of the Light)*



*Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald C. Jones, # 120, and Past Most Worshipful Grand Master Lorenzo Cruger.*

## **What holiday is celebrated on February 1<sup>st</sup>?**

It's National Freedom Day. The purpose of this holiday is to promote good feelings, harmony, and equal opportunity among all citizens and to remember that the United States is a nation dedicated to the ideal of freedom.

Major Richard Robert Wright Sr., a former slave, fought to have a day when freedom for all Americans is celebrated. When Wright got his freedom, he went on to become a successful businessman and community leader in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Major Wright chose February 1<sup>st</sup> as National Freedom Day because it was the day in 1865 that President Lincoln signed the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution.

## **Do you know what the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment did?**

The amendment, an important change to our written law, outlawed slavery in the United States. Wright gathered national and local leaders together to write a bill declaring February 1<sup>st</sup> "National Freedom Day" and President Harry Truman signed the bill in 1948 making it official.

On February 1, 1941, Major Wright invited national and local leaders to meet in Philadelphia to formulate plans to set aside February 1st each year to memorialize the signing of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution by President Lincoln on February 1, 1865. One year after Wright's death in 1947, a bill passed both U.S. Houses of Congress, making February 1<sup>st</sup> National



Freedom Day, and was signed into law on June 30, 1948. In subsequent years, forty governors and all mayors of Philadelphia have issued proclamations, designating February 1<sup>st</sup> as National Freedom Day in their respective states and cities. The purpose of the annual observations is to promote goodwill, harmony, and equal opportunity among all citizens, and to rededicate the nation to the ideal of freedom.

National Freedom Day – February 1

## **NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY**



The first commemoration of a National Freedom Day took place on February 1, 1942, when a tradition of laying a wreath at the Liberty Bell also began. President Harry Truman signed a bill on June 30, 1948 which proclaimed February 1<sup>st</sup> as the first official National Freedom Day in the United States.

# COVID-19 Information Concerning Veterans

## Submitted by the Veteran's Affairs Committee

### VHA speeds vaccines to enrolled Veterans, preparing for expansion to all Veterans and spouses

- As more vaccine becomes available, VAMC facilities continue to expand the priority lists for Veterans and caregivers, with some inviting [enrolled Veterans of all age groups](#) to their immunization clinics.
- VA's efforts to vaccinate as many Veterans as possible have included [flying vaccines to rural Veterans](#) and offering COVID-19 vaccinations to [designated family caregivers](#) of Veterans. VA is also participating in [vaccine clinical trials](#) and working to [encourage minority Veterans](#) to receive the vaccine.
- President Biden is likely to sign the [SAVE LIVES Act](#) this week, which will expand VA's legal authority to provide COVID-19 vaccines to all Veterans as defined in the new legislation, regardless of their VA health care enrollment status, as well as Veteran spouses, certain caregivers and some beneficiaries. VHA is ramping up to meet the greater operational and communications challenges for this expansion, which will depend greatly on vaccine availability.

### Coronavirus FAQs: What Veterans need to know

Our call centers and some VA health facilities are currently experiencing very high numbers of calls. To help us address the most urgent needs first, we ask that you use our online tools and frequently asked questions (FAQs) for routine or non-urgent questions. We'll continue to update this page as the situation changes.

### On this page

- [Visit the CDC for general coronavirus questions](#)
- [Coronavirus-specific concerns](#)
- [COVID-19 testing at VA](#)

- [Health care, appointments, and more](#)
- [Benefit payments, claims, claim exams, and other services](#)
- [Debt, copays, appeals, and other financial concerns](#)
- [Status of VA national cemeteries and burials](#)
- [Helpful online tools](#)
- [More information](#)

## **VA coronavirus chatbot**

You can also use our VA coronavirus chatbot to get answers to your questions.

[Go to the chatbot](#)

## **Visit the CDC for general coronavirus questions**

For general questions about COVID-19, such as symptoms, prevention steps, guidance for travelers, and more, [visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).

## **Coronavirus-specific concerns**

### **How can I stay informed about COVID-19 vaccines at VA?**

We're working closely with the CDC and other federal partners to provide COVID-19 vaccines to Veterans and VA health care personnel.

