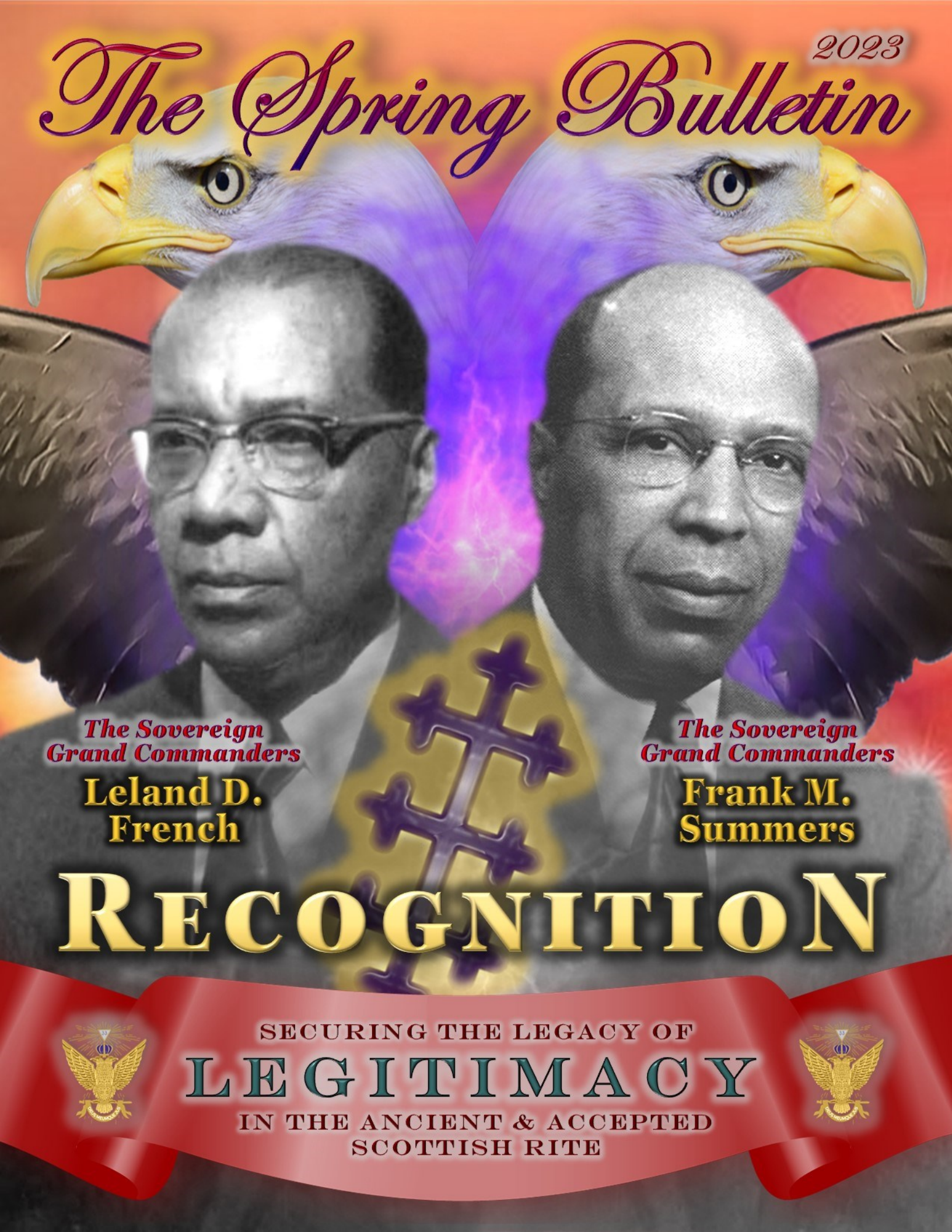


2023

The Spring Bulletin



*The Sovereign
Grand Commanders*

**Leland D.
French**

*The Sovereign
Grand Commanders*

**Frank M.
Summers**

RECOGNITION



SECURING THE LEGACY OF
LEGITIMACY

IN THE ANCIENT & ACCEPTED
SCOTTISH RITE





The United Supreme Council

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry (Prince Hall Affiliation),
Northern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., Inc.

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Sovereign Grand Commander

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The cutoff for the next edition is:

September 1, 2023

All submissions may be forwarded to Bulletin@AndrewsPress.com

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Salutations to Honorable Brother Wes Moore Governor of Maryland

History continues to be made by Freemasons! Salutations to the Honorable Wes Moore, the first African American Governor for the State of Maryland. Honorable Brother Wes Moore is a member of the MWPHGL of Maryland as well as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

A Mason and a Man

My Brother, Masonry means much more, than the wearing of a pin.
Or carrying a paid-up dues receipt, so the Lodge will let you in.
You wear an emblem on your coat, from your finger flash a ring,
but if you're not sincere at heart, this does not mean a thing.

It's merely an outward sign to show the world that you belong
to this great fraternal brotherhood that teaches right from wrong.
What really counts lies buried deep within the human breast.
The Masonic teachings brings it out and puts it to the test.

If you practice out of Lodge, the things you learn within,
be just and upright to yourself and your fellowmen,
console a brother when he's sick and assist him when in need
without thought of personal reward for any act or deed.

Walk and act in such a way that the world without can see
that only the best can meet the test laid down by Masonry.
Be faithful to your trust and do the best you can.
Then you can proudly tell the world you're a Mason and a Man.

- Author Unknown



In Memory of
Illustrious William R. Stark
Grand Minister of State
Ionic Consistory #70
Orient of Wisconsin
Sunset: October 28, 2022



The United Supreme Council

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry (Prince Hall Affiliation),
Northern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., Inc.

Sovereign Grand Commander's Pen

Democrats in the House of Representatives voted to elect New York Congressman Hakeem Jeffries as their leader for the 118th Congress. We congratulate Representative Jeffries on a historic election as the first Black lawmaker in either political party to lead a congressional conference.

On behalf of the more than 10,000 Prince Hall Scottish Rite Masons and Loyal Ladies of the Golden Circle of the Northern Jurisdiction, representing more than 20 states and territories across the United States, Europe, Canada, the Far East, and the Caribbean, we commend the House Democratic Caucus for electing Leader Jeffries and ensuring their commitment to leadership at the highest levels of our government while also better reflecting the growing diversity of all Americans.



This is another major milestone for diverse representation within the United States government. Representative Jeffries is a role model, and we look forward to seeing the results generated under his leadership. We also are prepared to work with Representative Jeffries and other members of Congress in advancing issues critical to the communities where we serve, especially in the areas of voting rights; social, environmental, and economic justice.



Yours in the Rite,

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



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The United Supreme Council

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LIEUTENANT GRAND COMMANDER

Securing the Future by Enhancing the Scottish Rite Experience

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Sidney D. Broadnax, Jr., 33°

One of our Sovereign Grand Commander's primary goals is MEMBERSHIP. RECLAIMING, RETAINING, and RECRUITING (ATTRACTING) NEW MEMBERS is IMPORTANT.

We must stimulate and encourage the development of creative and innovative strategies to enhance our Consistory by reclaiming lost members, decreasing the number of suspensions, and attracting new members. We need members to **Enhance** the programs that our "Strategic Sub Committees" have put together for our Scottish Rite Experiences. We must focus on opportunities that are **INSPIRATIONAL, ENJOYABLE**, and sometimes **CONVENIENT**.

Let's be flexible of new ideas and advanced

technology offered by others:

- ◆ **For Reclaiming:** Review reasons for Non-Payment of Dues.
- ◆ **For Retaining:** Keep/get members involved in Degree work; keep recognizing members milestones and achievements in their community; keep regular communication with members.
- ◆ **For Recruiting (Attracting) New Members:** Increase visibility in community activities; partner with other Masonic Houses on Community Project, and more.

"LET'S GO TO WORK!"



GRAND MINISTER OF STATE

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Grady Edge, 33°

Each one of us can partake in some action, execution, or fulfillment to select officials to serve in our best interests by voting. Right now, our nation is faced with elections at various offices at the state, local, and federal levels where the actual, successful candidate is unclear. They, rather, just declare the candidate of their choice. Each election term is a year for some of those officials. This election will probably be one of the most decisive to determine this country's future governance. And, it is our civic duty, incumbent upon each of us in this great nation, to partake in the elections of these public officials.

In this day and age, we are witnessing most vicious and deadly attacks on our men, women, and children under the cover of law enforcement. Our community along with our concerns involving police brutality supports the need for our active participation in selecting the leaders in our local, state and federal government by voting. It is a must.

