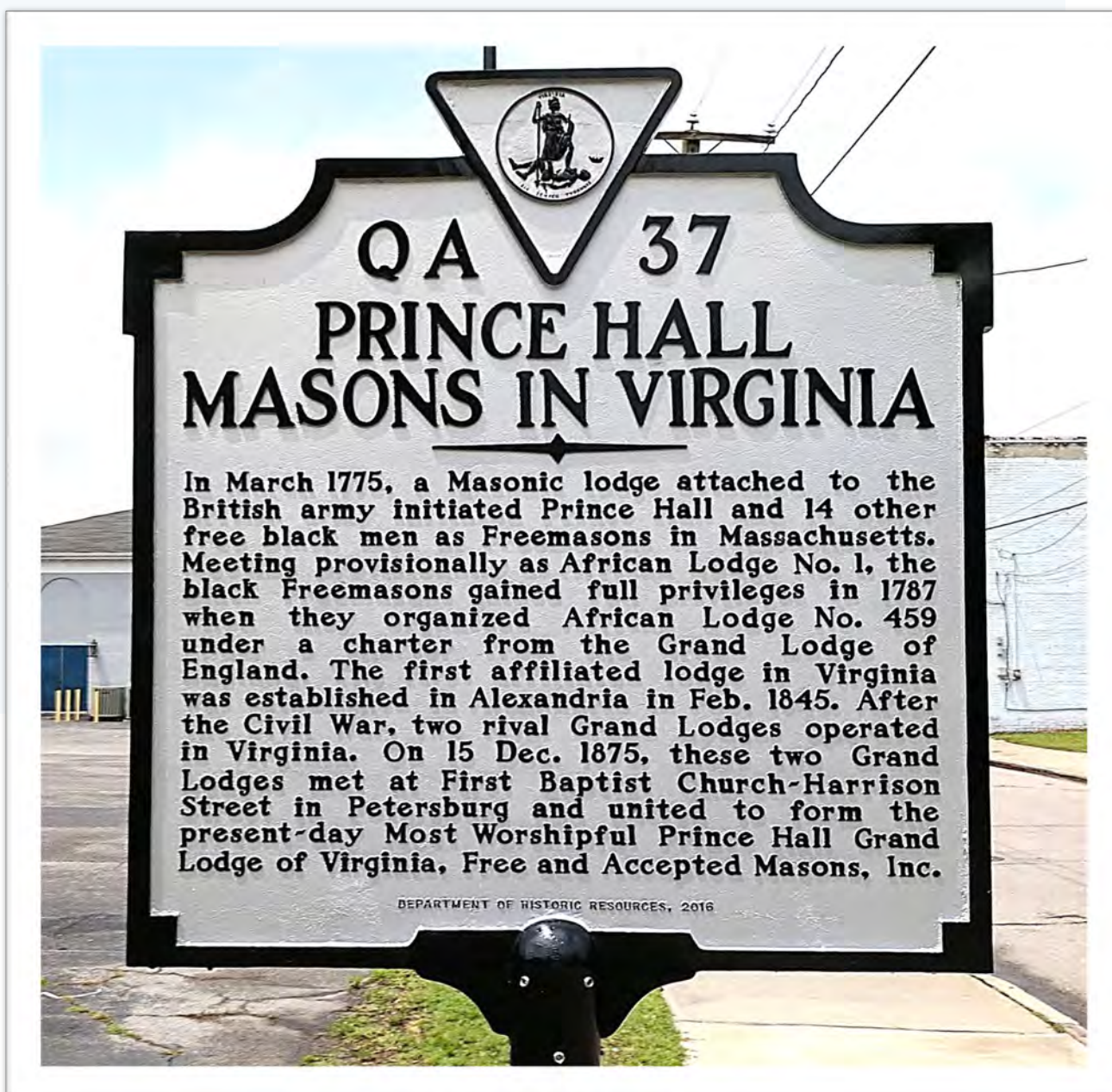


31st Masonic District

Newsletter

The Mirror

Edition #2



The Mighty 31st Masonic District

The Mirror

CONTRIBUTED BY:

DDGM Charles C.J. James #11
31st Masonic District

WM, Wardens, GL Officers, WPMs and Brothers,

Brethren Greetings, I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you that wanted to attend and those that attended our School of Instruction. As always, the Mighty 31st "Showed Up & Showed Out" and ALL lodges were represented by one or more of their principal officers.

All should be proud and please give a Big Congratulations to your WMs and Wardens for the Outstanding Opening they performed. With their Dedication and Commitment, they "Led from the Front" and received great remarks from our MWGM and his cabinet on the excellent job they did.

This SOI was different because of the difficulties we faced with COVID-19, weather conditions and a place to host our school. However, WE persevered and stayed the course to prevail.

I also want to thank the RWGLs for the Outstanding work they did all year providing question & answer sessions in which the brothers really wanted to understand. I stepped out on a limb and bragged to the Grand Lecturers that this SOI will have more Brothers taking the Certificate of Merit than any other school. Please also thank the listed brothers below for the outstanding job they did purchasing, prepping the food, cooking, and serving:

WM Meddie Knox, #1

JW Kenzie Lock, #1

WGAP Nelson J. Perry, #11

WGAM Reggie Clark, #292

Bro. Carroll Alexander, #293

Bro. Michael Paige, #293



In closing, ADDGM A. Marques Pitre and I are glad to be leading this prestigious district in the MWPHGL of Virginia Jurisdiction. You have never failed us in our journey, and we will always be grateful. The Deputy's Report will be provided at the District Meeting this Friday with more detailed information.

SOI Opening performed by the following WMs, Wardens and Brothers listed below.