[Get the latest updates on COVID-19 vaccines at VA](#)

### **What should I do if I have symptoms of COVID-19?**

If you have any of these emergency warning signs, call 911 to get help now:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent (continuing) pain or pressure in the chest
- Bluish lips or face
- Suddenly feeling or acting confused
- Trouble waking up or staying awake

If you have other symptoms of COVID-19, call us before going to a [VA health facility](#). You can also [send your VA provider a secure message](#). Contacting us first helps us keep you and others safe. [Go to the CDC website](#) for the full list of COVID-19 symptoms.

## **Our Annie text messaging service can help you monitor your symptoms**

This service can advise you when to contact your VA care team or your facility's advice nurse. It also provides general wellness tips and steps you can take to protect yourself. Ask your VA care team to assign the service to you. Or, [subscribe to Annie coronavirus precautions messages yourself](#).

If you'd like to talk to someone about coronavirus concerns, like testing, exposure, and prevention at VA, call our MyVA411 main information line at [800-698-2411 \(TTY: 711\)](#).

## **I don't have symptoms, but I feel anxious and overwhelmed. What can I do?**

First, know that you're not alone. We're here for you. Concerns about COVID-19 can be stressful for many people. You can take steps to manage stress and get support.

- **Stay connected and healthy.** Stay in touch with friends and family by phone and social media. Follow your normal routine as much as possible, and get enough sleep and exercise.
- **Get the flu vaccine this fall.** If you're worried about your risk of serious illness, one of the best things you can do is get your flu shot as early as you can. [Learn more about getting your flu shot](#)
- **Keep your existing mental health appointments.** If you currently have regular sessions, you can change them to telehealth (phone or video) appointments by sending your provider a [secure message](#).
- **Ask for a new mental health appointment.** If you need same-day mental health care—or want to request a new appointment—call your local VA health facility. [Find a VA location](#)

[Get more VA tips for maintaining your mental health](#)



[Visit the CDC to learn more about managing COVID-19 stress and anxiety](#)

## What's VA doing to deal with COVID-19?

We have activated VA's emergency management coordination cell (EMCC), and are doing clinical screenings at all VA facilities.

[Learn about VA's public health response](#)

As one of the nation's leaders in health research, we're also working to find ways to better prevent and treat COVID-19.

[Learn more about volunteering for coronavirus research at VA](#)

## Should I get a flu shot this year?

Yes. Both the flu and COVID-19 can lead to serious illness and even death. They may be even more dangerous if you get them at the same time. Your risk of serious illness is even higher if you're over age 65 or if you have a health problem like diabetes. So get your flu shot as early as you can this year. It's the best way to protect yourself and your family.

## If you're enrolled in VA health care

You can get a no-cost flu shot safely from any of these locations:

- **Your nearest VA health facility.** Contact your provider or your nearest VA health facility to ask when you can come in to get your flu shot. Or ask your provider if you can get your flu shot at your next scheduled appointment.  
[Find your nearest VA health facility](#)
- **A VA-approved retail pharmacy in our community care network.** Call ahead to confirm services and hours and to make sure they have the type of flu shot you need. Be sure to bring a valid, government-issued ID (like your Veterans Health ID card or driver's license).  
[Find community pharmacies in our network](#)
- **A VA-approved urgent care provider in our community care network.** To use this option, you must have received care from a VA



or in-network community provider in the past 24 months. Call ahead to confirm services and hours and to make sure they have the type of flu shot you need.

[Find community urgent care providers in our network](#)

**Note:** You don't need a VA referral to get your flu shot from a community provider. But bring our [flu shot information flyer \(PDF\)](#) to share with the provider. To check your eligibility, call your nearest VA health facility. You can also call us at [800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411), select option 1 and then select option 1 again.

## **If you're not enrolled in VA health care**

You may be able to get a no-cost flu shot through your private health insurance or a program like Medicare. To learn more about flu prevention and to find where to get a flu shot, visit the [CDC website](#).

## **More coronavirus-specific questions**

- Why should I consider volunteering for coronavirus research at VA?

At VA, we've completed thousands of research studies with the goal of improving the health and well-being of Veterans. Because of this research history, we have the long-term data to best understand how illnesses, vaccines, and treatments affect Veterans.

We're now working to find ways to prevent and treat COVID-19 for Veterans and others. Because COVID-19 is so new, we have a lot to learn. We can't learn without doing research. And we can't do research without people who volunteer to participate in research studies.

