

The Scottish Rite Clarion

CLARION

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, PHA—Orient of Illinois
Volume 12 Issue No. 1—Winter 2020-21



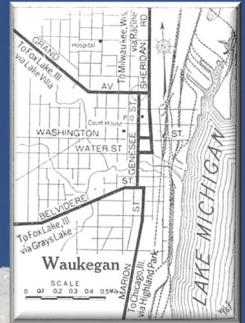
REST IN PEACE

SGC Deary Vaughn

SGIG Charles Hales



**Veterans Corner
& Triple Nickles**



**Territorial
Spotlight**



**I.C.O.D. 2020
Virtual Session**

MLK:

**Another Perspective on the
Substance of Dr. King**



The United Supreme Council

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, PHA
Northern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., INC.

OFFICE OF
Sovereign Grand Commander
MELVIN J. BAZEMORE, 33°



140TH ANNUAL SESSION – (IN PERSON) SESSION CANCELLATION

January 5, 2021

Greetings;

It is my sincere hope and prayer that his message finds the members and families of the United Supreme Council AASR, NJ, (PHA), in the best of health and that all enjoyed the Holiday season.

It has been a tumultuous 2020 for not only our country, fraternity and families but the world as a whole. However, despite it all, God has seen us through it, and for that we are grateful.

As we look forward to the year 2021, there remain many challenges as we not only continue to battle the COVID-19 Corona Virus, but transition from the 45th to the 46th presidential administration. My Brothers, with the arrival of a vaccine, hope may be on the way, and we can look forward to the future.

As your leader, it is important for me to communicate the status of our annual session scheduled to be held in Detroit, MI, in May 2021.

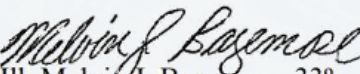
On December 18, 2020, due to the resurgence of COVID-19 pandemic, Ill. Carl A. Williams, Convention Director and his team, has reached an agreement with the Marriot Hotel Detroit. The United Supreme Council Annual Session, planned to take place from May 26 – June 2, 2021, has been cancelled with no penalties assessed to our organization. I would like to thank Ill. Williams and his team for their efforts.

In the alternative, we are preparing contingency plans to take care of the constitutionally required business of our Supreme Council. In addition, it is our commitment to elevate both the 2020 class scheduled to be elevated in Cincinnati and the 2021 class scheduled for Detroit. It is also our intent to have the successful completion of our raffle, scheduled to be drawn at our annual meeting. More details regarding our annual session will be provided as we complete our plans.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience as we work through the planning phase of our up and coming virtual activities.

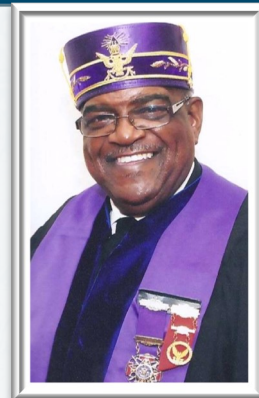
I humbly request that we all continue to Secure the Future by Enhancing the Scottish Rite Experience.

Yours in the Rite


Ill. Melvin J. Bazemore, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

"UNITED in SERVICE and COMMITMENT: ACTION, ACCOUNTABILITY, SUSTAINABLE RESULTS"

Desk of the Deputy for the Orient of Illinois



Greetings again my Brothers and Sisters:

I hope that your Holidays were happy and that your New Year will be healthy and prosperous. I pray that you are all well and safe and are taking this coronavirus (COVID-19) seriously. It has taken a tremendous toll on members of our fraternity as well as our family members and friends. For those of you who experienced and survived this virus, directly or indirectly, hopefully you are still thanking God for his goodness, his grace and his mercy. To those of you who have suffered the loss of a family member or dear friend due to the virus or other means, we do extend and express our deepest heartfelt sympathy to you.

While we are not sure of the manner we will meet this year as a Council of Deliberation, let me assure you that we will meet. I want to thank those of you who participated in the United Supreme Council Stimulus Raffle, as an Orient we purchased every raffle ticket we received. Remember that the Lifetime Membership program is still open to all members until March 2021 and that the Paver Project is ongoing. Let me congratulate you for your steadfastness and dedication to these activities.

This year I am confident that we will begin to achieve our initial goal regarding the Alms Club. Thank you so much and a special thanks to GIG Tony Stafford for his leadership in the effort. I want to thank those of you who support our Council of Deliberation Benevolent Fund, know that I appreciate to you for your kind donation of any amount. For those of you who went beyond the cause, I am extremely grateful to you. I pray God's Blessings on all of you regardless of your contribution.

The year of 2020 was a time of unprecedented events that has left many of us in despair and depressed. As a source of encouragement and faith, I submit to you the following poem titled "Don't Quit", author unknown.

*When things go wrong, as they sometimes will
When the road you're trudging, seems all uphill.*

*When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh.*

*When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must but down you quit.*

*Life is queer with its twist and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learn.*

*And many a failure turns about, when
He might have won, had he stuck it out.*

*Don't give up though the pace seems slow,
You may succeed with another blow.*

*Often the goal is nearer than it seems
to a faint and faltering man.*

*Often the struggler has given up,
when he might have captured the victor's cup.*

*And he learned too late when the night slipped down,
how close he was to the golden crown.*

*Success is failure turned inside out,
the silver tint of the clouds of doubt.*

*And you can never tell how close you are,
it may be near when it seems so far,*

*So stick to the fight when your are hardest hit,
it's when things seem worst **That You Must Not Quit***