We have had some successes with voting which we must continue to do. However, we have a need to focus on police brutality as well. The "BLACK LIVES MATTER" movement has spotlighted this blatant brutality and highlighted the actual murders by policemen through videos of their actions across the country. The video of the killing of George Floyd was seen around the world and, without those inhumane images of his death, Officer Chauvin may not have been found guilty. We just recently witnessed the murder of Tyree Nichols by five policemen. Is the police uniform and badge the actual enemy of the black man and not necessarily the color the person wearing

it? The membership consists of predominately black men. The climate of the country presently is aimed at limiting our lives, livelihood, and families. To help in our survival and in the survival of our families, and to protect our welfare and the interests of future generations and the preservation of our communities, we must make use of the single device that has shown the world the true picture of the savagery of our policeman in relation to the black community. That single device is the cell phone.

The cell phone has been one device that has helped to shape the outlook of the actions of various police departments across the country. Yes, we've had many conversations and passed thousands of messages with this device but, what we must do now, is learn to use this device for video recording events. We need to go on record encouraging each and every member of this great fraternity to become exceptionally familiar with the methods and means of video recording with their respective mobile phones. This will be our method of letting the police know that they are being watched constantly. It will help bring justice to our community and help decrease the heartaches we've endured for centuries.

In closing, I encourage everyone to fulfill your civic duty to vote and encourage others in our local communities to carry out their civic duties as well. And for the protection of everyone, learn to record with your cell phones.





The United Supreme Council

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry (Prince Hall Affiliation),
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STATEMENT ON TYRE NICHOLS

PHILADELPHIA, PA. (JANUARY 28, 2023) — Today, Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, the Sovereign Grand Commander of The United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc., issued the following on the death of Tyre Nichols.

Today, we are faced with yet another episode of an unnecessary death of a young Black man at the hands of those who have sworn to protect and serve us. While this is undoubtedly an unfortunate tale, it is also one that we have heard far too often. And, the further irony in this tale is that this violent act was inflicted by a special unit of officers tasked with restoring peace in neighborhoods.

The United Supreme Council stands with the citizens of Memphis and every other city or town across this land where our young brothers and sisters have met an untimely demise. We are thankful for the action taken by the police department in releasing the body cam footage. And pray that through this transparency that the Nichols family can receive justice for Tyre. Also, that this swift action serve as a precedent for other police departments should this act ever occur again. Last, it is our hope and prayer that the transparency seen in this event serve as a catalyst for the needed training and necessary reform of law enforcement that our communities need and deserve.

We call on our members and citizens to peacefully share our displeasure with the events in Memphis. May this statement serve as an initial message to our political leaders, community activists and law enforcement leaders that we have a high expectation for police accountability and due process for all community engagements. Words fail to express the sorrow felt for the family and friends of Tyre Nichols. We pray that the Great God of the Universe provides the needed solace and comfort in the time to come.

Yours in the Rite,

Melvin J. Bazemore, 33°

Sovereign Grand Commander



DESK OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Edward M. Brooks, II, 33°

First giving praise to the GAOTU for his many blessing. By the time you receive this edition, we should be getting ready for United Supreme Council Annual Session in “The Mile High City” of Denver, CO. We will be making new peers and greeting those we have known for years. I would like to personally

distribution costs immensely. We have many events planned for the membership in Denver, so that you will be able to take something away from this session to improve in your Masonic knowledge.

For those of you who have never been to Denver, the air is very thin and it may take your body time to adjust. This city has a lot to offer, so take time out of your busy schedule to avail yourselves to all the amenities that this great city has to offer, like shopping and many great eateries. If your schedule permits, you should carve out an extra day or two to take advantage of the city. Don’t forget your required medication and pack it separately from your checked luggage and try not to over exert yourself. I am looking forward to seeing, meeting and greeting you in Denver.

“CONTRATULATE TO THE CLASS 2023.”

Now that we are getting back to some since of normalcy and after a very successful session in Philadelphia last year, the United Supreme Council continues to move in a very positive direction. This year we have used our website for notification, registration and to prepare for this year’s session, reducing our printing, postage and



SEEING GOD'S HAND

From the Desk of the Grand Prior

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Rev. Dr. Wilton E. Blake, I, 33°, Grand Prior

Many years ago, a man resolved to write in his journal at the end of each day. It's a resolution many people make, but his journal entries were different. They weren't just a log of what happened that day.

Before he wrote, he pondered this question: "Have I seen the hand of God reaching out to touch us or our children or our family today?" As he made it a habit to reflect on that question, he began to see evidence of God's loving intervention that he hadn't noticed before. It was as if simply asking the question "allowed God to show {him} what He had done."¹ Somewhat unexpectedly, the more he recorded God's goodness, the more he became aware of it.

Whether you're a journal keeper or not, there's great value in pausing and asking, "How have I seen God's hand in my life today?" God, of course, is all-powerful. He could overwhelm us with impressive displays of power. But more often, He works quietly, subtly, gracefully.

Beautiful blessings and minute miracles surround us. They're simply and sweet-always sweet, but nonetheless powerful. And they're clear to see if we take the time to

look: the kindness of a stranger, the concern and care of a loved one, moments of quiet peace and clarity amid heartache and turmoil, the beauty of this magnificent world.

One of the best places to find God's hand in our lives is in the kind acts of others. As a wise religious leader taught "God does notice us, and He watches over us. But it is usually through another person that meets our needs."²

So when someone reaches out with a hand of kindness, think of it as God's hand. When someone shares a helpful, hopeful, or compassionate word, think of it as God's voice. When someone expresses genuine love, think of it as God's love. And above all, when you feel inspired to reach out to others, embrace the opportunity to be God's hand in their lives.

The more we look for God's beautiful blessings and minute miracles, the more we will see them and the more we'll want to keep looking for them. Imagine the joy and peace that will come as we resolve to see God's hand in our lives each day.

Sources:

1. Henry B. Eyring; 2. Spencer W. Kimball; From: Music of the Spoken Word



THE EDITOR'S PEN

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Daryl L. Andrews, 33°

We continue to make history! The Statement of Unity signing between the Power Four was significant as it reaffirms their intentions to secure the legacy of the Rite. Sovereign Grand Commanders Leland D. French and Frank M. Summers receive the shine along with the

PACT Act and historical information. God's hands are moving for those Fraters and Loyal Ladies who serve Him which is shown, in part, via donations to the United Supreme Council Benevolent Fund. Great work indeed!!!

Special thanks for your continued commentary:

- "The covers are a modern take on the past."
- "Look into e-copies versus paper copies in the mail."
- "Spotlight 2 Sovereign Grand Commanders in a single edition. It's good information and I don't like waiting."
- "Book suggestions are good. I'm building a library."

Keep the coming!! You send them, I'll post them.

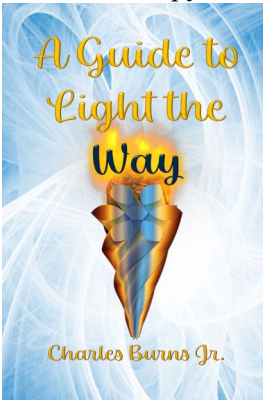
Lastly, I interviewed Illustrious Charles J. Stewart just before he passed. He stressed Lifetime Membership stating "I contributed knowing it would outlive me." Are YOU willing to do the same? Help secure the Rite by leaving your LEGACY as a Lifetime Member!

CRADLE TO COLLEGE

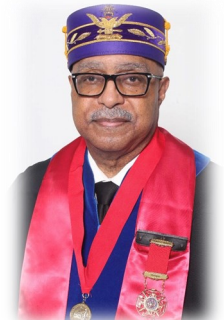
Sovereign Grand Inspector General Horace J. Jackson, 33° & Sovereign Grand Inspector General Charles Burns Jr., 33°

The work and dedication of our participating Orients (Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, and Washington/Oregon) is truly appreciated. As most school districts and community centers are again operating normally, we look forward to Mentoring Programs getting back into full mode. A detailed Mentoring Report will be presented in the Fall Bulletin.

Each Illustrious Deputy attending the Deputies Conference in January received a copy of the Mentoring Guide,



"A Guide to Light the Way". It can be used to enhance mentor programs already in existence and help kick-start brand new programs.



Contact us with any questions or concerns.