WM - WM Kevin D. Wheeler, Sr., #298

SW - WM Payton R. Dade, Sr., #11

JW - JW Jesse Haynes, #298

Treasurer - WPM Eric T. Richardson, #11

Secretary - Bro. Teddy Johnson, #1

SD - WM Allen L. Jones, Jr., #293

JD - WPM James Conway, Sr., #1

SS - WM Aaron Drohn, #32

JS - Bro. Charles Baldwin, #293

Marshal - WM Ronnie Hall, #58

Tiler - SW Richard D. Williams, III, #1

Chaplain - Bro. Owen Hutchinson, #293

In Brotherly Love,

DDGM Jimmie C. "CJ" James, #11
31st Masonic District
MWPHGL of Virginia

ADDGM A. Marques Pitre
31st Masonic District
MWPHGL of Virginia

By WPM Steven E. Goodson #293

MWGM “The Honorable” Donald S. Wilson Visits the 31st Masonic District and Triangle Lodge #293

On Tuesday, May 24, 2022, our MWGM The Honorable Donald S. Wilson #67 visited WM Allen L. Jones Jr and Brothers of Triangle Lodge #293, with many Brothers visiting from all corners of the 31st Masonic District. A great night of instruction, fellowship, and laughter were enjoyed by all. MWGM Wilson was accompanied by RWDGM Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. #298, RWGL-East Jose R. Ortiz #34, and RWPGL-E Curtis B. James, Sr. #67. Also, in attendance was our very own DDGM Charles James #11 and ADDGM A. Marques Pitre #298. MWGM Wilson discussed several topics; from the upcoming St. John the Baptist Day Celebrations, the Annual Communication Session, and what is expected from the craft when visiting A.F. & A.M Lodges. After the meeting, the Brothers gathered around for the traditional photo opportunity. The Brothers assembled downstairs for repast that consisted of crawfish, ribs, chicken, and sides. This was indeed and great night of Brotherly Love.



MWGM Donald S. Wilson #67, RWDGM Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. #298, and WM Allen L. Jones #293 with the Brothers of the Craft



MWGM Donald S. Wilson #67, and WM Allen L. Jones #293



Brotherly Love

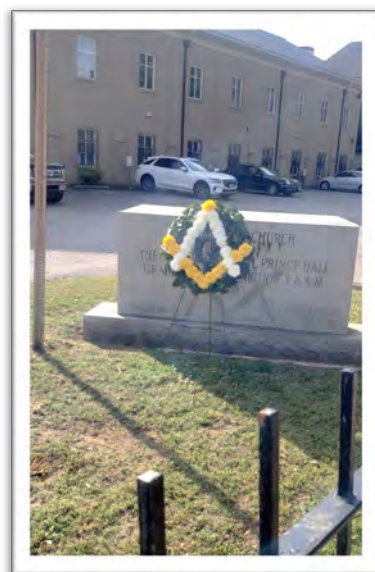
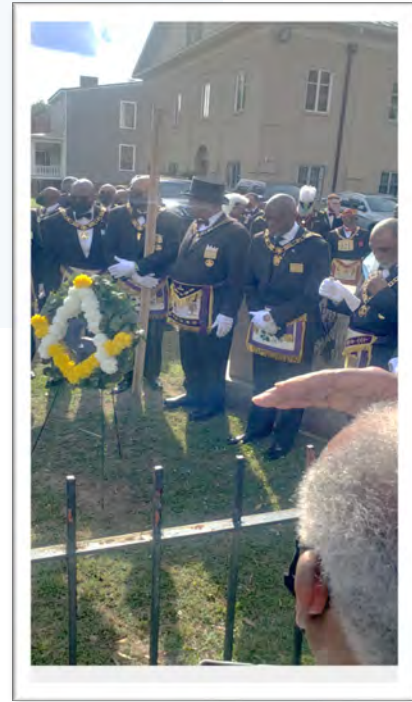
By WPM Steven E. Goodson #298

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Founder's Day 2022

On May 15, 2022, the Brothers of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. gathered at 236 Harrison Street in Petersburg, Virginia at the First Baptist Church to celebrate our 147th Annual Founders Day. As RW Grand Lecturer (West) Larry T. Johnson, #298 held down the duties of Master of Ceremony (MC) with support from ADDGM James Parham, #290, RWSGD Antonio R. Pride, #43, and ADDGM Hozsa Bagley #17 who all involved in presenting the scripture, prayer, and welcome for the program. The City of Petersburg was well represented by the Honorable Sam Parham, Mayor of Petersburg, Va., who gave the official greetings.

Our very own Grand Secretary Stevie Gray #314 performed masterfully as he introduced and recognized the Grand Lodge Officers, Dignitaries and the Appointed and Elected Officers of the MWPHGL of Virginia. The history of the MWPHGL of Virginia was detailed by the RW Grand Lecturer (East) Jose R. Ortiz Lebanon Lodge #34. Finding its roots from African Lodge #459 in Boston Massachusetts which the lodge was chartered in 1787, but it was not until 1875 that the two Grand Lodges in Virginia made arrangements to unify to form the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia. In the late 1950's, the name was changed to the Most

Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free & Accepted Masons, Incorporated. Rev. Brother George Lyons #43 and Pastor of Gillfield Baptist Church then gave a sermon from John 2:1-4 and preached to "Invite God In". After the Word, the ceremony of the wreath dedication was made at the church altar by Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson, #67 and RW Deputy Grand Master Beverly W. Morgan, #298 and the Brother proceeded outside to present the wreath at the headstone.



By WPM Steven E. Goodson #293

31st Masonic District School of Instruction

Our School of Instruction (SOI) is finally here. On April 3, 2022, the Mighty 31st Masonic District was finally able to host the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, The Most worshipful Grand Master, The Honorable Donald S. Wilson and his Cabinet and the Committee on Work for our School of Instruction at King George Lodge No. 314, 9019 James Madison Parkway, King George, VA 22485. The gavel will sound at 8:30am sharp with our very own WMs, Wardens and Brothers from the 31st Masonic District performing the Opening Ritual.

This year's SOIs have been very informative with a lot of participation from the Brothers. The Mighty 31st joined Brothers from all over the jurisdiction of Virginia to learn and partake in the great instruction by our very own, Right Worshipful Grand Lecturer (West) Larry T. Johnson, #298, along with Right Worshipful Grand Lecturer (East) Jose Ortiz, #34 and the members of the Committee on Works.