God Bless you,

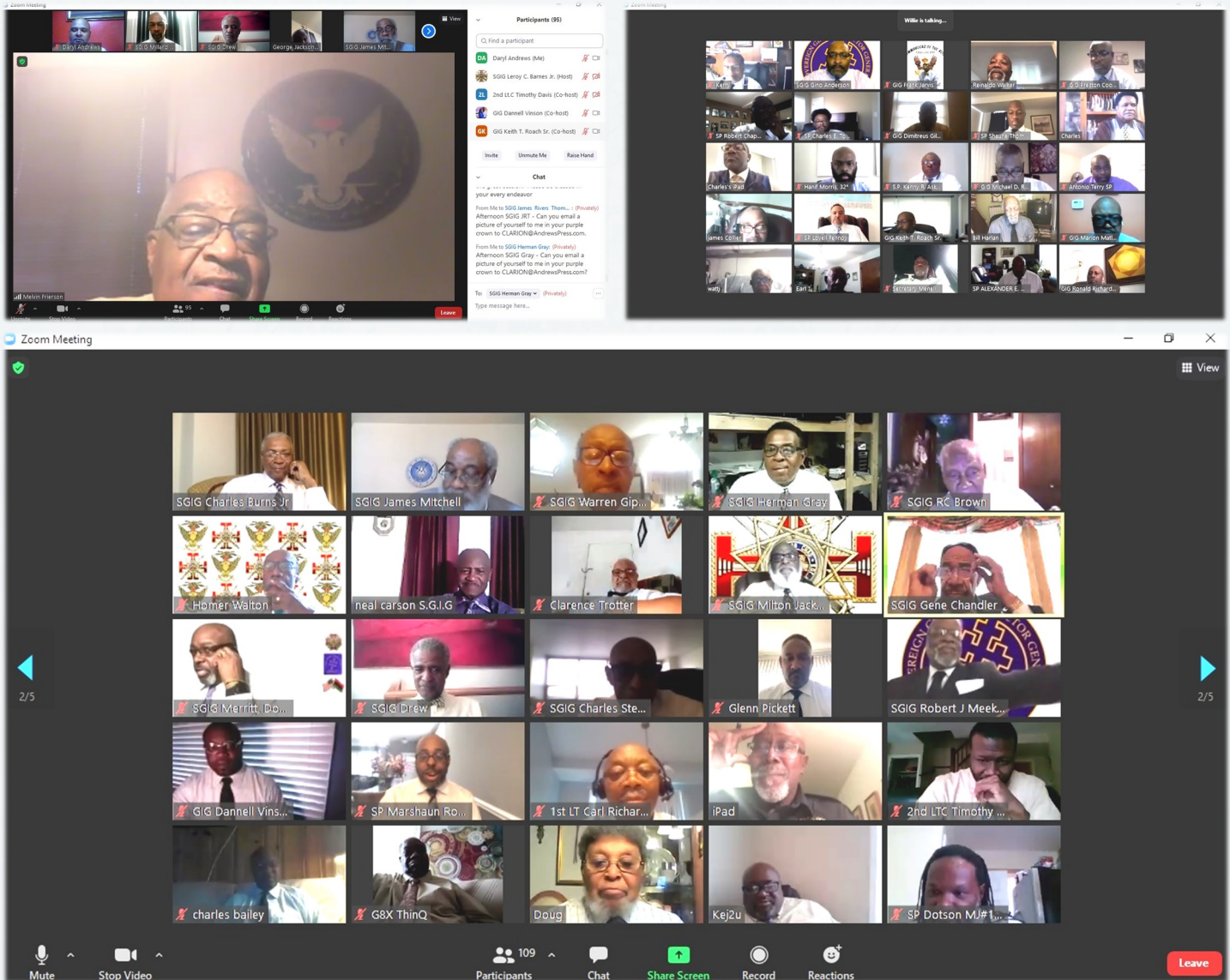
Just another brother
Melvin Frierson, 33rd
Deputy for Illinois

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2020 VIRTUAL SESSION OF THE ILLINOIS



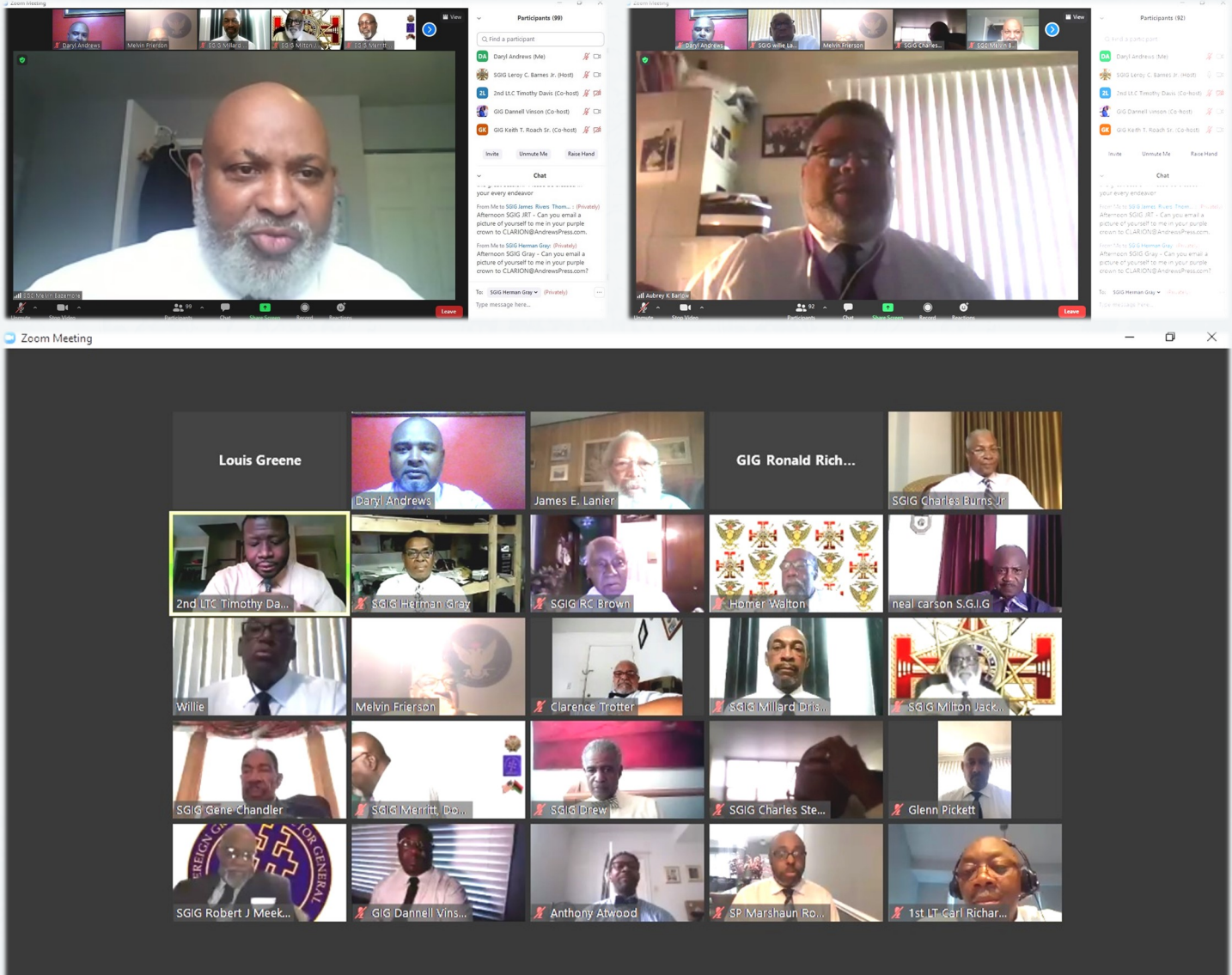
**Sovereign Grand
Inspector General
James A. Mitchell, 33rd**
*"A well prepared man
never trembles"*