BAHAMAS PRIME MINISTER CROWNED

Salutations Right Honorable Philip Davis, 33°



SGIG Everette Mackey, GIG Terrance Cartwright, GIG Philip Davis, SGC Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, SGIG Edward M Brooks, II, MWGM Leslie Dean



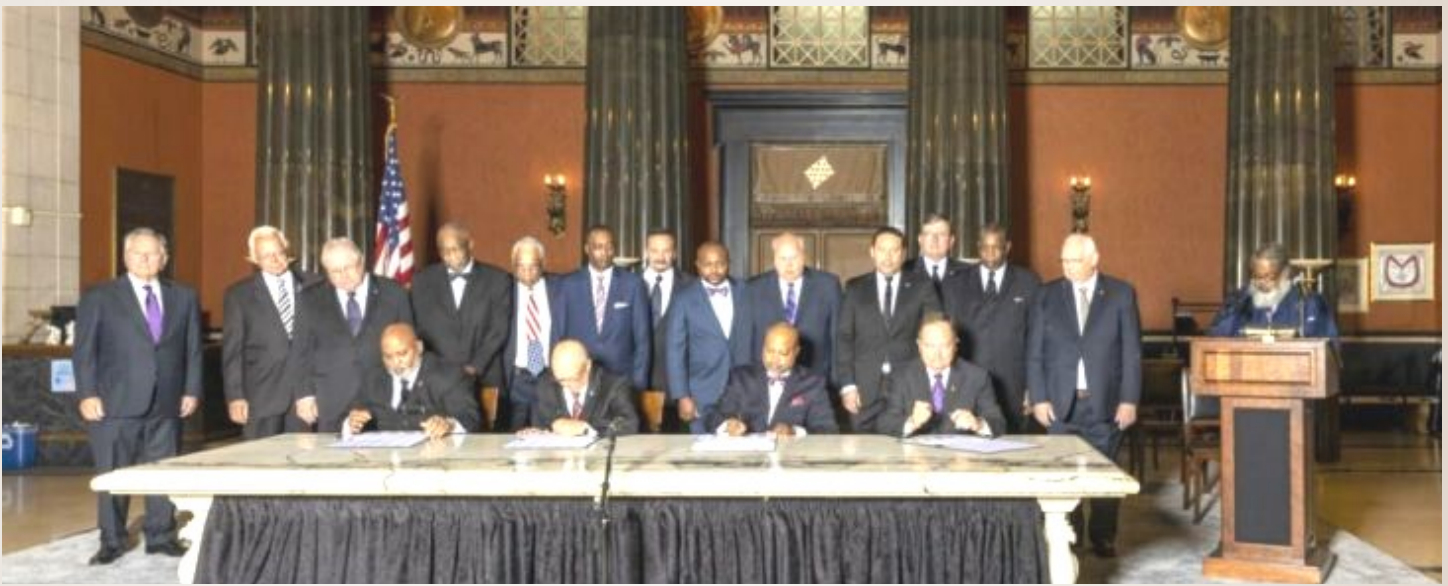
On Saturday, December 3, 2022, the Right Honorable Philip Davis, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas was elevated to the 33°. He is the head of Bahamian government who is sworn in by the Governor General of the Commonwealth, the official representative of King Charles III. Crowned by Sovereign Grand Commander Melvin J. Bazemore, Illustrious Philips is as a member of the Samuel J.D. Shook Jr. Class.

A royal trip indeed, Illustrious Bazemore had the honor of being received by His Excellency Sir Cornelius Smith (right), Governor General of the Bahamas (also a PH Mason) on the previous day. Together, with members of the Orient and Most Worshipful Brother Leslie Dean, Grand Master of the Bahamas, a visit was made to the gravesite of Illustrious Basil Sands, 19th Sovereign Grand Commander. Lunch was had with Ms. Roberta Sands and Ms. Mavis Davies, widows of SGC Sands and Past Deputy Roscow Davies. All amenities were provided by the officers and members of the Bahamas Council of Deliberation headed by Illustrious Everette Mackey, Deputy for the Orient, as witnessed by SGIGs Edward Brooks and Robert Sands.



Salutations to Illustrious Philips, Sir Cornelius Smith, Illustrious Mackey and the Orient of the Bahamas.





RECOGNITION:

Securing the Legacy of Legitimacy in the Scottish Rite

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Daryl L. Andrews, 33°

The concept of “recognition” defines the nature of relations between organizations in Freemasonry. Before organizations discuss recognition, there are specific standards that each must be able to meet. First, evidence must exist to confirm the legitimacy of origin. Second, a defined territorial jurisdiction with exclusive control must already exist. Third, adherence to the Ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry must be confirmed. Once satisfied, conversations relative to the mode of recognition can begin.

Recognition does not always equate to an open-door policy between organizations. This along with other points are discussed and determined during agreement negotiations for modes of recognition. Once agreed upon by all parties, the mode provides the basis upon which the organizations operate in conjunction with one another.

Agreements, themselves, help to secure the true legacy of legitimacy between organizations. As there are multiple bogus Masonic organizations, it is difficult for the public or even the courts to determine if an organization is legitimate or bogus. This has historically been a challenge. However, a recognition agreement can be utilized as a tool for clarification. While its value is very high in Freemasonry, its worth to municipalities is a different story.

For example, the International Free and Accepted Masons (IF&AM) established by Willie V. Banks,

was contrived without a shred of evidence that confirmed he was ever a legitimate Mason. While his organization was labelled as bogus in the circle of legitimate Freemasonry, the State of Michigan still allowed it to incorporate and operate. Small branches still exist across the nation and they do perform acts that are beneficial to the community. Yet, the public knows no distinction because “Mason” is in its name.

To knowledgeable Masons, the monikers are distinguishing factors. In the State of Illinois, there are only two recognized Grand Lodges—the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois (F&AM) and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Illinois (AF&AM). The agreement reached in 1998 was documented and publicized. The world now knows that the legitimate bodies in the state bear the monikers of F&AM and AF&AM. As IF&AM is not recognized, no Masonic intercourse is to be had. Multiple attempts have been successfully rebuffed.

The United Grand Lodge of England maintains a list of the Grand Lodges that it recognizes. The list is the basis upon which Masonic correspondence is shared. Those included on the list were invited to the 300th anniversary of organized Freemasonry in England in 2017 and both Illinois Grand lodges were attendees. To their dismay, none of the other so-called Grand Lodges in the state were invited. Therein, lies the security in recognition. Only those who were recognized were invited and received.



The historic agreement signed by the four legitimate Supreme Councils in the United States of America in 2022 serves as that basis upon which the legitimacy of Scottish Rite organizations in the nation are now judged. It has been publicized and it outlines modes of recognition as well as the manner through which other Supreme Councils will be recognized. It is an iron clad agreement between the **Power Four**:

1. **United Supreme Council, AASR, PHA, Northern Jurisdiction (USC-NJ);**
2. **Supreme Council AASR, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction (NMJ);**
3. **United Supreme Council AASR, PHA, Southern Jurisdiction under the leadership of Illustrious Dr. Corey D. Hawkins, Esq. (USC-SJ);**
4. **Supreme Council AASR, Southern Jurisdiction (SJ).**

The brand of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite requires protection because incidents in the past caused great angst. John G. Jones, a pivotal figure in Masonic history, lost an election for the Office of Sovereign Grand Commander of the USC-SJ in 1895. Rather than deal with the loss in a manner that constituted some sense of Masonic morality, he took a more destructive path. He and Dorsey F. Seville of the District of Columbia along with a band of others created a new Scottish Rite Body within which Jones declared himself Sovereign Grand Commander. They garnered supporters and moved forward.


Sovereign Grand Commander Thornton Jackson expelled Jones from the USC-SJ for his actions but Jones was allowed to incorporate his Supreme Council in the City of Chicago. Through the

masterful hands of Seville, they went on a public relations blitz through multiple forms of media. The public was unaware of distinctions but the blitz caused great disruption in the Scottish Rite. Many legitimate Masons were prompted to choose between bodies. The USC-SJ ultimately prevailed.

The playbook of Jones and Seville has been replicated by many bogus organizations. Some argue that Jones was in good standing when he started his organization. However, as it was not authorized by a legitimate source, the action was spurious and was done in a clandestine manner. The charter for his organization was actually a business charter from a municipality and not a charter by a legitimate Scottish Rite authority. As such, no lineage to legitimacy equates to a bogus state.

Intrinsically, the Scottish Rite preaches against vanity, pride and egotism. Puffing oneself up to gain trophies is a character flaw that can create enmity because it is contrary to the concept of brotherly love. Ultra-egotism, like that displayed by Jones, is an over indulgence of ego, pride and vanity. This is in juxtaposition to compassion, selflessness and mutual support. Love combats ultra-egotism because it results in the provision of relief in times of need and the dispersal of truth in cloudy spaces. Truth separates the gray areas into black and white spaces. It is the key defense against spurious activity. Truth must be spoken to brethren who have gone off course for clarity's sake and for an opportunity at reconciliation. If reconciliation is not possible, then severance becomes the clear course.

The statement "once a Mason, always a Mason" is inaccurate. Once severed, he is a Mason no more and nothing he purports can be aligned to a "legitimate" Masonic effort. So, enforcement is key. The only recourse against this behavior is publicizing the truth within the boundaries defined by the regulations of the legitimate body to outflank the spurious acts.

The recognition agreement between the Power Four represents the truth. The ceremony surrounding the "Statement of Unity" was a public dispersal of the truth. There is no gray area in the Scottish Rite. The black and white tiles have been defined and documented by the agreement. Brotherly love will be leveraged to enforce it. Relief will be provided where ever it is required. With this in mind, there is security for the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite in the United States of America. By God's grace, mercy and wisdom, it shall remain secure for all posterity. 