Some of the instruction surrounded minor teaching points on the opening ritual, a lecture on Men's Health and getting your cholesterol checked and in order, and a update on the Grand Lodge publication, The Bee Hive by WPM L.J. McCoy.

As a District we lead the way in attendance, with Triangle Lodge #293 being recognized with the most member in attendance, led by WM Allen L. Jones. Also many of our Brothers in attendance stepped up to take the test for the Certificate of Merit. Congratulations to all who took the challenge and passed. Good job to all who attempted.

Our DDGM, Charles C.J. James, #11 and ADDGM, A. Marques Pitre, #292 deliver the report on the School of Instruction to the Brothers of the Craft and it was motioned and accepted by the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Finally, Brothers Carroll Alexander, #293 and Brother Michael Paige. #293 was instrumental in the preparation of the repass for the Brothers of the jurisdiction.

DDGM, Charles C.J. James, #11 made sure to mention and thank the members of the Mighty 31st Masonic District for a successful School of Instruction.



WM Payton Dade #11 sits in as the SW WPM

James Conway Sr. #1 sits in as the JD

Bro Charles Baldwin #293 as JS & Bro Andre Potts #1

Historical Events

By WPM Eric Lawson #292

History made as Stonewall Jackson Middle School Renamed Unity Braxton Middle School, after WPM Carroll Braxton, #292

At a time when racism was at its boldest moment, WPM Carroll Braxton #292 decided to join the United States Marine Corp. He and countless others were in one of the first classes of black marines. African American men were treated with the utmost disrespect and atrocities that in today's time, would have a service member dishonorably discharged. WPM Braxton stayed the course, refused to quit, and upon completing boot camp at Camp Montford Point, he and 32 other Marines became assistant Drill Instructors. They soon DI's themselves at Montford Point. When he retired from the Marine Corp in 1980, Master Gunnery Sergeant Braxton held the highest enlisted rank possible. In 2012, MGySgt Braxton received the Congressional Medal of Honor from then President Barack Obama. Not done yet, WPM Braxton was inducted into the National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc. Hall Fame in 2021, for his accomplishments as MGySgt Braxton. Finally, on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, history was made as Stonewall Jackson Middle School in Manassas, VA was renamed Unity Braxton Middle School in honor of WPM Braxton and his wife, Celestine Braxton; an educator and activist for over 33 years. Our Brother, WPM Carroll Braxton, who is 93years young, is a true history maker in our fraternity! CONGRATULATIONS BROTHER BRAXTON and MRS. BRAXTON!



RWDGM Morgan, #298 and WPM Braxton, #292



WPM Braxton, #292



School Renaming Program



Brothers congratulating WPM Braxton, #292



School renamed Unity Braxton Middle School

Historical Events

By WPM Steven E. Goodson #293

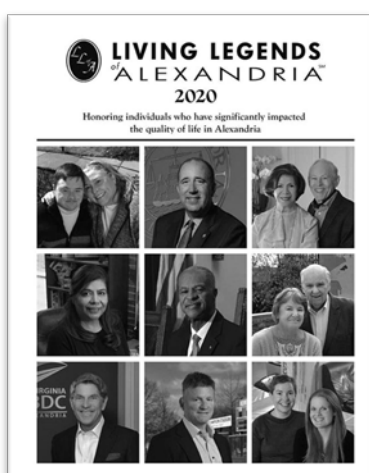
Our Brother Honored as an Alexandria Living Legend

ALEXANDRIA, VA—On Wednesday, May 18, 2022, the 2020 Living Legends of Alexandria were finally honored at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial and among the group was one of our fraternity's brightest lights. WGH McArthur Myers #1. WGH McArthur Myers #1 and a group of thirteen were among the recipients of this esteemed recognition. It has been two years since this class of Living Legends was selected, but due to Covid-19 restrictions, they were not able to hold the recognition until now.

The evening began with words of welcome from President Mary Wadland, and a moment of recognition for all those Living Legends who have passed on, followed by Mayor Justin Wilson, who read an official dedication from all of City Council to the Living Legends, as he introduced the thirteen Living Legends of Alexandria of 2020.

In 2012, Myers became a Freemason with Universal Lodge #1, the oldest Prince Hall Lodge in the Commonwealth of Virginia. He petitioned the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to acknowledge the historic group. In March 2018, the Universal Lodge #1 received its recognition with a new historical marker. He served as the 174th Worshipful Master of Universal Lodge #1. Currently, he serves as the Grand Historian for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia. In September of 2016, Myers became the first African American member of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. There was a time when African Americans were not welcome on the grounds of the Memorial. It was a significant moment to share his story at the Memorial in 2016. In 2018, he arranged the first Prince Hall meeting at the Memorial. He currently serves on the sub-committee for the recognition of the 100-year Corner Stone rededication. These are only a few of his Masonic accomplishments that helped him become a Alexandria Living Legend. Here are some other:

- Among the first African Americans to attend Prince Street Elementary School.
- Integrated the Alexandria Boys Club and the Club's Boy Scout Troop.
- Graduated from T.C. Williams High School
- Worked for over 40 years with the District of Columbia Government Department of Mental Health.
- Dedicated advocate for historical landmarks identifying significant impacts of Alexandria's African Americans in the community.
- Participated in the placement of eight (8) historical markers throughout the City. Some of those historic buildings are Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, Beulah Baptist Church, Third Baptist Church, and the Universal Lodge #1.
- Involved in the partnership to integrate the Freedom House Museum into the Alexandria Museum System.
- Presently working on the Alexandria African American Heritage Trail Project in an effort to recognize the contributions of African Americans to Alexandria's history.
- Honored by the Alexandria Archeological Commission; Awarded the Archeology in Alexandria Award during an awards ceremony at City Hall.
- Presented with the Outstanding Community History award in recognition of his dedication to the preservation and interpretation of Alexandria's African American heritage.