From the Desk of the Grand Secretary

The Illinois Council of Deliberation (PHA) held its 103rd Annual Session via zoom on October 17, 2020. The session was well attended, 134 members zoomed in (see photos above). The Council was visited by the Honorable SGC Melvin Bazemore. At said Session, abbreviated activities were reported namely memorial services for seventeen (17) departed members in 2019-2020; nine (9) recipients for the scholarship/educational awards for 2020-2021; thirteen (13) candidates announced for the 33rd and last degree class of 2022; and the fiduciary findings for 2019-2020.

In spite of these unprecedented and trying times, ICOD continue to support social agencies and community activities. Please support Deputy Melvin Frierson's initiatives, more especially, those of the Alms Club and Social Services. Please be safe.

COUNCIL OF DELIBERATION AASR, PHA



From the Desk of the Editor

The Scottish Rite Clarion Newsletter is moving forward to Volume 12. It is amazing how quickly time flies and it is even more amazing to see the work that is being done around the Orient during these trying times. COVID-19 has caused setbacks for many organizations but it has also driven increases in charitable services. A great deal of that work by the Orient of Illinois has impacted numerous communities in a positive light. These works are spotlighted in this edition along with special submissions for veterans and history on a territory in the Orient. In prior editions we spotlighted the Tri-Cities & Rockford (Northwest), Joliet (North Central) and Cairo (Southern). This edition will spotlight the City of Waukegan (Northeast) and subsequent editions will focus on other areas. A new section has also been added titled "Books You Should Know". Education is as key to our future as is service. With this in mind, please enjoy this edition and feel free to reply with any feedback, suggestions or submissions to CLARION@ICODPHA.ORG.



**Grand Inspector
General
Daryl L. Andrews, 33^o**

**Next Edition Cutoff:
June 1, 2021**

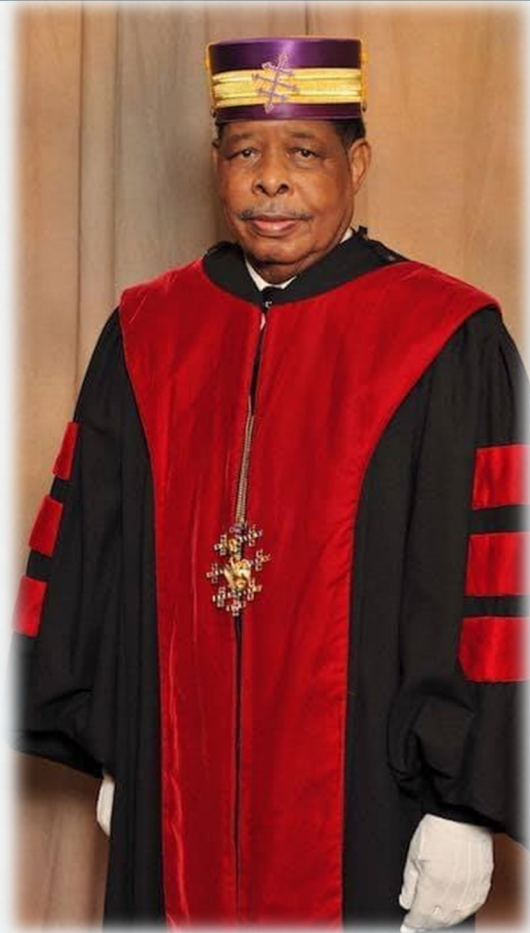
REST IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Deary Vaughn, 33^o

*Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, PHA*

November 21, 1936 - December 15, 2020

Illustrious Dr. Deary Vaughn, 33^o served the United Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America faithfully as Sovereign Grand Commander from 2003 until his demise. A most accomplished Mason who not only served as the Conservator of Prince Hall Freemasonry in the Jurisdiction of Oklahoma as Most Worshipful Grand Master for more than twenty (20) years, he served in leadership positions in virtually every house at the local, statewide and national levels associated with Prince Hall Freemasonry. The recipient of multiple awards for outstanding acts, his legacy in leadership and legacy in service is second to none.



Sovereign Grand Inspector General Charles W. Hales, 33^o

*Past Convention Director, United Supreme Council
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Jurisdiction, PHA*

January 25, 1922 - December 1, 2020

Considered one of the hardest working men in the Northern Jurisdiction, Illustrious Charles W. Hales of the Orient of Ohio served the organization as convention director for multiple terms. Born January 25, 1922, SGIG Hales lived a full life. He received numerous awards for his accomplishments and services in all Masonic Houses and, to the Northern Jurisdiction of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, he will forever be remembered as a true soldier for the Rite. May his example be forever remembered and replicated. SGIG Hales transitioned into the bosom of our Heavenly Father on December 1, 2020.

Grand Inspector General Jessie Lee Gilbert, 33^o

September 10, 1935 - November 22, 2020

Illustrious Jessie Lee Gilbert was a most worthy servant of the Illinois Prince Hall Masonic family. He was a quiet brother who swung a heavy stick as seen during devotional services of the Illinois Council of Deliberation and his continued service as an emeritus Grand Lodge Trustee. A fifty year plus member of Prince Hall Freemasonry, he will truly be missed in the Valley of Chicago and Orient of Illinois.



MAY PEACE BE UNTO THE ASHES OF ALL WHO HAVE PASSED.