THE GOLDEN LIGHT

Loyal Ladies of the Order of the Golden Circle



**Loyal Lady
Michelle Williams**

Past State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Michelle Williams became a member of the Alaskanite Assembly No. 76 in October 2007. She travelled through the seats becoming the Loyal Lady Ruler, furthering her assent to become the State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler in 2016. As the Loyal Lady Ruler of Alaskanite Assembly #76 she carried on the work of the Past Loyal Lady Rulers, ensuring that the Assembly continued to be active in the Anchorage Community. The Alaska Grand Assembly's Annual Gold and White Ball was one of the signature events, she put into place as a vehicle to engage the Orient of Alaska and Alaskan Communities.

PSGLLR Williams has always been an advocate for others, as a Past President of the Midnight Sun Area Local 995/996 of the American Postal Workers Union and its first African American female to hold that position. She advocated for women in the criminal justice system who wanted to change their lives as a case manager for Mary Magdalene Home Alaska. She sat on the Board for the Multiple Sclerosis Center advocating for those who live with the diagnosis to access services, planning events and fundraising. She is Past President of North To The Future, Business and Professional Women's Club where she advocated for equal pay and rights for women. She is a member of the NAACP and sat on the Board of Shiloh Community Housing Inc (SCHI) since 2002. As trustee, treasurer, and current board vice president, SCHI's mission is to "interrupt homelessness." It was in partnership with the above-named organizations she has been able to highlight the contributions of the Alaskanite Assembly #76 and the State Grand Assembly in Alaska through advocacy, donations, time, and talents of Loyal Ladies and the assistance of the Scottish Rite.

Her career after USPS includes advocacy for vulnerable children and adults. Her earlier advocacy within the criminal justice system provided the foundation for her to obtain the position of Director the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center, the only women's institution in Alaska. Due to that experience, she now is the Coordinator of the Alaska Department of Corrections Community Intensive Outpatient located at the Salvation Army Clitheroe Center providing substance use treatment to individuals on supervision in the Anchorage Community.

PSGLLR Williams is the current SGLLS, holding that seat since she passed the gavel in October 2017. She is the current sitting Grand Worthy Matron of the Prince Hall Grand Chapter Alaska and It's Jurisdiction. She is a Deaconess at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. She is married to GIG Yolandous D. Williams 33°, has three adult children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



**Loyal Lady
Gail Freeman**

Past State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Gail Freeman is an Order of the Golden Circle stalwart whose dedication to the Order and to service is unrivaled. She currently serves as the Coordinator for the Order of the Golden Circle Working Committee for the United Supreme Council. Together, with other leaders of the State Grand Assemblies and volunteers, they are charting a solid course ensuring that the Loyal Ladies are playing a prominent role in the Sovereign Grand Commander's vision to improve the Scottish Rite Experience for all. Her experience and relationships makes her the right person at the right time for this most important job.

Her passion for the Order of the Golden circle started over forty-six years ago, as she states, "when I became involved with the wives of Saginaw Valley Consistory. Joining the Golden Circle was not discussed, however as we continued to travel with our husbands, discussions began to evolve with Illustrious Homer E. Gaines. He explained the ladies would have to work as a club for two years to prove sincerity before chartering an Assembly. Shortly thereafter, sixteen women began operating as a club." After serving in the community conducting charity work, twenty-five women were initiated and Light of Hope Assembly #64 was chartered.

The ideal of service remains a driving force behind all efforts in which she engages. In addition to her coordination duties for the Working Committee, she has also taken on a role in "The Dove & The Quill" project. The purpose of this project is to capture the thoughts of all Loyal Ladies, without regard to rank, on the topic "what the Order of the Golden Circle means to me". She is not only one of the coordinators for the project but she is also a volunteer who submitted one of the first entries for review. With her assistance over 100 Loyal Ladies were a part of the initial Zoom overview. Just over 100 attended the second call. While there were some repeat attendees, over 160 were unique to the sessions ranging from the East Coast to the West Coast including Alaska and from the Far East and Europe. It would not have happened without her.

It is with this in mind that we spotlight Loyal Lady Freeman. Her contributions are tremendous and the Order of the Golden Circle Working Committee is in good hands.



CONSISTORIAL ORIGINS

Our History Should Not Be A Mystery—XVII

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Reginald B. Stewart, 33°, Grand Historian



Gustave M. Solomons Consistory #101

*Valley of Kaiserslautern (Germany) - Orient of Europe
Organized May 11, 1982*



Gustave M. (Martinez) Solomons Sr., a native of New York, was a graduate of MIT earning a degree in Electrical Engineering which became his occupation. He was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. serving as Basileus of Gamma Chapter for a number of years. He spent the bulk of his working life at Bethlehem Steel Company rising to become the Chief Electrical Engineer and retiring after

30 years. Notable among his experiences was his involvement with launching the first U.S. Warship named for a Black man—the USS Harmon (Leonard Roy Harmon). Illustrious Solomons was among the sponsoring party as the ship was built by his employer.

In acknowledgement of 10 years of service as a Cambridge School Committee member, he was fortunate to receive his flowers while still living. Illustrious Solomons became the namesake the “Gustave M. Solomons Transportation Career Center.” A member of Holy Sepulchre Consistory #17, Valley of Boston, he was a member of the Horace G. McKerrow Class of 1953.

Illustrious Solomons led efforts to acquire a Prince Hall

Scottish Rite presence in western Massachusetts resulting in the charter of Springfield Consistory #89, Valley of Springfield in May 1972. He also served as Deputy for the Orient of Massachusetts for more than 20 years. A highlight of his tenure is facilitating a joint meeting between Sovereign Grand Commanders Russell S. Gideon (NJ) and Stanley F. Maxwell (NMJ) in 1979. He also served as the chairman of the USC Grand Trustees. He was integral in the initial planning stages of the Scottish Rite House building. He once again received his flowers while living as the namesake of the newest Consistory in the Orient of Europe (at that time), chartered at the 101st Annual Session held in the Valley of Freeport.

North Shore Consistory #52

*Valley of Duluth—Orient of Minnesota (Defunct)
Organized December 4, 1921*

Named for its geographic location in Northern Minnesota on Lake Superior, this Consistory was chartered by MICIC William R. Morris, Deputy for the Orient. Not much is known about its operation only that it was short lived. As was the usual story in those days, the meddlesome John G. Jones had previously set up a Consistory in 1897 by the name of Morning Star (bogus). It is unlikely that those members became charter members of North Shore Consistory #52. Currently there is a functioning Consistory named North Shore Consistory #91 in the Valley of Waukegan, Orient of Illinois.

CONGRATULATIONS LT. COLONEL HILL

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Robert Meekins, 33°

Michelle Hill, Past Loyal Lady Ruler of Light of Hope Assembly #64, Order of the Golden Circle, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the Michigan Army National Guard (MIARNG). She is a Direct Commission Officer in the Army Medical Detachment (AMEDD) Army Nurse Corp since August 2011. She served as a Nurse Case Manager and Squad Leader for five years. She spent over two years serving as the Company Commander of the Medical Detachment Unit before transitioning into the Occupational Health Nurse position for the State of Michigan. Currently, she is the Chief Nurse Case Manager.



From December 2020 to September 2022, LTC Hill served as the officer in charge of COVID clinics. In that role, she provided oversight for all Department of Defense COVID clinic operations throughout Michigan. She fulfills her military obligations while working full time as a nurse executive. Prior to executive leadership, she

worked as the manager for anesthesia technicians at Michigan Medicine and adjunct faculty at the University of Michigan – Flint School of Nursing. She worked as a Nurse Case Manager in the transfer center and emergency department at Henry Ford Health System and Michigan Medicine. She developed her passion for community health while serving in the community sector as an adherence nurse case manager for HIV and supervising infant mortality programs.

LTC Hill earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Michigan State University and a Master of Science degree with a concentration in Community Health Nursing from Wayne State University. In addition to her civilian education, she successfully completed the Military Command and General Staff Officers Course. Her professional and community affiliations include memberships in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Light of Hope Assembly #64, OGC; Royal Star Chapter #27, OES; and Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc.

Deputies & Overseers Conference 2023

An Entered Apprentice would answer the question relative to his intentions and purpose in the Masonic Order as an opportunity to learn to subdue his passions and improve himself. The Scottish Rite is all about improvement and, as knowledge and rank increases, so do the obligations. When the obligations are clearly outlined from expertly manicured hands, advancement to the outlined goals can be measured and supplemented where required. Hence the purpose of the Conference for Deputies and Overseers of the Orients of the Holy Empire.