Living Legend Program



Living Legend Recipients



Supporting is RWDGM Morgan #298, DDGM James #11 WM Wheeler #298, and Brother Alexander #293

To read the Alexandria Living Legend Article: <https://alexandrialegends.org/myers-mcarthur/>

31st Masonic District attends Divine Sunday

By WPM Steven E. Goodson #293

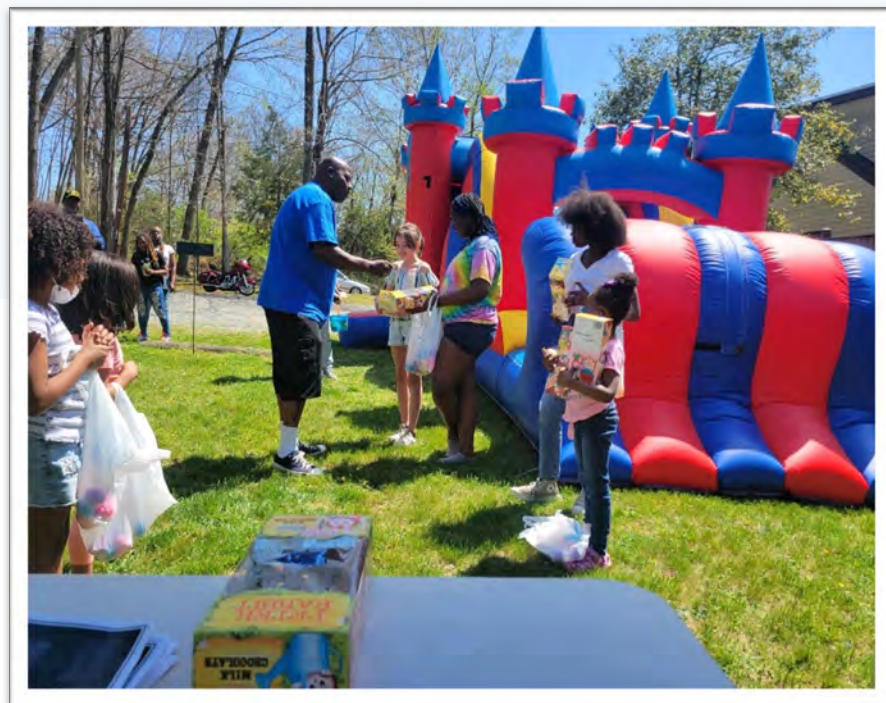
On May 29, 2022, the Brothers of the 31st Masonic District and the Sisters of the 26th Order of the Eastern Star were up early to attend and celebrate Divine Sunday and Worship our God with congregation of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.



Triangle Lodge #293 1st Annual Easter Egg Hunt

By SW Sean Hill #293

The Brothers of Triangle Lodge #293, lead by WM Allen L. Jones, Jr, who's theme for the Masonic Year is "Embracing the Community" were in rare form on April 16, 2022, as the Brothers hosted their 1st Annual Easter Egg Hunt. The event was able to host the family and friends from the community and Brothers of the Craft. The event was the brainchild of the Worshipful Master and with the assistance of his line officers. The event was a "Potluck" style cookout, with a Easter Egg Roll & Easter Egg Hunt event for the children of all ages. The kids were even able to enjoy a huge inflatable Bounce Gym. With cooking, music, family in friends a great time was had by all participants. What a great time on this Resurrection Day!



WM Allen Jones, and the Brothers of Triangle Lodge #293 celebrating the youth at their 1st Annual Easter Egg Hunt

By WM Kevin D. Wheeler Sr. #298

Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298 visits Cherrydale-Columbia Lodge #42 A.F. & A.M.

On Thursday Feb 17th, 2022, some of the brothers of Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298 and myself, WM Kevin D. Wheeler had the occasion to visit with WM Ted McNelis and the Brothers of Cherrydale-Columbia Lodge #42 A.F. & A.M. This was truly a historical moment for the organization and opportunity to learn about the two Masonic fraternities and spread brotherly love.

I presented a brief presentation on who Prince Hall was and how important he is in the history of Prince Hall Masonry. The Brothers really enjoyed the fellowship, and we discussed the possibilities of continuing to reestablish Masonic visitations and to further fraternal relations. The visitation and fellowship were truly one to be remembered.



WM Kevin D. Wheeler Sr. #298 and WM Ted McNelis, #42 greet the Brothers of the two organizations.



WM Kevin D. Wheeler Sr., #298, WPM Larry T. Johnson, #298 with the Brothers of the Pride Of Fairfax County Lodge #298

Arlington Lodge #58th performs the 3rd Degree and raises three new Master Masons

By WPM Carlton Newton

WM Ronnie A. Hall, Jr. and the Brothers of Arlington Lodge #58 were able to raise three young men to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on Saturday, June 4, 2022. Brothers Gabriel Ortiz, Brother Geoffrey Crawley and Brother Evann Rogers (pictured l-r), were raised under the watchful eye of Worshipful Master Ronnie A. Hall, Jr. Included in attendance was WPM Robert L Reed (sitting farthest to the left), now the oldest living Past Master at 88 years of age. Congratulations Brothers!



WM Hall, the Brothers of the Craft along with the newly raised Brother of Arlington Lodge #58th

By WGAP Nelson J. Perry #11

Lincoln Lodge #11 and the 9th Annual Scholarship Bowling Tournament

Due to the release of the COVID-19, protocols in Northern Virginia, Lincoln Lodge #11 was able to get back on track and hold their 9th Annual Scholarship Bowling Tournament at Bowlero Bowling Center in Woodbridge, VA.

Although the pandemic is still a concern, many participants still supported the event, and the tournament participants had a wonderful time.

The tournament consisted of five (5) teams and the first (1st) and second (2nd) place teams were recognized. The 1st Place Team received three hundred dollars (\$300) and the 2nd Place Team received (\$200).

The participants were also able to support the fundraising efforts by participating in the bowling tournament, as well as the 50/50 raffle. Our 50/50 raffle winner was Mr. Joe Townes, and he graciously donated his winning back to the scholarship program. Join in on congratulating the Brothers of Lincoln Lodge #11 who were able to raise \$850.00 scholarship funds through their hard work and diligence.