### **As a research study participant, you can help us:**

- Better understand how COVID-19 affects different people
- Find ways to prevent and treat COVID-19 for you, your family, and your community
- Make sure vaccines and treatments are safe and effective in people of all ages, genders, races, and ethnicities

## **As a research participant, you may also:**

- Learn more about your own health
- Receive more regular health check-ins as part of your study visits
- Get early access to a new vaccine or treatment

[Learn more about volunteering for coronavirus research at VA](#)

## **COVID-19 testing at VA**

### **Can I be tested for COVID-19 at a VA health care facility?**

We offer diagnostic testing for Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care and meet the [CDC testing criteria](#). At this time, we're not charging a copay for testing.

[Learn how to apply for VA health care](#)

### **To get a test, you must have an appointment. You can request an appointment in any of these 3 ways:**

- [Send a secure message](#) to your VA health care provider
- [Schedule an appointment online](#)
- Or call your provider  
[Find your provider's phone number](#)

### **For your safety, please don't go in person to a VA health care facility without an appointment.**

Please also be aware that everyone who enters our facilities will be screened for COVID-19, and must wear a mask that covers their mouth and nose. If you have more questions about testing, please call our MyVA411 main information line at [800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411) ([TTY: 711](tel:800-698-2411)).

### **If I got a COVID-19 test at VA, when and how can I get my results?**

We usually have test results in about **3 to 4 days**.

If you were tested at a VA health facility and you have a My HealtheVet Premium account, you can get your test results online as soon as we have them. If you don't have a My HealtheVet Premium account, you can get one now.

[Learn how to get your results through My HealtheVet](#)

Your VA or community care provider will also call you with your test results when they're available. If you have concerns about your results, call or send a secure message to your provider.

## What should I do while I'm waiting for the results?

**1. Monitor your symptoms.** Our [Annie text messaging service](#) can remind you when to contact your care team or a nurse advice line.

If your symptoms get worse, contact your provider or nearest VA health facility:

- [Send a secure message to your provider](#)
- [Find your provider's or facility's phone number](#)

**Note:** If you call your facility's nurse advice line, please know that our nurses can't give you your test results. They can answer health-related questions. But they don't have access to your personal health information.

If you or someone else has any of these symptoms, call 911 to get help now:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent (continuing) pain or pressure in the chest
- Bluish lips or face
- Suddenly feeling or acting confused
- Trouble waking up or staying awake

[Get the latest symptom information on the CDC website](#)

**2. Follow CDC guidelines to prevent spreading the virus to others.** Until you get your results, you won't know if you have an active infection or not. [Go to the CDC website for COVID-19 prevention advice](#)

## **What should I do after I get my test results?**

### **If your results are positive**

This means you had an active infection at the time of testing. Your provider will give you advice on what to do next to make sure you get any care you need. You'll also need to continue to monitor your symptoms and separate yourself from others to prevent spreading the virus.

[Get CDC advice on what to do when you have COVID-19](#)

### **If your results are negative**

This means you didn't have an active infection at the time of testing. It doesn't mean you haven't been infected since that time or won't become infected in the future. Continue to follow safe practices, like wearing a mask, physical distancing, and washing your hands often.

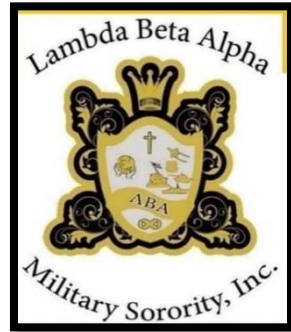
[Get CDC advice on how to prevent COVID-19](#)

**Note:** This test also won't tell you if you were infected with the coronavirus in the past. That's a different type of test called an antibody test. [Learn more about COVID-19 tests on the FDA website](#)

# Lambda Beta Alpha (ΛBA)

Submitted by AM, Tierney Stanley, No. 103

Lambda Beta Alpha (ΛBA) is a national military Greek-lettered sorority whose mission is to promote and foster a sisterhood among women from all branches of the United States Armed Forces regardless of service status, active duty, national guard, reserve, veteran or retired; to study and help alleviate problems concerning female service members during and after their time in the military; to maintain a global presence through community service and philanthropic efforts; and to serve as a resource of information for young girls and women considering a military career, as well as those transitioning out of the military.