Books You Should Know

Submitted by Grand Inspector General Daryl L. Andrews, 33°

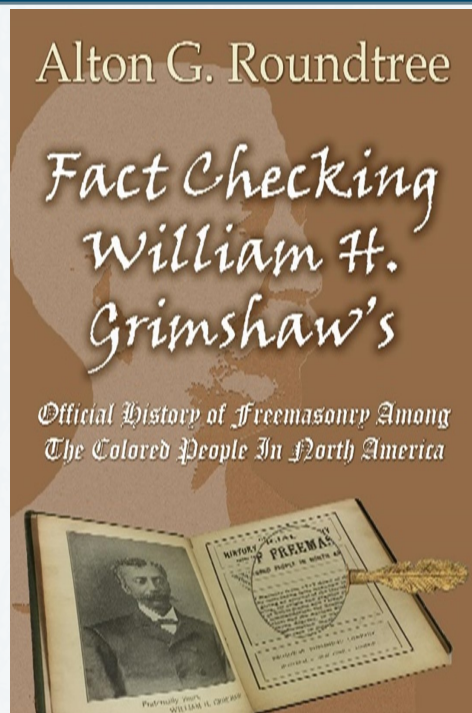
In the spirit of promoting Masonic education, this new column is being introduced to bring attention to works that aid in the goal of developing prime Masonic minds. A book you should know is....

FACT CHECKING WILLIAM H. GRIMSHAW'S OFFICIAL HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY AMONG THE COLORED PEOPLE IN NORTH AMERICA

BY ALTON G. ROUNDTREE

This work provides great details on multiple reviews of the facts presented in one of the earliest known accounts of the history of Prince Hall Freemasonry in America. The accounts presented by William Grimshaw have been fact checked to the fullest and this work identifies those items that are factual and those other items which are fictional. Grimshaw's attempt to provide a detailed history was pivotal during the day and age but some of the items presented in his account have proven either to be false or lacking sufficient detail to prove. These findings are highlighted in this work which is a **must-have for all Masonic historians**.

The author, Alton G. Roundtree, is an actual Fellow of the Phylaxis Society and has authored directly or contributed to nine books. He currently serves as Editor to the Phylaxis Magazine and is a perennial contributor to the transactions of Lux E Tenebris. This work in addition to all other publications can be obtained via www.Amazon.com.



Norman's Nook - I.C.O.D. Twenty Years Ago

Submitted by Grand Inspectors General William L. Norman, 33° and Daryl L. Andrews, 33°

COVID-19 has prevented the ability of the Illinois Council of Deliberation to deliberate in person due to restrictions placed on meetings in public places by the State of Illinois. This photo from ICOD 2001 was submitted as a means to remember the past sessions, celebrate the continuous service of those members who are in our midst and reflect on those members in this photograph who have since gone on to glory including SGIG Chuck Carter (then GIG), Most Worshipful Brother James Gavin, SGIG Magnus Burney

(then GIG), GIG Thomas Robbins, GIG Ronald Boone and GIG Robert DeCuir. May peace be unto their ashes and may our Heavenly Father keep our feet in the true way.

Pictured from left to right:

SGIG Neal Carson, GIG James Mitchell, SGIG Charles Stewart, GIG Charles Carter, GIG James Gavin (MWGM), GIG Warren Gipson, SGIG Brian L. Abrams Sr. (Deputy), GIG Magnus Burney, SGIG Charles Taylor, GIG Robert Weems, GIG Thomas Robbins, SGIG Melvin Frierson, GIG Ronald Boone and GIG Robert DeCuir.





VETERANS CORNER

“Set the Record Straight”

Submitted by Sovereign Grand Inspector General Donnie Merritt, 33°—MSgt, USAF, Ret.



I came across a headline that read “*Freedom isn’t free, I paid for it.*” - *United States Veteran*. As a retired Air Force veteran like many of you, I often receive this compliment from my fellow Americans, “thank you for your service.” But, I think there is a need to differentiate three known dates that are most appropriate to appreciate this sentiment. So, let’s set the record straight.



MEMORIAL DAY: According to Wikipedia, researchers like Pulitzer Prize winner, David Blight, tried to raise awareness that “freed slaves decided and requested permission to give a proper burial and decorate graves of unmarked soldiers so that black residents of Charleston would make sure their story was told.” One year later, commemoration was noted that *women* laid flowers on the graves of soldiers of the Civil War. Three (3) years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, Decoration Day “*was established as a day to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers.*” Later, in 1971 by an Act of Congress, May 30th, Memorial Day, was declared a national holiday.



ARMED FORCES DAY : According to military.com, On August 31, 1949 Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of Armed Forces Day, to create a same day event of Army, Navy and Air Force days. In an excerpt from the Presidential Proclamation of Feb 27, 1950, President Harry Truman stated: “Armed Forces Day, Saturday May 20th, 1950 marks the first combined demonstration by America’s defense of its progress, under the National Security Act, toward the goal of readiness for any eventually...”. Many military installations and municipalities are generally open this day as it is **not** a federal holiday. This day pays honor to those currently serving.



VETERANS DAY: America will typically, and I take liberty to add silently, observe Veterans Day on 11 November, 2020. According to Govinfo.gov, this observance was originally known as Armistice Day, set to honor the end of World War I in 1918. Proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson, 11 November 1919 honors “military veterans” who served in the United States Armed Forces. In 1938, through an Act of Congress, November 11th was made a legal holiday.

So, let’s get it right. The only day active duty military has precedence is Armed Forces Day! They should not and cannot be granted all three days. So, when you see me standing in the line on **Veterans Day** for a selected free/discounted meal or dessert at Applebee’s, Bob Evans, Buffalo Wild Wings, Denny’s, Golden Corral, and others identified on military.com, as we use to say, “make a hole”!



TRIPLE NICKLES

“Help Airborne Bright Light to the 555th”

Submitted by Grand Inspector General Charles Cooper Sr., 33^o



In the diaspora of African American Military History, the achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen are renown. However, there are also others who have made strides for whom we can work to elevate to the same status. Meet the Triple Nickles.

The Triple Nickles, yes “Nickles”, were the 555th Parachute Infantry of the United States Army during World War Two. This all-black Airborne unit was organized on February 25, 1943 during a period in which the United States Army was segregated. On December 30, 1943, the unit was officially activated at Fort Benning Georgia later moving to Camp McCall in North Carolina in preparation for deployment. The 555th, though, was never deployed overseas during World War Two which contributes to its lack of notoriety. It was, however, deployed to the West Coast of the United States to disarm balloon bombs sent to America by Japan in the winter of 1944. Over 900 bombs actually made it to the coast. They were designed to drop devastating incendiary devices once reaching a certain altitude. The 555th found over 300 in tact and quelled the wildfires caused by others that exploded in California, Oregon and Idaho by parachuting directly into them. Sustaining only 1 death in 28 missions, their techniques resolved all of the fires and are utilized today in training smokejumpers.