1st Place Team with the Worshipful Master of Lincoln Lodge #11 from left to right: WM Payton R. Dade Sr., Jermaine Thomas, Newell, DeAngelo Hall, Guy Crawford.



2nd Place Team with the Worshipful Master of Lincoln Lodge #11 from left to right: WM Payton R. Dade Sr., Kathy Goode, Waver (Pop) Sneed, Cheryl Sneed Denita Goode.



As the thirty-first masonic district always works together, we had WPM Andrew Jackson and SW Kyle Taylor from Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298 there giving assistance as well.



Members from Lincoln Lodge that assisted with the tournament, from Left to right WPM Eric Richardson, DDGM CJ. James, WM Payton R. Dade, Sr., WPM Devery Travers, WPM Nelson

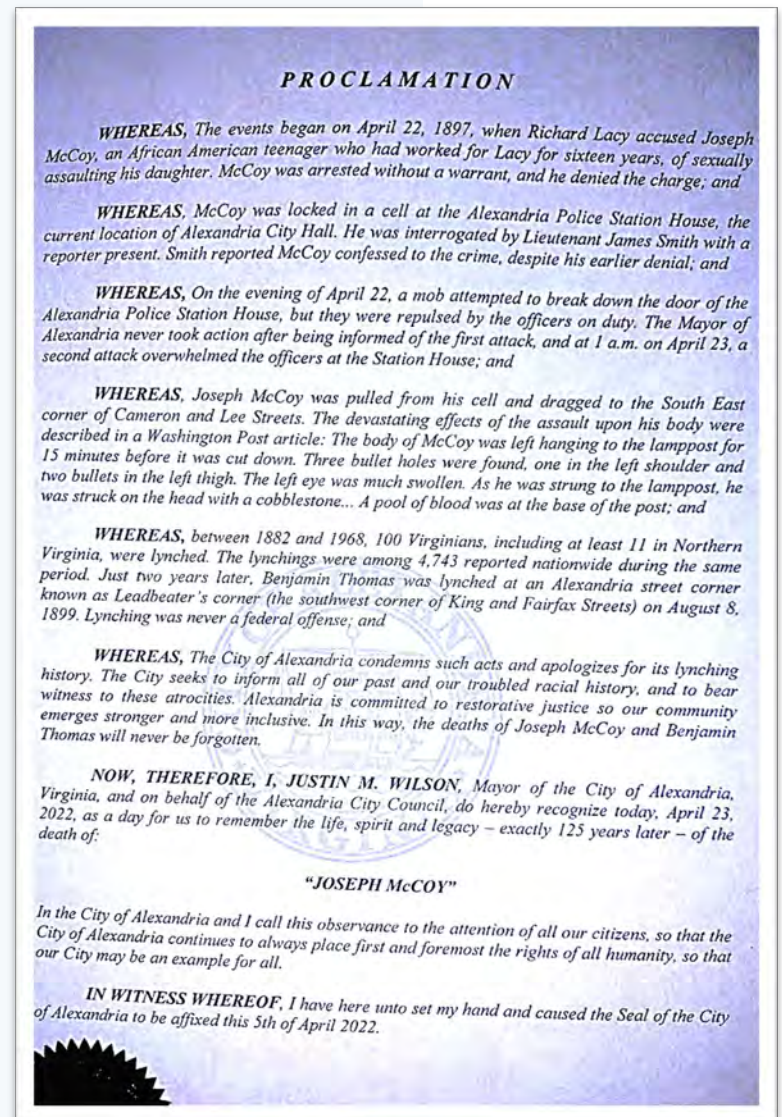
Universal Lodge #1 supports the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project – The Lynching of Joseph H. McCoy, April 23, 1897

By WM Meddie Knox #1

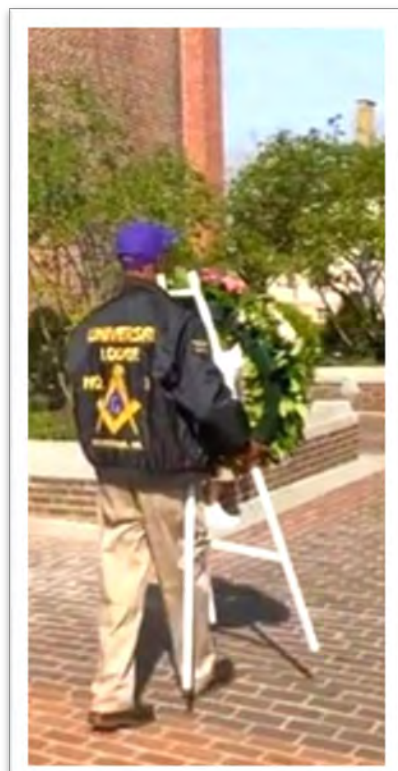
On April 23, 2022, the City of Alexandria invited the community to join in the remembrance of Joseph McCoy, a teenage Black resident who was killed by a lynch mob at the corner of Lee and Cameron streets 125 years ago. WM Meddie Knox and WGH McArthur Myers of Universal Lodge #1 joined in with the community to commemorate the historic event. McCoy’s death was one of two documented lynchings in Alexandria, out of 11 that occurred in Northern Virginia, and among the 100 documented lynchings that occurred in the Commonwealth between 1882 and 1968.

Universal Lodge #1, the first Prince Hall lodge in Virginia, was established in Alexandria on February 5, 1845, and has always been a key member of the community. Universal Lodge #1 joined in with the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) to help Alexandrians understand its history of racial hate crimes. ACRP conducts research, education, programs and events that remember McCoy and explore the long-term impact on Alexandria’s African American community.