Lambda Beta Alpha Sorority Inc. was founded on November 10, 2017 in Virginia by 10 women who served in the U.S. Military. Lambda Beta Alpha is affiliated with the Military Women's Coalition which is a national group of formal and information organizations who work collaboratively to serve and support US active duty, Reserves, National Guard, Veteran, and retired service women by uniting and elevating their voices to influence policy and improve their well-being. Lambda Beta Alpha joined the Coalition in its infancy and is currently the only military Greek-letter organization involved.

Lambda Beta Alpha Military Sorority Inc. has several partnerships to include Military Child Education Coalition, Psych Hub, and Women Veterans Alliance. The sorority has also been recognized for the work done in the community by the Governor of Texas Gregg Abbott, Governor of Virginia Ralph Northam, and Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine just to name a few. The sorority has helped with the recognition of May 25 as “Honor Our Female Veterans Day”.

Lambda Beta Alpha Military Sorority is a true sisterhood filled with regal women who are here to make an impactful difference! If you are a military woman past or present and are interested in learning more about the organization the website is [www.lambdabetaalpha.org](http://www.lambdabetaalpha.org) or [intake@lambdabetaalpha.org](mailto:intake@lambdabetaalpha.org)

## **Kappa Epsilon Psi Military Sorority, Inc. Submitted by. Sis. Juanita Wilcox, PWM, No. 85**

Two courageous and innovative women met in military college and formed a lasting relationship, bringing them together annually and creating a bond like no other. These momentous gatherings sparked an idea that would change the lives of many women for years to come.

On April 4, 2011, Military Sorority, Inc., proudly marched in with a cadence of its own

as the world's first military sorority honoring and valuing the contributions women have made in our nation's military.



Kappa Epsilon Psi Inc., proudly

Kappa Epsilon Psi Military Sorority, Inc. has clusters and chapters across the U.S. and military installations around the world, bringing together some of the most prestigious women regardless of profession or rank to develop a sisterhood that would come together as a reckoning force to bring positive change in their communities.

# Grand Worthy Matron Rowinea R. Wooten & Grand Worthy Patron Juan L. Summers

Deborah Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Inc., Prince Hall Adopted, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, like so many other organizations, felt the impact of COVID-19 in 2020. On March 15 2020, the C.D.C, recommended no gatherings of fifty or more people in the United States. From that moment, the world changed forever.

What would that mean for Deborah Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Inc?

Despite the devastation surrounding the world, Deborah Grand Chapter took the leap of faith and boldly moved forward. On July 20, 2020, Deborah Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star, Inc., gladly welcomed Rowinea R. Wooten, No. 45 as Grand Worthy Matron and Juan L. Summers, No. 95, as Grand Worthy Patron for 2020-2022.

Both Grand Worthy Matron Rowinea R. Wooten and Grand Worthy Patron Juan L. Summer, were sincere and purposeful as they planned during this unprecedented time in our world history. Both have remained humble, grateful and prayerful and proud of the work done in all Subordinate Chapters of Deborah Grand Chapter.

So far during their administration, Grand Worthy Matron Wooten has been focused on the importance of Deborah getting out into the community to perform great works of charity. Under the leadership of Grand Worthy Matron Wooten, a premium has been placed upon having access to information. Social media is being utilized effectively to keep the entire Jurisdiction informed and involved.

Grand Worthy Matron and Grand Worthy Patron are pleased to share a few of the highlights of their administration thus far;

- Monthly Prayer and Praise Love Line of Prayer across the Commonwealth
- **The First Grand Charity Committee Forum “Black Voices Matter Series 1,” DGC Coping Tools in the Pandemic**, held on February 13, 2021 attendance 118 people. (portion of proceeds go to Charity)
- **The First DGC Virtual Chapter Visitations from the GWM and GWP and their entourage** – visits will be on-going throughout this administration.
- The First DGC Virtual Chapter of Sorrow held on March 21, 114 visitors in total from NE Region Jurisdictions.