Ritus Ad Opus translates into “the Rite at work” and the Deputies and Overseers of the Orients have been extremely

busy in fulfilling their duties in the United States and beyond. The United Supreme Council AASR NJ (PHA) completed a very harmonious and successful Mid-Year Deputies Conference in Cherry Hill, New Jersey in January. Hosted by Sovereign Grand Inspector General Robert Oglesby, Deputy for the Orient of New Jersey with the presence of Most Worshipful Brother Michael A. Wiggins, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New Jersey, reports from the financial officers, committees and Orients were well received and full of activities that are aimed at benefitting the Rite.

A new Orient was an attendee at the session, the Orient



USC Benevolent Fund Donor Listing for 2022

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Samuel C. Hunter Jr. Class—2014
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In Memory of Solomon Wallace

John Tilley

In Memory of SGIG William R. Smith

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McArthur Adams

In Memory of SGIG Courtney P. Houston Jr.

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In Memory of Threston C. Roots

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Louis A. Elisa II

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In Memory of My Mother Mabel Wright

James A. Wright

In Memory of My Father Columbus Wright

James A. Wright

In Memory of My Wife Ethel R. Wright

James A. Wright

In Memory of My Son Scott A. Webb

James S. Webb

Tribute to the 555th Airborne

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Cherry Hill, New Jersey ~ RITUS AD OPUS

of the Caribbean, with representation from Illustrious Edward B. Darnell. The contributions to the Benevolent Fund were in abundance and the Class of Grand Inspectors General for 2023 were solidified. The Lifetime Membership Program was also reinstated as a method for members to leave a legacy and contribute to the financial solvency of the United Supreme Council. All reports were well received and re-affirm the solid foundation that has been laid in this administration.

Plans are also set for the 2023 Annual Session of the United Supreme Council in the Orient of Colorado from May 26-30, 2023 at the Sheraton Downtown Denver Hotel.

A new coin was unveiled by the Fundraising Committee to commemorate the 142nd annual session. It is a fine example of a high-class token of brotherhood and unity and is a keepsake that is second to none.

As the Scottish Rite looks forward to the labors for 2023, it stands in a strong position. United under the banner of the double-headed eagle and empowered by Fraters of all ranks and grades, all measures of progress are in the green. See you all in Denver.



Robert Harding
Willie E. Jackson
Bennie Lawrence
James B. Liles
Wayne S. McKenzie
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Larry Mitchell
Kenneth M. Morrison
Robert Myers Jr.
Selvin R. Osbourne
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Irving A. Tonge
Jim Wallace Jr.
Christopher Wright

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Timothy J. Cager
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Gregory R. Hankins
Donald L. Hutchinson
Sidney B. Kaikai
Timothy Lawson
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John M. Wilds
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Horace J. Jackson
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Douglas P. Jones
Samson Kobbah II
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Melvin Lee Moore
Munir Muhammad
Wilfrid D. Murphy
Lester R. Payne Sr.
Wayne E. Phillips
William F. Pickard
Willie Redden
Daren W. Rupert
James L. Sadler
Carl w. Saunders
Dwane Smith

Craig S. Strong
Cecil M. Ward
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New Haven #7
Norman Andrews Jr
Josephus B. Ballenger
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Rodney T. Cohen
James Gatling
Harold L. Grey
Ronnie Maebry Sr.
Thomas Owens Jr.
Garland Patton Sr.
Benjamin W Sallard
Thaddeus M Stewart
Marshall F. Wells

Nimrod #9
Jason L Brown
John Clea Jr.
Ernest P. Davis
Al T. Frierson
Samuel King
Willie W. McCoy
Johnny R. Pearce
Lavon A. Postelle
Gregory A. Sharpe
Ronnie B. Tucker Sr.
Jessie E. Webb
Oscar L Williams Jr
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Douglass #10
Levi Barnes III
Frank E. Coit III
Cameron E. Cox
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Richard D. Scott Jr.
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Mt. Sinai #12
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Conrad L. Luster
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North Star #14
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Clarence D. Castile
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Robert L. Alexander
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Edward W. Miles
Moreno G. Miller
Dwight I. Morton
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Jerry Nichols
Riley B. Norton
Tazzerall K. Pitts
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Woodrow Riddle Jr.
Michael J Sales Jr
Quintin N. Shaw
Robert L. Smith Sr.
William Spence Sr.
Reginald B. Stewart
Vernon Sykes
Alvin J. Taylor
Steven J. Terry
George Thompson
Hugh A. Turner
Alfred L. Walton
Edw. Washington Sr.
Andrew D. White
Carl A. Williams
Sterling Williams
Charles H. Wright

Kaw Valley #16
James O. Barnes
Wendell O. Cathey

Thomas Nickerson
Chester L. Scott
Caesar White

Holy Sepulchre #17
John J. Clarke
Ulysses Darget
Timothy R. Downes
Donald E. Harding
Stanley G. Johnson
Compton Jones
Hilton E. Jordan
Charles A. Lewis
Leslie A. Lewis
Joseph W. Lockhart
Norman A. Lowe
James Marshall
Charles McKinney
Hollie Moultrie Jr.
Manuel R. Pires
Ronald Poindexter
Edward J. Rogers
Larry W. Singleton
Michael Sparrock
James Veasley
Ian G. Wilson

Western Star #18
Leonard E Holloway

Orient #19
D.J. Gilmore Jr.
Ollie F. Haggins
Lee C. Haynes
Thomas M. Jones
Gary McGhee
Alfred Pearson
Bennie L. Pride
Clarence Reynolds Jr.
Lawrence C. Sample
C.B. Slaughter
Norman E. Smith
Glenn B. Smith Sr.

King Solomon #20
Larkin W. Banks III
Wilton E. Blake, I
Sidney D Broadnax Jr.
Eddie L.S. Brown Sr.
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Carlos Crump
Kelvin J. Davis
Rufus T. Duhart
Ernest D. Farrier
Gerald. Friason
Kyra A Graves I
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Raymond A. Jeter
Ray M. Jordan
C. Robert Lewis Jr.
Clamion Marshall
Elmer S. Martin
Roland McGoodwin
Howard D. Melvin
C. Keith Melvin
Lucius Mentor Sr.
Sylvester Murray
Dale Power Jr.
Odell Robinson Jr.
Freeman Russell
Robert L. Smith
Phillip A. Smith
Robert Stone Jr.
Reg. Wilkinson

L.D. Easton #21
Ollie V. Burton
Rudolph Howard
Wesley Ingram
Rollin Kelley Jr.
Kennedy McCall
B.W. McLaughlin
Carrington Melton
Martin Rutledge
Charles G. Smith
Traylon G. Smith
Kenneth F. Smith

R. Stepany Jr.
Ronald Thomas Sr.
Clyde T. Williams

Mt. Calvary #22
John Melvin Bettis
Corbin Hare
R. Montgomery
Robt L. Oglesby Sr.
William Vasser Sr.

Willamette #23
Charles Sampson

St. Matthews #24
Frank D. Bills
Edwin Felton Sr.
James F. Legrant
Steve Murry Jr.
S. Powell Sr.
Roderick Tatum
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Constantine #25
Reginald Bishop
Michael Chappel
Carl L. Drummer
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James M. Stanley
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S. Westbrooks
Wm C. Worley Jr.
James A. Wright
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Miami #26
Thomas D Batie
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THE PACT ACT

& ITS IMPACT ON VETERANS BENEFITS

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Stuart A. Lee, II, 33rd, United Supreme Council Veterans Resource Committee



On August 10, 2022, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act (PACT Act) into law. The PACT Act is regarded as the most significant expansion of benefits and services for toxic-exposed Veterans in more than 30 years. The Act expands VA healthcare and benefits for Veterans exposed to the smoke and fumes from open burn pits and other toxic substances. The healthcare benefits extend to Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post 9/11 era. In addition to expanded healthcare benefits, some of the most significant changes are the addition of new presumptive disabilities for the Gulf War and post 9/11 era Veterans, Vietnam Veterans,

diagnosis, the Veteran meets one of the requirements for a service-related disability. Next, the Veteran needs to provide evidence that he deployed to and served in Afghanistan. This information may be documented in the Veteran's military personnel records. Veterans and survivors may file claims to the VA and be financially compensated for these conditions.

NEW PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS AND LOCATIONS

The PACT Act added over 20 new presumptive conditions for Gulf War and post-9/11 era Veterans. They are as follows:

Cancers:

- *Brain cancer*
- *Gastrointestinal cancer of any type*
- *Glioblastoma*
- *Head cancer of any type*
- *Kidney cancer*
- *Lymphatic cancer of any type*
- *Lymphoma of any type*
- *Melanoma*
- *Neck cancer of any type*
- *Pancreatic cancer*
- *Reproductive cancer of any type*
- *Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type*

Other illnesses:

- *Asthma that was diagnosed after service*
- *Chronic bronchitis*
- *Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)*
- *Chronic rhinitis*
- *Chronic sinusitis*
- *Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis*
- *Emphysema*
- *Granulomatous disease*
- *Interstitial lung disease (ILD)*
- *Pleuritis*
- *Pulmonary fibrosis*
- *Sarcoidosis*

Regarding Vietnam era Veterans, the PACT Act added two new Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

- *High blood pressure (also called hypertension)*
- *Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)*



and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides.