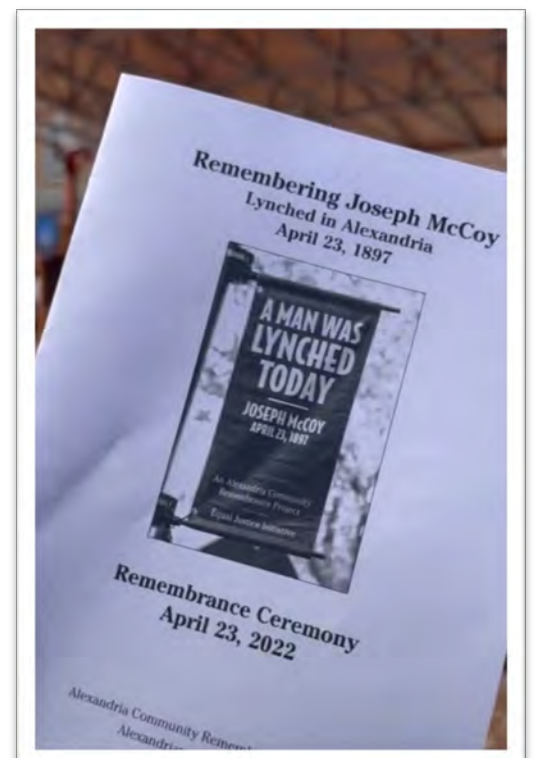
At the remembrance event, Mayor Justin Wilson of Alexandria, Va. Joined community members to recognize the 1897 lynching of Joseph McCoy and the terror it spread throughout the African American community. The ceremony remembered McCoy, and affirm responsibility for the acts of racial terror, and continue our work to reconcile our past with our present. In doing so, we recall the words of poet Maya Angelou: “History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be un-lived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.” WGH McArthur Myers joined in the procession and carried the wreath in remembrance of the Lynching of Joseph H. McCoy from Market Square to the corner of Cameron and Lee where the service concluded.



WGH McArthur Myers Leads the procession in remembrance of the Lynching of Joseph H. McCoy



Mayor Justin Wilson of Alexandria, Va.



By JW Shelly D. Bothwell #293

Triangle Lodge #293 Toiletries Donation Drive

Homeless people often go without the bare necessities. WM Allen L. Jones #293 and the Brothers of the Lodge took it upon themselves to do something about it in their community. From March 1 to March 31st, the Brothers provided drop-off locations in the community so that our residents could drop off toiletries to support are less fortunate Prince William and Stafford County neighbors. On April 9, 2022. JW Shelly D. Bothwell and WM Allen L. Jones delivered over fifty (50) toiletries supplies bags to the ACTS Shelter Store. Each Toiletries Bag contain:

- Soap
- Shampoo and Body Bath
- Hand and Body Lotion
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- Dental Floss
- Chapstick
- 5" Black Comb
- Baby Wipes
- Sunscreen
- Wash Cloths

It was hoped that by conducting this benevolent act, the Worshipful Master's theme for the year, "Embracing the Community" was met.



**JW Bothwell and WM Jones of
Triangle Lodge #293**

By WM Kevin D. Wheeler Sr. #298

Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298 raises two men as Master Masons

On May 28th, 2022, the Brothers of Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #293 lead by myself, WM Kevin D. Wheeler conferred the 3rd Degree of Masonry on two deserving young men and welcomed to the fraternity of Prince Hall Masonry. It was truly a wonderful day! A special shoutout to our Brother SD Don Moore on conducting these brothers through the process. Brothers! “Follow your Conductor and Fear No Danger!” Help me welcome Brother Jones and Brother Cottman to Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298.



WM Kevin D. Wheeler with Brother Jones and Brother Cottman



WM Wheeler and SD Moore along with the new Brothers

By WPM Eric Lawson Sr. #292

King Tyre Lodge #292 Highway Clean-Up

On June 4, 2022, the Brothers of Pride of King Tyre Lodge #292 met up early in the day to perform service to their community by cleaning-up Route 50 between Annandale Road and Graham Road. Each year nearly 18,000 Adopt-a-Highway volunteers collect more than 25,600 bags of trash along Virginia's highways. It is estimated that the Commonwealth of Virginia would have to spend over \$1.35 million to cover this clean-up had it not been for these volunteers. To do our part, the Brothers of King Tyre Lodge #292 assisted with keeping the highways clean in their community.



By PWAGP Gordon E. Renfrow, #330

Diversity Lodge #330 performs the 2nd Degree and Masonic Elections

These Brothers of Diversity Lodge #330 put in work today! On today, June 4, 2022, three Brothers of the Craft were passed to the degree of Fellowcraft. The day started off early with the gathering of the Degree Team coming together to perform the 2nd Degree and pass Entered Apprentice Erik Maldonado, Entered Apprentice Nick Nemard, and Entered Apprentice Kournay Taylor to the degree of Fellowcraft. Congratulations to all.



The day concluded with the election of Diversity's 2022-23 Officers. Congratulations to the following Brothers and new administration for the 2022-2023 Masonic Year.

WM Calvin Sowell

SW Lateef Watson

JW Lonnie Robinson

SD David Alvarado, WPM

JD Israel Sanchez, Jr., WPM

Treasurer Reggie Tolbert, PDDGM

Sec'y Gordon Renfrow, WPM

SS Dino Evelyn, WPM

JS Tramel Hines

Chaplain John Bandy, Jr., WPM

Tiler Scott Robinson, WPM

Marshal Karlton Lane, WPM

Please congratulate all these Brothers; also, support them/us!

Around the District-Spotlighting the Brothers

“Let Your Light Shine”

By RWGL-W Larry T. Johnson #298

“Greetings and Salutations My Brothers of the 31st Masonic District. For those brothers that may not know me, I am Brother Larry T. Johnson of Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298, and I am currently serving as the Right Worshipful Grand Lecturer of the Western District of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of VA, F&AM Inc., and was asked to bring forth words of encouragement and motivation to the brethren.

Our Fraternity has been around for many, many long years, and it has always been said that we as Masons should always let our light shine; however, what does that mean...are we referring to that emblem which identifies us as Free and Accepted Masons or is that moral and intellectual light, which can only be seen through our words and actions? There is a quote from the Philosopher Plato that reads, “We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light”.

Therefore, My Brothers let us contemplate what is truly important as it relates to Masonry, and why our light is not to be defended, but instead it is for each and everyone us to be a representation of that moral and intellectual light that emanates from a source far greater than us. Therefore, let your true LIGHT shine, for all to see your good works!!!!