The name “Triple Nickles” derived from a few sources. “Triple” was selected because of its numerical designation (555). “Nickle” was taken from the “Buffalo Nickle” to commemorate that 17 of the original 20 members came from the 92nd Infantry (Buffalo) Division. The 555th also contributed to another first in American history. After being transferred to Fort Bragg, North Carolina in 1945, they continued to serve. In 1947, they were subsequently transferred to the 82nd Airborne Division making the 82nd Airborne the first integrated division in the United States Army.

The caliber of the 555th was of very high quality and their professional standards, skills and fearlessness marked them as pioneers. Their full efforts are not documented which is now driving efforts to remove the mystery from their history. Grand Inspector General Charles Cooper is currently engaged in efforts to do just that and has worked to secure interest from Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker and Lt. Governor Julianna Stratton to aid in the efforts.

**Feel free to touch base with
GIG Charles Cooper directly at
(773) 613-2719 for more information.**



Dr. King

Another Perspective on the Substance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

It would be an extremely safe statement to say that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was one of the most renown, civic activists in the history of the United States of America and, even, the world. His methods for securing the rights of all despite race or creed were exercised at tremendous risk to himself, to his family and to supporters of the causes that he so adamantly purported. While the global community ultimately views him as a peace maker, it is a reality that the methods through which he attained the peace were implemented in a manner that could be considered militant. In his own words in an interview on The Mike Douglas Show on November 2, 1967, Dr. King states "I think I am a militant. It means persistence. It means to be demanding, be insistent and I think it is possible to be militantly non-violent and lead..." With this in mind, let's review the militancy of Dr. King and how the efforts engaged by him through peaceful militance helped to achieve peace.

Since a youth, education presented on Dr. King had often focused on the final portion of the "I Have A Dream Speech". While his words still echo in the hearts and minds of millions, the substance of the speech was actually a clarion call for peaceful militancy to formalize change in the laws of the land as well as their practice. It held specific powers accountable for the lack of significant movement. It was a call to place pressure consistently until the pipes of racial degradation and despair were caused to burst. It was a direct call for militancy but in a non-violent fashion to move the nation forward. All in all, it is very clear that Dr. King was a militant, promoted non-violent militant action and worked incessantly to secure the rights, lights and benefits for all Americans, once and for all. It is from this perspective and without denying his degree of militancy that this article approaches the true substance of Dr. King.

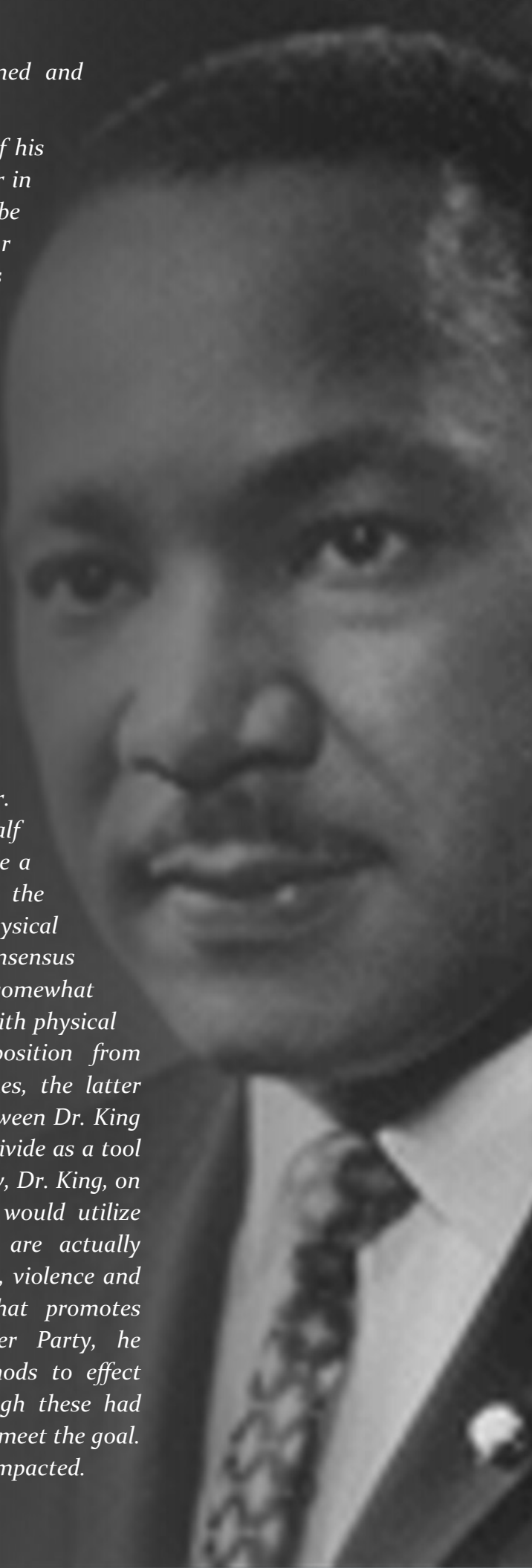
At the Great March on Washington in 1963, Dr. King addressed a crowd of thousands from all over the United States of America at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. He began by recognizing the Great Emancipator, President Abraham Lincoln, for his decree which emancipated the enslaved but acknowledged that the freedom expected by many had not been fully implemented after 100 years of the emancipation. In fact, their presence at the monument was a dramatization that the check from freedom had bounced because the rights of American citizenship had not been fully extended to all. The march itself was, in essence, a demand for America to make good on that check and a declaration to the world that the fight to ensure reclamation of those funds would continue until fulfilled.

This summation of the initial portions of Dr. King's speech is not a call for a physical revolution. It is not considered a cry for sedition and was not a call for the inaction of riotous behavior. It was a declaration that equal rights will be attained through the existing, legal means of the day and that a commitment to exhaust all means to achieve that goal was henceforth and forever being expressed. These sentiments are clear in the next phase of his speech where he states "it would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end but a beginning..... There will neither be rest nor tranquility until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges." These words defined the vision of Dr. King and would become the

basis from which subsequent missions would be defined and enacted through the concept of peaceful militance.