Presumptive disabilities are conditions for which Veterans do not need to prove that military service caused the condition. They only need to demonstrate that they meet the service requirements for the presumptive condition. For example, if a Post 9/11 era Veteran deployed to and served in Afghanistan during service, and after separating from the service is later diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, the Veteran would qualify for VA healthcare and compensation benefits for the condition. Because pancreatic cancer is listed as a presumptive condition and the Veteran has a medical

LOCATIONS

Additionally, five new locations outside of South Vietnam were added to the Agent Orange presumptive locations. The locations and military service time frames are as follows:

- *Any U.S. or Royal Thai military base in Thailand from January 9, 1962, to June 30, 1976*
- *Laos from December 1, 1965, to September 30, 1969*
- *Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969, to April 30, 1969*
- *Guam or American Samoa or in the territorial waters off Guam or American Samoa from January 9, 1962, to July 31, 1980*
- *Johnston Atoll or on a ship that was called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972, to September 30, 1977*

Veterans may file claims for all conditions outlined in the PACT Act immediately.

KEY COMPONENTS

There are several key components to the PACT Act. In addition to expanding and extending VA healthcare eligibility for Veterans with toxic exposures, Vietnam era, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 era Veterans, the Act authorizes 31 new medical facilities across the country; requires research studies on the mortality rate of Gulf War and Post-9/11 era Veterans that served in Southwest Asia; directs the VA to

improve the decision-making process the addition of presumptive medical conditions, to enroll every Veteran for an initial toxic exposure screening and a follow-up screening every five years, to provide toxic exposure-related education and training to healthcare staff and claims processors, and to build a stronger and more skilled workforce to meet growing demands for benefits and services.

VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS

In addition to benefits for Veterans, surviving family members may be eligible to receive benefits, specifically Dependency and Indemnity Compensation and Accrued Benefits.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

A tax-free monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, a dependent child of parent(s) of the Veteran or service member IF the Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.

Accrued Benefits

“A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child (ren), or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on the relationship when the record shows benefits (such as VA compensation

or pension) due to the Veteran prior to death.”

The PACT Act is an absolute game changer for the Gulf War era, the Post-9/11 era, Vietnam-era Veterans, and their qualifying survivors. A Veteran who has been diagnosed with one or more of the newly added presumptive conditions and meets the eligibility requirements may apply or reapply for benefits if previously denied. Qualifying survivors such as surviving spouses may apply and qualify for benefits such as DIC and Accrued Benefits if the Veteran died due to one of the newly added presumptive conditions and met the eligibility requirements. Additionally, if they have been previously denied, they may reapply.

For assistance with filing a claim or determining eligibility, contact an accredited Veteran Service Organization or service officer. To find a service organization in your state, visit the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs at <http://nasdva.us/resources/>.

Additionally, you may find a list of accredited organizations on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of General Counsel website at <https://www.va.gov/ogc/accreditation.asp>.

Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



Burials and Burial Allowance

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service connected disability status of the deceased Veteran.



Education and Training

Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.



Final Monthly Payment

If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.



Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



Health Care

Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.

Membership Benefits

- Individually numbered metal membership card
- Priority seating at USC Annual Banquet
- Custom Lifetime Membership lapel pin
- Certificate of Authenticity signed by the SGC
- Never pay USC dues again!!!

Lifetime Membership Cost: \$2,800

Total payments received between January 1 – March 31, 2023, will receive lifetime membership in Denver 2023
Total payments received after March 31, 2023, will receive lifetime membership in Wisconsin 2024
Sublime Princes in the Class of 2023 that are elevated in Denver are eligible to participate in the program

Lifetime Membership Participation Requirements
Must be a 33° Mason in good standing
Must be in good standing in your Consistory

Payment can be made via the [USC Website](#) or by mailing monies to:

The United Supreme Council
1514 Fitzwater Street, #20, Philadelphia, PA 19146

Memo Line: Lifetime Membership Program

For More information and program questions:

Lifetime.Membership@uscnjpha.org

The United Supreme Council
Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry | P.H.A
Northern Jurisdiction USA, INC.

DISCLAIMER

Lifetime membership does not exempt a member from paying their Consistory dues, registration for USC Annual Session, registration for the COD, or your Blue House dues. Additionally, it does not cover reclassification fees associated with a change in rank within the USC and does not protect a member from suspension or expulsion due to behavior unbecoming a Mason. Not adhering to the rules of the fraternity will cause lifetime membership privileges to be revoked without refund. Upon reinstatement to regular membership status, lifetime membership benefits will resume upon confirmation of status.

SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDERS

Illustrious Leland Dickerson French, 33°

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Reginald B. Stewart, 33°

Leland Dickerson French was a Scottish Rite stalwart and a mortician by profession. He married his lovely bride, Agnes D. Burns in November 1917. He served in the Army during World War One and was honorably discharged in 1918. After military service he attended College for Embalming in 1919 and graduated as a licensed mortician. He opened The Leland D. French Funeral Home in 1920 in Cleveland, Ohio which also doubled as his residence. Most Black funeral home owners and morticians of subsequent generations in Cleveland apprenticed under him or his fellow funeral home owner, competitor, Frater, and Pythian—SP J.W Wills 32°. After his passing in 1973, the city of Cleveland declared the French Funeral Home as a landmark.

Brother French took his first steps into Freemasonry in William T. Boyd Lodge #79. He served as its fifth Worshipful Master from June 1926 to June 1928. In the first year of his term as Worshipful Master he was advanced to the degree of Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret in Bezaleel Consistory #15. Duty called once again and he answered unselfishly by serving a second term in office from June 1930 to June 1931.

Worshipful Brother French experienced a rapid ascension through the Masonic ranks. He was crowned Grand Inspector General in May 1930. At the very next annual session, in his hometown of Cleveland, he was reclassified to Sovereign Grand Inspector General and crowned an Active member in May 1931—a feat rarely achieved in a such a condensed timeframe. In May 1932, he was appointed the Illustrious Grand Standard

Bearer. Despite only making it as far as Master of Ceremonies of King Solomon Lodge of Perfection #15 and 1st Lieutenant Commander of Bezaleel Consistory, he was appointed Deputy for the Orient of Ohio from May 1935. In May 1944, he was appointed Grand Minister of State to fill the unexpired term of SGIG R.W.J. Jeffrey 33° and was advanced to Lieutenant Grand Commander in May 1949 due to the resignation of Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander Sumner A. Furniss 33°. He became Sovereign Grand Commander at the 84th session held Chicago in 1965 after Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander George W. Crawford 33° chose to retire.

Contrary to custom of the senior officer nominating the junior officer to succeed him, Sovereign Grand Commander Crawford nominated SGIG Patrick E. Chavis Jr. 33° of the Orient of Indiana instead of Illustrious French. Fellow Cleveland Mason and Active member SGIG Charles F. Casterman 33° delivered a rousing speech and impassioned plea on the floor that ultimately convinced the Active membership to elect Illustrious French to the Office of Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander 35 years to the day he was elevated. In September 1965 a lavish testimonial was held in Cleveland in his honor to celebrate his election. Among the 1,000-plus guests were masonic luminaries Sovereign Grand Commander John G. Lewis Sr. 33° and Illustrious Grand Minister of State Thurgood Marshall 33° both of the United Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction (USC SJ).

Illustrious French was busy during his short tenure. He suggested the idea of a United Supreme Council Benevolent Foundation. This idea, which came to pass, was originally named after him. Notably during his term he retired the use of “Most Puissant” from the title of “Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander.” He also initiated plans to revitalize the Cathedral, but shelved them due to the high construction costs. He originated the idea for a Scottish Rite House for seniors, an idea that was brought to fruition in the term of Sovereign Grand Commander Russell S. Gideon 33°.

In 1967, he was invited to Liberia by Most Worshipful Grand Master and Grand Inspector General Frank E. Tolbert, to witness the celebration of 100 years of Prince Hall Freemasonry in the country. Illustrious French delivered the Centennial Address and was conferred the rank and title “Knight



OF THE NORTHERN JURISDICTION

Illustrious Frank Myron Summers, 33°

and Sovereign Grand Inspector General Daryl L. Andrews, 33°

Grand Band of the Liberian Humane Order of African Redemption.” Liberian Vice President William R. Tolbert was advanced to the degree of Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret and elevated to the grade of Grand Inspector General. He was awarded the Gold Medal of Achievement by the United Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction in 1969 and, in 1970, accompanied his counterpart, Sovereign Grand Commander John G. Lewis Sr. 33°, in a joint delegation, to confer the degrees of the Scottish Rite and partake in the 75th birthday celebration of President (GIG) William V. S. Tubman. This was to be his second trip to the country, but he fell ill immediately beforehand and was unable to embark on the journey. In 1971, for the third time, again as part of a joint delegation of both USCs, he was present to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of Liberia and the Inauguration of President-elect (GIG) William R. Tolbert. Both Sovereign Grand Commanders were invested with the country’s second-highest rank the “Star of Africa.” He appeared on Ebony’s 100 Most Influential Black Americans list numerous times.