RWGL of the Western District,
Larry T. Johnson

Prince Hall Masonry – From Massachusetts to Virginia

By Bro. Jermaine J. Jones #67 – Originally written in 2004

Prince Hall Masonry has its origins in the town of Boston, Massachusetts. There, on March 6th of the year 1775 a man by the name of Prince Hall and 14 free African American men were initiated into this ancient and honorable institution by Master John Batt of Military Lodge No. 441 which was attached to the 38th Foot Regiment of the British Army, who at the time were working under the authority of the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The British Army departed Boston on March 17th, 1775, and upon leaving Brother Batt issued a permit to the fifteen brethren to meet as a lodge, bury their dead and to go into procession on St. John's Day; it was under this permit that African Lodge No. 1 was formed on July 3rd 1776 composed of Brother Prince Hall and the fourteen other brethren. These brothers worked faithfully under this permit until June 30th, 1784, when Bro. Prince Hall petitioned the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns) for a charter. This request for a charter was granted on September 29th, 1784, but due to the many conditions going on in the world at that time the charter was not received until April 29th, 1787, and thus on May 6th 1787 African Lodge No. 459 was formally organized.

In 1797 African Lodge No. 459 began to exercise powers of a Grand Lodge by warranting lodges in other states namely Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. Now one might ask, —How is it that a regular lodge can start issuing warrants for the establishment of other lodges? The answer is that by today's standards it can't be done, but at that time it was perfectly normal. Let us consider the case of Fredericksburg Lodge in Virginia, which warranted two lodges, one in Falmouth and another in Gloucester, which helped in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, A.F. & A.M.

In the year of 1813 the two rival Grand Lodges in England (Moderns and the Ancients) amalgamated into what is now known as the United Grand Lodge of England. It was during this merger that African Lodge No. 459, which had been renumbered to 370 in the 1790's, was erased from the rolls of England along with many other American lodges located in the states that were carried on the registries of both the Ancients and the Moderns Grand Lodges.

On June 26th, 1827, African Lodge published in a newspaper its declaration of independence stating that —...we are, and bought by rights to be, free and independent of other lodges. We do, therefore, with this belief, publicly declare ourselves free and independent of any Lodge from this day, and that we will not be tributary, or be governed by any Lodge but our own. It is from this Grand Lodge, which is now known as the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, F & A.M. that all regular Prince Hall Grand Lodges can trace their lineage to more especially the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia.

The first lodge of African Americans organized in the Commonwealth of Virginia was Universal Lodge No. 10 located in the city of Alexandria, which was originally chartered by the Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in the year of 1845. This lodge later aided in the formation of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of D.C. in the year of 1848 and was No. 2 on their rolls. The second lodge organized in Virginia was Rising Sun No. 8 in the city Norfolk, followed by Morning Star No. 11 of Portsmouth and Eastern Light No. 12 also in Norfolk. These three lodges were all chartered in the year of 1865 by the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge of Maryland, which operated under the authority of the National Grand Lodge. These four lodges operated peacefully in Virginia under different jurisdictions until October 29th, 1865, when a meeting was held amongst them to discuss the organization of a Grand Lodge within the state of Virginia. After petitioning the National Grand Lodge the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Virginia, later known as the Union Grand Lodge, was erected on February 20th, 1866, with Anthony A. Portlock as its first Grand Master and with the following subordinate lodges Universal No. 1, Rising Sun No. 2, Morning Star No. 3 and Eastern Light No. 4.

Not long after the formation of the first Grand Lodge of Prince Hall Masons in Virginia there was yet another Grand Lodge formed after a committee from Pennsylvania hailing from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania traveled to the city of Petersburg, made seventy-two men Masons and divided them into three lodges of twenty-four members each. These three lodges were J.B. Trusty No.1, Virginia Lodge No.2 and Abraham No.3. On October 14th, 1867, these three lodges out of Petersburg organized the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient York Masons of Virginia with James H. Jones as its first Grand Master. Lincoln Lodge No.4, which was in the city of Alexandria, operating under a warrant issued by the First Colored Grand Lodge of Maryland in 1865, later joined this Grand Lodge.

These two grand lodges met on December 16th, 1875, in the city of Petersburg and consolidated into what is now known as the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, F. & A.M., Inc. with a total of thirty-five lodges (Union GL numbering 18 subordinate lodges and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge with 17) and with Bro. James E. Fuller, who was a former slave and quarter-master in the First United States Colored Cavalry during the Civil War and also Norfolk's first black councilman during Reconstruction, as its first Grand Master.

There have been several mainstream Freemasons who have aided Prince Hall Masonry in Virginia namely Bro. John Dove who served many years as the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, A.F. & A.M and author of the famous Dove's Textbook which was used by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia as their guide in the 1800's. Another avid supporter of Prince Hall Masonry was Bro. Allen E. Roberts, the famed Masonic author and historian, who was also a member of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, A.F. & A.M and the namesake of its Library and Museum.

For over 100 years there has existed in Virginia two regular grand lodges who though they recognized the existence of each other there was never any type of formal recognition exchanged until just recently. In November of 2001 the MWGL of Virginia, A.F. & A.M at its 223rd Session voted in favor of extending Limited Recognition to the MWPHGL of Virginia, F. & A.M., Inc. It was after this that on June 12th, 2002, the United Grand Lodge of England formally recognized the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia. Though there was mutual recognition between the two Grand Lodges there was still no visitation allowed until 2003 when a —visitation compact was drawn up by committees from both Grand Lodges and the granting of Full Recognition was voted on by them at their annual sessions. Needless to say, both parties voted in favor of Full Recognition and on the 11th of January 2004 MWGM Franklin D.R. Lyons, Sr. of the MWPHGL of Virginia and MWGM James Milton Scarce, Jr. of the MWGL of Virginia signed and ratified the Visitation Compact between both Grand Lodges.