Dr. King moved forward carefully in the next section of his speech in order to provide specific context on the manner in which the goal to achieve equality under the law could be achieved. Firstly, he stated “let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.” Although this is the cup that was handed the Negro, the response had to evolve, as he stated, to the “high plane of dignity and discipline” and that the protest must not “degenerate into physical violence.” Secondly, that change must not be implemented in a silo but must be done with all involved for it to be implemented effectively. The evolution of the actions must be of such substance that it will force those who fight against it to “realize that their destiny”, as Dr. King stated, “is tied up with our destiny.....that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone.” Non-violent unity in purpose and action was the aim of this course of the speech. A commitment to this course, despite the opposition, must be maintained to achieve the end goal.

In his 1967 appearance on *The Mike Douglass show*, Dr. King also coined a phrase that summarized the second half of his speech. He said “a man of conscience can never be a consensus leader.” Considering that other groups like the Black Panthers had been organized and had endorsed a physical means to protect themselves and the community, the consensus of many to make change through force had become somewhat pervasive. Those who did not endorse the concept met with physical challenges from racists and public and verbal opposition from organizations who did support the method. Often times, the latter appeared to be utilized by the media to build a divide between Dr. King and the other organizations. Yet, rather than adopt the divide as a tool to weaken the movement to achieve equality under the law, Dr. King, on that same show, noted that those organizations who would utilize physical violence to achieve the same aims as his are actually approaching the situation in a reactive sense. In essence, violence and rioting, in particular, are responses to a system that promotes inequality. Rather than denounce the Black Panther Party, he showcased the approach of utilizing non-violent methods to effect change proactively. Exhibiting constant pressure through these had shown promise and built coalitions with all Americans to meet the goal. After all, the freedoms of all Americans were really being impacted.



The concept of attacking racial disparities at a “macro” level appeared to be the true scope of Dr. King’s vision. In the 1963 “I Have a Dream” speech, the aforementioned call for working with others was a clear indicator of the level in which he had placed his true focus. He constantly utilized the word “we” not as a specific reference to the black community but as a specific reference to Americans. When he states “as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march forward.....can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of unspeakable horrors of police brutality.....can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity.” The conclusion to the whole matter at the macro level is the culminating line in that same stanza where he states “we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.” Justice not only incorporates a high degree of color-blindness in the judging and enforcement but also in the methods of implementation and execution. Micro level incidents due to inequitable law enforcement usually produced riots and other violent reactions to past events. The macro level focused on justice as a whole to address the environment proactively for the future. This is the “forward march” to which King was referring in his speech and it could only be achieved through peaceful means.

The culmination of the speech ends with a message of hope. The Holy Bible tells us in the first verse of the 11th Chapter of the Book of Hebrews—“NOW Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” After the 1963 March on Washington, Dr. King stated in regards to the next steps that “hundreds of thousands who marched in Washington marched to level barriers. They summed up everything in a word—NOW. What is the context of NOW? Everything, not some things, in the President’s (John F. Kennedy) civil rights bill is a part of NOW.” The March drove the President Kennedy to introduce civil rights legislation in June of 1963. Although Kennedy succumbed to an assassin’s bullet in November of the same year, King continued to exert pressure on its passage. Under the term of Kennedy’s successor, President Lyndon Johnson, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 passed the United States House of Representatives in February of 1964 and, after passing the United States Senate in June, was signed into law on July 2, 1964. To enforce the act, the Equal Employment Opportunity

ALMS CLUB

*Submitted by Grand Inspector General
Tony D. Stafford Sr., 33°*



We are blessed to have generous males and females who humbly support the Alms Club. Thanks to you, we are knocking on the door of our goal so we can sufficiently be an arm of assistance to our members in need. With your continued support and pledges we can not only reach our goal but surpass it.

Let me say thank you on behalf of our Deputy, Sovereign Grand Inspector General Melvin Frierson, 33°, myself and the Alms Club Committee. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You. God Bless You All.

Committee—GIGs Tony D. Stafford Sr., Frank Jarvis, Denton Smith; SPs Carl Richardson, Melvin Crawford and Andrew Harbison Sr.; and LL Krystle Owens.

Commission (EEOC) was established by the law to address race and sex discrimination in employment. A Community Relations Service was also formed to ensure community related provisions were met and resolve issues. The Selma to Montgomery March in Alabama on March 7, 1965 was the precursor for the passage of the Voting Rights Act by the Senate and House in May and July of 1965 which addressed methods that legally prevented blacks from voting. The act was signed into law on August 6, 1965.

All in all, the substance of the things that were hoped for through the method of non-violent, militancy was realized by the works of faith. The acts of law introduced in 1964 and 1965 certainly addressed the issues presented by Dr. King and others at the micro and macro levels. Discriminatory practices prevented African Americans from taking advantage of job opportunities in addition to simply dining at places that they saw fit. Literacy tests and other barriers preventing citizens from voting were abolished. These implements at the micro levels addressed the issues experienced in different locales across the nation. The enforcement mechanisms provided by the acts ensured pathways for color-blind enforcement which addressed the overlying macro issue. In doing so, justice for all was finally in place.

Like Kennedy, Dr. King eventually succumbed to an assassin's bullet on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968. His violent death made him a martyr of the Civil Rights Movement but his death at the hands of the cowardly assassin could not kill the implements that were set into motion through non-violent means. King's name had often been presented as a potential candidate for the presidency of the nation and there apparently were fears of a black man serving as President of the United States of America. His dream however could not be killed as it set into motion a series of steps and built a series of leaders like Shirley Chisholm, Harold Washington, Jesse Jackson Sr. and others who would eventually put the Honorable Barack H. Obama in place as the first black President of the United States of America forty years later. Simply put, Dr. King's dream has produced realistic accomplishments that are still being realized today. To paraphrase Dr. King, the NOW is what's next. What can African Americans accomplish today? Let's keep pushing so that we may see....

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Territories You Should Know - Waukegan, Illinois

Submitted by Grand Inspector General Daryl L. Andrews, 33°

Waukegan, first visited by Pere Marquette in 1673, is one of the oldest communities in Illinois. The city started as a French trading post and Potawatomie settlement known as "Wakaygagh" or "Little Fort". Records dating back to 1829 tell of a treaty signed by the Potawatomie in which they ceded all of their land in this area to the federal government.

Little Fort became the county seat in 1841 by virtue of its population. By 1846, the town's population had grown to 750 prompting the residents to remove "little" from the name. On March 31, 1849, the name became "Waukegan", Potawatomie word for "fort".