While experiencing tremendous success in the Scottish Rite, Illustrious French was also active in other houses. He was made an honorary Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio in 1965 coinciding with his elevation to the Office of Sovereign Grand Commander. He was the co-chairman of the Non-Prince Hall Masonry Committee of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio in 1966 along with SGIG James B. Simmons Jr. 33°, a Past Grand Master. He was also a fervent supporter of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio’s charity fund. He belonged to Cuyahoga Chapter #36, Royal Arch Masons and Adoniram Council #1, Royal and Select Masons. He was a Past Eminent Commander of Emmanuel Commandery #32, Knights Templar. He was also a Past Patron of Wisdom Chapter #51, OES. Noble French was exalted as an Honorary Past Imperial Potentate of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He officiated the elections at the Imperial Sessions of 1966 and 1967. Previously, he had been the general chairperson for the 34th Imperial Session in Cleveland in 1934.

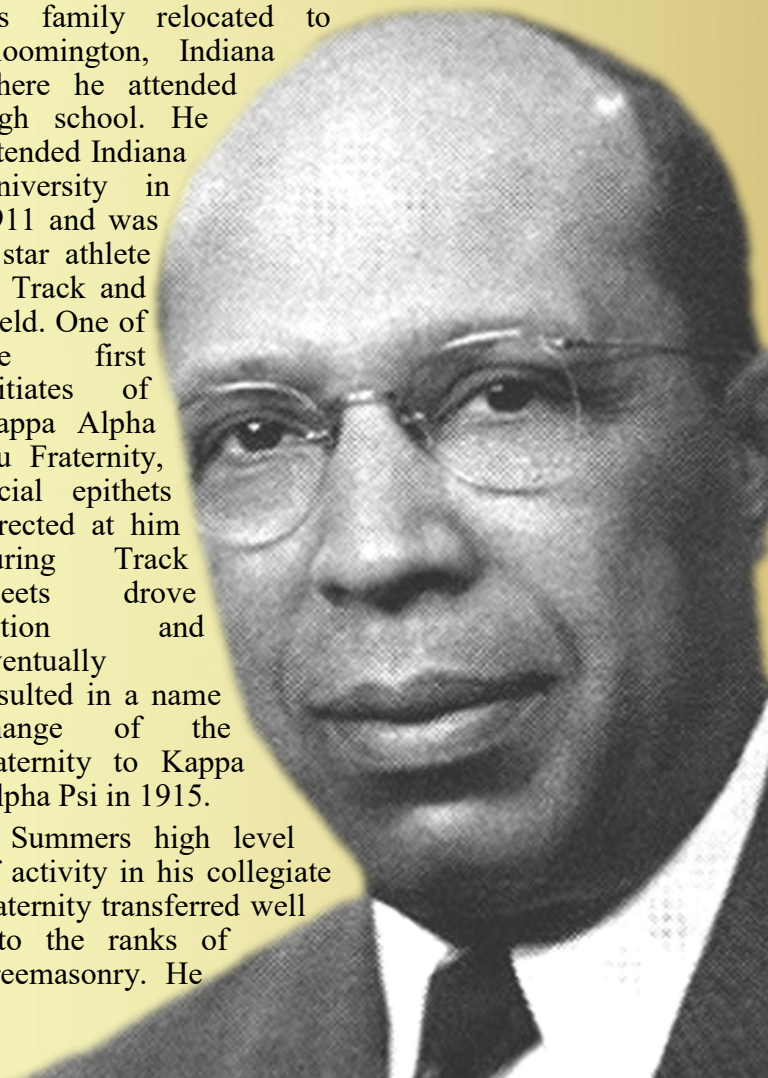
Outside of his Freemasonry, Illustrious French was also involved in the Knights of Pythias. He was a major facilitator, serving as the secretary in hosting the 42nd annual Grand Conclave, assisted by fellow Pythian and mortician J.W. Wills. He served in many

positions on the local and grand level culminating in being elected as Grand Chancellor. He also was active in a litany of other civic, community, social, and professional organizations including the NAACP, YMCA, Phyllis Wheatley Association, Benedict Social Club (Cleveland), Cleveland Funeral Directors Association, and the Ohio Funeral Directors Association. He was also very active member at Shiloh Baptist Church, the mother of Black churches in Cleveland, Ohio, serving as the finance director and founder and first president of its credit union.

In the wake of his passing in March of 1973 at the age of 76, the Class of 1973 was named in his honor. Portraits of him hang in the library at the Cathedral and the Keeper of the Seals and Archives Office of Bezaleel #15. Upon his passing, the torch of leadership of the Scottish Rite transitioned to the hands of his Lieutenant Commander, Illustrious Frank M. Summers, Orient of Illinois.

An attorney, Sovereign Grand Commander Summers was born in Carmel, Illinois on August 13, 1893. The second of ten children, his family relocated to Bloomington, Indiana where he attended high school. He attended Indiana University in 1911 and was a star athlete in Track and Field. One of the first initiates of Kappa Alpha Nu Fraternity, racial epithets directed at him during Track Meets drove action and eventually resulted in a name change of the fraternity to Kappa Alpha Psi in 1915.

Summers high level of activity in his collegiate fraternity transferred well into the ranks of Freemasonry. He



was the first editor of the fraternity's journal in 1914 retaining the role through 1921. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics and, subsequently, attended Harvard Law School and the Chicago Kent College of Law. While attending Harvard, he was elected Grand Strategis for the fraternity in 1918 and contributed greatly to its administrative and ritualistic practices. He became its 14th Grand Polemarch in 1951 while, simultaneously, rising through the ranks of Freemasonry.

Summers was raised in North Star Lodge #1 while attending Kent College of Law. He demitted to Joppa Lodge #79 in East St. Louis after moving to there to open a law firm with his law partner and Lodge brother, Louie F. Orr, in 1929. Their success won many legal battles which lead to summers selection as Assistant States Attorney of Madison County in 1935. A proven legal warrior, he held this office for the next sixteen years.

The public service and leadership displayed in civic and Masonic bodies made him a prime candidate for higher offices within the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois and Appendant Bodies of the Illinois Jurisdiction. He served as Grand Lodge Attorney for multiple terms after his selection as Assistant States Attorney. He was elected Grand Junior Warden in 1941, Grand Senior Warden from 1942 to 1944, and Deputy Grand Master from 1944 to 1948. He served in these roles while serving as Deputy for the Orient of Illinois from 1942 to 1968 and the first Deputy for the Orient of Wisconsin in 1950. He had been crowned in the 1930s after serving as Commander-In-Chief of Tyree Consistory #64 in the Valley of East St. Louis and elevated to the Active Grade of the United Supreme Council in 1936. Also a Past Potentate of Aahmes Temple #132, AEAONMS, he was renown in the full diaspora of Illinois Prince Hall Freemasonry.

Illustrious Summers remains as the longest tenured Deputy for the Orient of Illinois. He served in this role from 1942 to 1968 even while serving as Lieutenant Grand Commander, an office to which he was elected since 1965. He continued to serve the Grand Lodge while serving in these capacities and was made the very first Honorary Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois in 1974.

After the passing of Sovereign Grand Commander French in 1973, Illustrious Summers was elevated to the Office of Sovereign Grand Commander which was perfected with his election at the 1974 Session of the United Supreme Council. He kept the Scottish Rite ship stable after the death of Illustrious French completing the renovation of the Cathedral. He expanded the Scottish Rite and represented it well across the nation. Like his predecessor, he was also noted as Ebony Magazine Top 100 Influential Black Americans during his tenure of office due to his efforts and accomplishments for the Scottish Rite and humanity at large.

While Illustrious Summers' reputation as a brilliant attorney was recognized, many of the stances that he took in regards to the advancement in the civic arena are not touted to the degree of his Masonic accomplishments.