*Grand Worthy Matron Rowinea R. Wooten, No. 45 & Grand Worthy Patron Juan L. Summers, No. 95*

- The First **DGC Meet the East Sister Circle**,
- The First **DGC Female Grand Line Brunch**, held on April 10, 2021. (money going to the Pittsburgh Women’s Shelter for Charity)
- The First **DGC Virtual Esther Day** being held on May 1, 2021 via Zoom
- The **Second Grand Charity Committee Forum Black Voices Matter Series 2, Essential Workers**, being held on May 15, 2021 via Zoom (portion of the proceeds go to Charity)
- **DGC 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Virtual Grand Session** with visitors and events being held on Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The **publication of DGC 2021 Fifth Edition History Book**, to be sold at DGC Annual Virtual Grand Session



*Deborah Grand Chapter, Grand Line.*

# ESTHER GRAND COURT



## *Ladies of the Circle of Perfection*

For the first time in most of our lives, we can't predict much of anything. And yet, from leaders, people are craving answers. People want assurances, direction, hope, and actionable information. For those in leadership positions, it can feel dicey to determine what to say when you lack certainty. You may even fear losing credibility or making things worse with the wrong information. Trying to lead a house during this time of the pandemic has been both rewarding and at times very challenging, but no matter the situation we continued to push forward and make the necessary adjustments as necessary.

We just want to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to you; the Officers and Members of Esther Grand Court, Ladies of the Circle of Perfection for preserving working in your Courts and moving your agendas along and ultimately staying encouraged during these trying times. It is due to your commitment to this order, and our programming that has allowed us to move forward and successfully execute our events this administration. It is amazing to see what we can do, when we are all working towards the betterment of our future.

We want to thank you all for your time and your talents for assisting to move us forward during this administration. Without you and your involvement there would be no need for us; and we want you to know we do not take that for granted. THANK YOU

**Hazel Bellamy, PRPM, No. 2**  
**Royal Grand Perfect Matron**

**Gary Shepherd, PRCA, No. 10**  
**Royal Grand Chief Advisor**



# SPEAKER ON BOARD

Submitted by The Light Magazine Staff

We love to see our own providing words of wisdom and encouragement to those within our communities and our very own wife of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Donald C. Jones, No. 120; Mrs. Carolyn H. Jones, M, Ed and Tamika N. Washington, Esq. who is the daughter-in-law of Past Grand Worthy Patron, Charles Washington, No. 93 they both will be among a distinguished panel of speakers. We do hope that you will join in for the event.

**MOST ROYAL GRAND COURT OF CYRENE  
QUEENS COMING OUT  
PANEL DISCUSSION**

  
Dr. Chelise Firmin  
Optima Vision Center

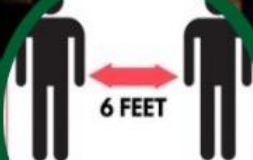
  
Carolyn Holley Jones, M.Ed  
Retired Educator

  
Tamika N. Washington, Esq  
Court of Common Pleas  
Judicial Candidate - May 2021

**Friday, April 16, 2021 at 7:30pm**  
Join us in a discussion with three powerful, community-focused women  
as they chat with our 2021 Queens.

 **Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8210346812>  
**Phone:** (301) 715-8592 **Member ID:** 8210346812

**The First Masonic District of the Most  
Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of  
Pennsylvania**  
4301 N. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19140



**PRACTICE SOCIAL  
DISTANCING**



## **FOOD GIVEAWAY**

**May 5, 2021 1:00 PM,  
until the food runs out!**

FEDERAL AND STATE CDC GUIDELINES WILL BE FOLLOWED

- In conjunction with PM Jewell Williams # 5 and PWM Alberta Watkins-Williams # 2
- The food will be given out in the front of the Masonic Temple on Broad St.
- Members of the Craft and the Public are invited

For information contact: Alberta Watkins-Williams 267.750.8521/215.995.2046

# EARTH DAY! TEMPLE PROUD!

*Saturday  
April 17th*

Assembly time @ 8:30 am - Project begins @ 9:00 am



410 N Harrisburg St,  
Steelton, PA 17113

We will be  
following CDC  
Guidelines!



1117 Wood St,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

*Refreshments will be  
provided!*



4301 N Broad St,  
Phila., PA 19140

Masks, gloves &  
sanitizer will be  
available!

**Cleanup  
DAY!**  
**East, Central  
& West**



**B.Y.O.B.  
Bring Your  
Own Broom**

*Limited T-Shirts will  
be available!*

For more information contact, James Marshall #9,  
Director of Community Relations @ 610.246.4354