Early settlers were attracted to the port city because of the amounts of produce and grain shipped from Lake and McHenry County farms to Chicago. The creation of the Illinois Parallel Railroad (*Chicago & North Western Railway*) in 1855 stimulated more growth. On February 23, 1859 with more than 2,500 residents, the city was incorporated. By the end of the 19th century, Waukegan had become an important industrial hub. Ship and wagon building flourished in addition to flour milling, meat packing and dairy services. The United States Sugar Refinery also opened its doors in 1890 followed by the Washburn & Boen Barbed Wire Company in 1891 transforming the city into an industrial and manufacturing hub.

Waukegan's demographics during the 20th Century consisted primarily of immigrants from Southeastern Europe and Scandinavia. While Lake County is renown for its efforts in the Underground Railroad, the African American population was extremely small. However, after the passage of the 15th Amendment, this changed. Per the 1870 United States Census, African American residents grew to nearly 1% of the population. By 1900, more than 188 resided there.

Although Waukegan had become slightly more diverse, it was not immune to racial unrest like other areas in Illinois. The 1906 Race Riots in Springfield saw several blacks lynched. The 1917 East St. Louis Riots sparked from racism. The 1919 Chicago Race Riots sparked from the death of a black youth by drowning. In Waukegan in 1920, the spark in Waukegan sourced from the blaming of a black youth



for casting a rock at a sailor's car from nearby Great Lakes Naval Base. The sailor gathered others and attempted to lynch black citizens and torch the Sherman House Hotel which served black residents. The efforts which extended weeks were rebuffed by the Waukegan Police and black citizens. This is the period in which Prince Hall Freemasonry arrived in the city. Several migrants arrived via the Great Migration, and made Waukegan home as a result. From this pool, Rufus Mitchell Lodge #107 was organized in 1923.

As the population grew, so did the Lodge and other Masonic bodies. Membership into the Scottish Rite was attained through Western Consistory #28 until the establishment of the Valley of Waukegan in 1973 with North Shore Consistory #91 with Daniel L. Weatherspoon as its first Commander-In-Chief and North Shore Assembly #59, Order of the Golden Circle, with Florence Warship as its first Loyal Lady Ruler. William Scruggs Military Lodge #147, was later organized in 1983 and became another source for North Shore's membership.



Sherman House Hotel

As of 2020, the African American population in the City of Waukegan represented over 19% of the city's population and the City of Waukegan is in the midst of a redevelopment plan to revive its downtown and lakefront areas. The plan, "A 21st Century Vision for Waukegan's Downtown and Lakefront", was developed in 2003 by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill is designed to draw more business to downtown Waukegan, introduce waterfront neighborhoods and secure the North Lakefront as an international model for the ecology and environment. With the presence of North Shore Consistory #91, the presence of the Scottish Rite is poised for similar growth in the region.

Sources retrieved 1/1/2021:

1. <https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1870/population/1870a-14.pdf>
2. "Gobs Storm Negro Hotel in Illinois", *The Courier-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, June 30, 1920, Page 1*
3. <https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1900/bulletins/demographic/72-population-sex-nativity-color-de-de-fl-ga-hi-id-il.pdf>
4. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/Waukegan-il-population>
5. <https://www.waukeganil.gov/107/Lakefront-Downtown-Master-Plan>

Valley of Waukegan—North Shore #91 & PHamily

Submitted by Sovereign Grand Inspector General Donnie Merritt, 33°, #91

*“Do nothing out of selfish ambition, vain or conceit. Rather in humility and value others above yourselves.”
Philippians 2:3 NKJV*

North Shore Consistory (NSC) #91 was instituted April 8, 1973 and constituted June 6, 1973, under the leadership of Illustrious Commander-in-Chief SP Daniel Weatherspoon 32°. As the membership of Western Consistory #28 in Chicago grew, it began to spread to the Northern suburbs. Fraters from Waukegan, Evanston and surrounding areas now flocked to NSC #91, extending the Orient to its Northernmost point. Under the warrant of NSC #91, the Commanders of the Rite (COR), Valley of Waukegan was also formed. The COR exists to provide guidance to all Masonic organizations in the quest to serve humanity by creating a deeper feeling of brotherly love and respect, and to encourage efforts to achieve higher social, economic, and intellectual status.

On December 22, 2020, with assistance from the Illinois Council of Deliberation, members of the COR donated caps and gloves for our youth. Mayor Leon Rockingham and members of the North Chicago Fire and Police departments graciously accepted these gifts in their continued effort to improve community relations.



Shown Left to Right: FD member, Mayor Leon Rockingham, Police Chief Lazaro Perez, GIG Raymond Smith, Jr. 33°, GIG/PMWGM Otis W. Cromartie, Sr. 33°, GIG Curtis Dorsey 33°, SGIG Donnie Merritt 33°, FD member, GIG Samuel Gaines 33°, FD member, GIG/HPGM Curtis Morris, Sr. 33°, Fire Chief Del Urban, PD member

Today, the “PHamily” has certainly flourished under the umbrella of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, State of Illinois and Its Jurisdiction. The Waukegan houses consist of Rufus Mitchell Lodge #107, William Scruggs Military Lodge #147, with affiliate bodies of North Shore Consistory #91 AASR, Stanley J. Harris Chapter #60 HRAM, Royal and Select Masons Council #21, Leonard J. Kendricks Knights Templar Chapter #72, Shawall Temple #165, A.E.A.O.N.M.S., Emblem Chapter #140 OES, North Shore Assembly #59 OGC, Shawall Ct #4 DOI, and Heroines of Jericho, North Shore Ct. #73. In Evanston, we have Mt. Moriah #28, and Pride of the North Chapter #61 OES.

Valley of East St. Louis—Tyree Voter Registration

Submitted by Commander-In-Chief Kevin Johnson, Tyree Consistory #64

In compliance with the request from Sovereign Grand Inspector General Melvin Frierson, Deputy for the Orient of Illinois as encouraged by Sovereign Grand Commander Melvin J. Bazemore, the Valley of East St. Louis of the Orient of Illinois got to work immediately to register voters for the 2020 election cycle. The members of Tyree Consistory #64 not only registered voters but also helped citizens complete the 2020 Census in September and October. These efforts were done at the Sav-A-Lot Grocery Store in East St. Louis. Joined by the Honorable Robert Eastern, Mayor of East St. Louis, on October 3rd, the team registered Mr. Henry Bernard, 82 years old. He had never voted in his life.