In Allen E. Roberts lecture entitled —Who are these Prince Hall Masons? He closes with the question...We claim that there is universality in Freemasonry – but is there? I can honestly say with much pride that in the great state of Virginia there is!

References: Black Square & Compass by Joseph A. Walkes, Jr., A History of Freemasonry Among Negroes in America by Harry E. Davis, Prince Hall Life and Legacy by Charles H. Wesley, Harris Masonic Textbook for Virginia Masons by Dr. H.L. Harris, Norfolk Highlights 1584-

1881 by George H. Tucker, Masonic Trivia and Facts by Allen E. Roberts, Who Are These Prince Hall Masons? By Allen E. Roberts, Proceeding from PHGL of Pennsylvania 1866 - 1868, Proceedings from PHGL of Virginia 1870 -1877, 1996 - 2002, and Proceeding from GL of Virginia 2001

The Motivational Minute

LEAVE IT WHERE YOU HEARD IT!

Not everything heard through the ears should be distributed to the lips. The tilters of integrity and discipline who guard between the ears and mouth should be employed at every opportunity In order to safeguard our character, brothers, and lodge.

Leave it where you heard it.

When the tilters of integrity and discipline abandon their post, we lose total control over what was once guarded safety within our breast.

Leave it where you heard it.

Once released from the ear to the mouth, words, messages, stories and interpretations wander into the ears and minds of others, and trigger emotions and actions beyond our control.

Unless it adds value, uplifts, builds, and protects, leave it where you heard it.

By

Brother Luke Wright #293

The Motivator

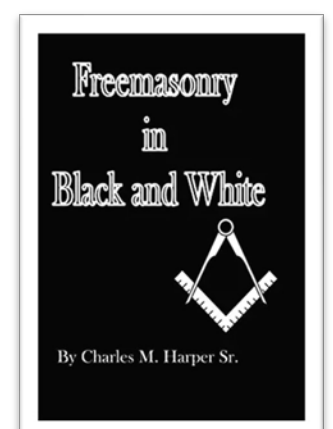
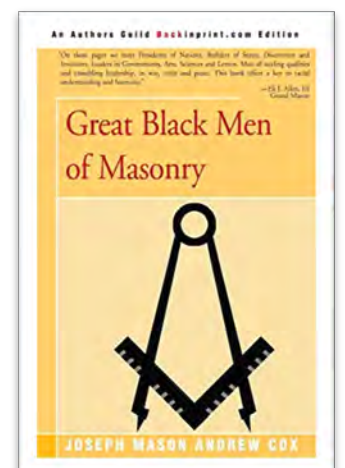
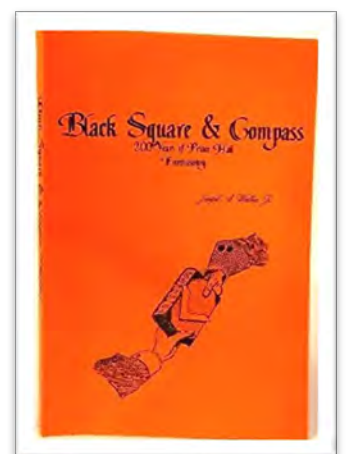


Masonic Education: Build A Masonic Library of Your Very Own

By WPM Steven E. Goodson #293

Freemasonry is so much more than memorizing ritualistic routines and performing when called upon to do so. It is so much more than dressing up in the black and whites or wearing Masonic paraphernalia. It is also about gaining understanding. It is about acquiring a true sense of who Prince Hall Masons were, are today and can be in the future. Know thyself. Learn the true struggles and victories of Prince Hall Freemasonry by taking a deeper look into the past. Build a repository of knowledge for your own home by building a personal library. To gain a true sense of Prince Hall Freemasonry, some of your books should focus on Prince Hall history and general African American History. Consider purchasing a few books from time to time to build up your personal knowledge of all aspects of the Masonic Order. You never know. After reading a few books, you may become inspired to become an author yourself. There are multiple areas that still need to be explored. If you are unsure where to start with your library or with research topics, here are a few books that I recommend:

- Black Square & Compass: 200 Years of Prince Hall Freemasonry by Joseph A. Walkes Jr.
- Prince Hall Life and Legacy by Charles H. Wesley
- The National Grand Lodge And Prince Hall Freemasonry: The Untold Truth by Alton Roundtree
- History of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction by Joseph A. Walkes Jr.
- History of the Shrine: Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine by Joseph A. Walkes Jr.
- Black Man of the Nile and his family: African Foundations of European Civilization and Thought by Yosef Ben-Jochannan
- The Souls of Black Folk by W.E.B. DuBois
- Up from Slavery by Booker T. Washington
- Prince Hall's Mission: The Rise of The Phylaxis Society by Joseph A. Walkes Jr.
- Great Black Men of Masonry by Joseph Mason Andrew Cox
- Out of the Shadows by Alton Roundtree and Paul Bessel
- National Encyclopedia of the Colored Race by Clement Richardson
- Freemasonry in Black and White by Charles M. Harper
- Freemasonry, Greek Philosophy, The Prince Hall Fraternity, and the Egyptian (African) World Connection by Keith Moore
- Freemasonry, Ancient Egypt and the Islamic Destiny by Mustafa El-Amin
- Personification of Hope: A Legacy on National African American Political Leadership by Daryl Lamar Andrews
- Pasco Conly: Buffalo Soldier by John B. Williams
- Prince Hall Conference of Grand Master by Alton Roundtree



FROM LABOR TO REWARD

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize?

Run in such a way that you may win.

1 Corinthians 9:24



Tribute of Love & Respect to our Departed Brothers

In Memoriam

January 1, 2022 – June 1, 2022

**WPM ALBERT L, MCMILLAN
UNIVERSAL LODGE #1
MAY 30, 1958 - JANUARY 16, 2022**

**WPM WILTON BROOKS BEST
TRIANGLE LODGE #293
JULY 19, 1953 - MARCH 9, 2022**

**WPM TOM ROBINSON
UNIVERSAL LODGE #1
JANUARY 14, 1947- JUNE 1, 2022**