GIG C.Childress, GIG A.Cathion, GIG D.Gilmore, **Henry Bernard**, GIG J.Davis, **Robert Eastern**, SP T.Lockett, SP L.Fennoy & GIG A.Harris

Valley of Joliet—M-J #104 Leads with Love

Submitted by Sublime Prince Haniff Morris, 32°, #104

2020 was filled with unprecedented tragedy. From the untimely deaths of Kobe & Gigi Bryant and Chadwick Boseman, BLACK LIVES MATTER protests, raging west coast fires, swarming murder hornets, stock market crash and a tumultuous presidential election season alone, the year seemed as if it was torn from the pages of a Stephen King novel. Undoubtedly however, the scourge of the COVID-19 global pandemic emerged as a dastardly villain unlike any other seen in this generation. The loss of near a million souls worldwide due to its exponential transmission has forced us all to reassess life and what we deem as valuable.

Although businesses were mandated to shutdown, mandatory curfews were implemented and toilet paper became the source of mass hysteria, families began to spend more quality time with each other, personal and professional processes were streamlined for efficiency and individuals capitalized on an opportunity to become more introspective. Undeniably, the times compelled us to seek commonality instead of begrudging feigned differences.

For example, when the pandemic desperation was fresh and the obstacles seemed insurmountable, immeasurable found solace in coalescing in virtual parties hosted by D.J. D-Nice. When we found ourselves feeling alone and isolated by fear, a D.J. literally AND figuratively saved lives by reminding millions of souls that we were not alone.

Time went on and we formed emotional and mental scars that helped us deal with the reality of living in what at times seems like a Mad Max movie come to life...we survived by the grace of GOD and the help of others. As a result, Marquette-Joliet Consistory #104 seized the opportunity to do their part by hosting its Annual M-J#104 Holiday Basket Giveaway Saturday December 19th. During the especially warm 50° day, over 100 turkey dinners were distributed to appreciative local neighbors thankful for the helping hand. Proceeding under CDC & IDPH safety guidelines, the event served to indicate to the community that they were not alone and someone genuinely cared about their well-being. Moreover, Fraters laboring together always intimates genuine Charity (LOVE) lives immortal. May the good works of this august body continue!!!



L-R: S.P. Antonio Terry, 32°; G.I.G. Marion Matlock, 33°; G.I.G. Andrew Griffin III, 33°; S.P. Justin Chandler, 32°; S.P. Johnny Smith, 32°; S.G.I.G*(active) Neal Carson, 33°; S.P. Ronald Hills, 32°, G.I.G. Reinaldo Walker, 33°; G.I.G. Anthony Griffin, 33°; S.P. Earl Bryant, 32°; S.P. Freddie Walker, 32°; G.I.G. William Robinson, 33°; S.P. Nobie Mercer, 32°

Valley of Chicago—SGIG Johnson Christmas Basket

Photos submitted by SP Bruce Owens, 32°, #28, GIG Charles Cooper Sr., 33°, #28 and Brother Maurice Palmer, Cornerstone #91

In memory of a stalwart Scottish Rite soldier, the members of Western Consistory #28 annually engage in the Sovereign Grand Inspector General Ernest Johnson Christmas Basket program to provide sustenance for the Chicagoland area during the winter months. Under the direction of Grand Inspector General Franks Jarvis of the Chicago Commanders of the Rite, the members of Western and the Commanders of the Rite provided donations to ensure that Chicagoland families had turkeys and non-perishable items to satisfy family needs. These items were packaged together and distributed throughout the area and citizens who made it to the Grand East were also provided with winter supplies in addition to a hot meal. Nearly 1,000 citizens were impacted as witnessed by the daughter of the late SGIG Johnson—Loyal Lady Cilicia Johnson (right) of Chicago Assembly #4, Order of the Golden Circle. Job well done Western Consistory #28.



Subsequent efforts in the City of Chicago were also underway. Members of Western working in conjunction with Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, home church of Grand Inspector General Daryl L. Andrews and several members of Cornerstone Lodge #91, distributed bags of blankets, socks and toiletries to the homeless community near 51st and Federal and near downtown on Roosevelt Road after Sunday Service. Members offered prayer while providing sustenance to citizens living in tents in both areas.



Valley of Rockford & the Northern Illinois Food Bank

Submitted by Grand Inspector General George Barmore, 33°

Members of Balthasar Consistory #92 and Welcome Star Lodge #36 partnered with the Northern Illinois Food Bank to continue their 5 year, joint mission when they ordered, prepared, packaged and distributed food to the less fortunate of the City of Rockford and its surrounding areas. In November and December of 2020 over 300 families were served food for the Holidays through this collaboration. Additional events are planned for 2021. 3 more trucks have been scheduled to set up and feed more of the community through the Spring. Food donations were received from sponsors throughout the Rockford area.



Valley of Springfield Active in Central Illinois

Submitted by Sovereign Grand Inspector General Clarence Trotter, 33° and Grand Inspector General Hewitt Douglass, 33°

The Springfield Boys & Girls Club has been the blessed with the donations of hats and gloves by Menelik Consistory #49 and Menelik Assembly #58 (left). Gloves and caps were also distributed in Decatur for Christmas Eve at the John C. Ellis #17 parking Lot, Oasis Homeless Shelter and Decatur Bus transit by GIG U L Newbon, Bro. Steve Moore and PM Willie Lee, Jr. Items were also distributed in the cities of Danville, Champaign, Decatur, Springfield and Peoria. The recipients across Central Illinois were thankful for all the gifts.





3728 West 83rd Place
Chicago, Illinois 60652



Call for Submissions

“SCOTTISH RITE REFLECTIONS” PROJECT

All Scottish Rite Masons of the Northern Jurisdiction are invited to submit an essay on the topic “**What the Scottish Rite Means to Me**”. Selected submissions will be included in a book series titled “Scottish Rite Reflections” which will be sold through multiple channels including www.Amazon.com. Submit your essay to Bulletin@AndrewsPress.com by **March 1, 2021** to be considered. All submissions become the intellectual property of the United Supreme Council Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, PHA, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc. Feel free to contact GIG Daryl Andrews, Bulletin Editor at 312-489-6725 or Bulletin@AndrewsPress.com with any questions or if you would like to join the team.