For example:

- *His representation of Oscar Johnson in 1948 broke barriers. Johnson was initially denied participation in the Missouri USLTA Tournament because of his race. Summers fought and won the battles pro-bono on Johnson's behalf. Johnson advanced through the quarter and semi finals to become the first African American to win an integrated tennis championship.*
- *Arthur Ashe was sponsored by Summers sponsorship during the National Clay Court Championships in 1961. The sponsorship provided financial and legal support. Ashe advanced to the third round of play. The sponsorship continued through subsequent tournaments serving as stepping stones for his career. As a result of the contribution of Summers and others, Ashe became the first African American to not only be selected for the Davis Cup Team but also win Wimbledon.*
- *He also mentored Dr. Harry Thomas, a multi-sport athlete from East St. Louis, who attended San Diego State University. Mentorship helped to chart Thomas' graduation from the university with distinction in 1964. He turned down the opportunity to play professional football to engage in the field of Sociology. His passion stemmed from the support he received from his mentors. He became an educator rising to the ranks of author and Professor Emeritus at the University of California at Berkley. He remains one of the foremost Sports Sociologist in America.*

These efforts only represent the tip of the iceberg of accomplishments and influence exhibited by Illustrious Summers. His civic and political services also extended to service as Commissioner for the Illinois Court of Claims, Chairman of the St. Clair Housing Authority and a Board Member of Supreme Life Insurance. He continued serving the Scottish Rite while performing tasks to uplift his community. Yet, he desired to retire from the leadership of the Scottish Rite in 1977. This request was complied with at the 96th Annual Session of the United Supreme Council in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was at this session that he was granted a new title, Sovereign Grand Commander Emeritus.

Sovereign Grand Commander Summers was called to the undiscovered country in 1987. Throughout his professional career, he lent his legal advice to all the fraternal organizations in which he held membership. He put his money where his mouth was particularly for the cause of defending the rights and benefits of his community. In 2004, his home in East St. Louis was declared a historical landmark which is evidence that his labors extended well beyond the doors of Freemasonry. In doing so, it should serve as an ever present reminder for Scottish Rite Masons to focus our powers on societal improvement so that the mistakes of the past do not rear their ugly heads into this day and age.



Sources:

Ohio Council of Deliberation, www.OrientofOhioPHA.org, Retrieved, 12/19/2022

UNITED SUPREME COUNCIL

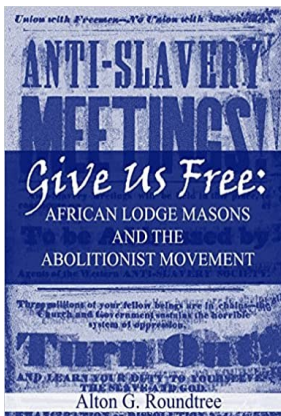
Constitution Quiz

Sovereign Grand Inspector General Thomas R. Hughes, Sr., 33°

- 1) When did the United Supreme Council Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern jurisdiction, U.S.A., Inc. ordain and establish the Constitutions and General Regulations for its government, its subordinate bodies, and its membership?
 - a) May 25, 1955 A.D.
 - b) April 5, 1957 A.D.
 - c) May 8, 1954 A.D.
 - d) May 7, 1955 A.D.
- 2) All powers vested in the Supreme Council shall be exercised exclusively by _____.
 - a) All Sovereign Grand Inspectors General
 - b) Its Active members
 - c) All Sovereign & Honorary Grand Inspectors General
 - d) Its Active, Past Active, and Emeritus members
- 3) Which Article states the name & style of our Supreme Council?
 - a) Article 100
 - b) Article 99
 - c) Article 116
 - d) Article 106
- 4) The Thirty-Third Degree is conferred as what type of degree?
 - a) Advanced
 - b) Elevated
 - c) Honorary
 - d) Chivalric
- 5) Persons elected to Honorary membership shall present themselves for _____ at the Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council following their elections.
 - a) Elevation
 - b) Advancement
 - c) Coronation
 - d) Reclassification
- 6) What information shall be provided in writing for the nomination and recommendation of a candidate for Honorary Membership in the Supreme Council?
 - a) First Name, Middle Initial, and Last Name
 - b) Date and Place of Birth
 - c) Full Name
 - d) Occupation or Profession
 - e) Full Masonic standing, including all Masonic degrees attained and his religion
 - f) b, c, d, and e
 - g) a, b, d, and e
- 7) The Sovereign Grand Commander is the law officer of the Rite within the Jurisdiction of this Supreme Council?
 - a) True
 - b) False
- 8) The Deputy for the Orient upon Suspension of any member of a subordinate body of his Orient, may solely restore to membership said member of his Orient with the approval of the gaining Consistory at the next Council of Deliberation.
 - a) True
 - b) False
- 9) The membership of the Supreme Council shall be divided into _____ grades, which are _____.
 - a) 3 / Active, Past, and Honorary
 - b) 2 / Active and Past Active
 - c) 4 / Active, Emeritus, Past Active & Honorary
 - d) 3 / Sovereign Grand Commander, Lieutenant Grand Commander & Grand Minister of State
- 10) The Active membership shall consist of not more than _____ Active members of the Supreme Council.
 - a) 33
 - b) 55
 - c) 81
 - d) 60

BOOK CORNER: What's in your Library?

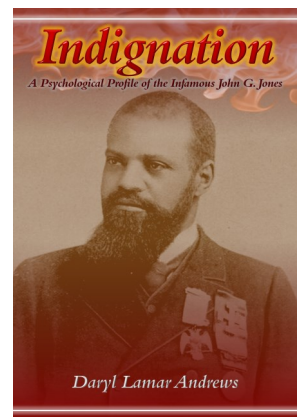
INDIGNATION: A Psychological Profile of the Infamous John G. Jones



This work provides a different view of the infamous John G. Jones. A personality profile has been provided based upon his historical actions within the Masonic diaspora covering periods when he was in and out of good Masonic standing. It also incorporates new historical facts that have not been heretofore seen. It is a must-have for historians.

GIVE US FREE: African Lodge Masons and the Abolitionist Movement

The activities of Prince Hall Masons to free the enslaved are chronicled perfectly in this work. Masons were highly active on the Underground Railroad in carrying citizens to freedom from the South to the North and Canada. It is a must-have work.



Forward **YOUR** book recommendations to Bulletin@AndrewsPress.com.

Orient of Washington & Oregon



On September 24, 2022, we were invited to the Valley of Seattle for their 150th year Anniversary. SGIG Gregory D. Wraggs, 33° (Deputy, Orient of Washington / Oregon), SGC James D. Cole, 33° (Sovereign Grand Commander, Southern Jurisdiction), SGIG Harden M. Keys, Jr., 33° (Asst. to the Deputy), and SGIG Al Jorgensen, 33° (Deputy, Orient of Washington, Southern Masonic Jurisdiction) were in attendance. Since the signing of the historic Unity Statement, the two Deputies have been putting it into action. Both MWGM Gilbert E. McClary, Sr and MWGM Edward Woods attended. It was truly an amazing event.

Washington Oregon Council of Deliberation and the Washington Oregon State Grand Assembly continue to work in the community. On November 16, Illustrious Deputy Wraggs and SGLLR Martha Davis visited the Blessing Food Bank, a division of the Church of the Living God, and helped make Thanksgiving better for 160 low-income families. Director Cynthia Franklin and Pastor, Bishop Lawrence White said they planned to distribute turkeys and the trimming to 150 plus families but were in dire need of stuffing and cranberry sauce. We figured this to be an easy task since turkeys were not needed. SGLLR Davis relayed the need at the monthly Deputy's Meeting. The Fraters and Loyal Ladies jumped on board with product and



monetary donations. Consistory 75 and Consistory 106 was crucial in gathering other items to add to the food baskets. Soon it was discovered that cranberry sauce was in high demand and that it became a game trying to locate enough. SGLLAR Cassandra White found 2 cases and then the hunt was on. Many of the Loyal Ladies were excited bringing in bags of other items we consider nice to have for the holiday. Pretty soon we had collected 176 cans of cranberry sauce and 145 boxes of stuffing plus other items. The food bank was super excited to receive the donation.



Orient of the Caribbean



The Council of Deliberation for the Orient of the Caribbean was held in Antigua in November of 2022 under the direction of Sovereign Grand Inspector General Edward B. Darnell, Overseer for the Orient. The Fraters of Errol W. Barrow Consistory #109, which was organized in April of 2022, was a gracious host. With the aid of Grand Inspector General Lomax Elder, Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore along with Sovereign Grand Inspectors General Edward M Brooks, Secretary General of the Holy Empire; Edward B. Darnell, Overseer; Roy Mays, Aide-de-Camp; Robert J. Meekins, Dean of Instructions and Adam Jones, Director of Branding & Communications witnessed all of the events. There were several highlights over the weekend. Thirteen new Sublime Princes were elevated to the 32nd degree as members of the Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore class. A most pleasant surprise indeed, Most Worshipful Brother Claude Jackman, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge (MWPHGL) of the Caribbean bestowed the title of Honorary Most Worshipful Past Grand Master to Sovereign Grand Commander Bazemore and granted him honorary membership to the MWPHGL of the Caribbean. Salutations to the new Overseer, Illustrious Darnell and to the Orient of the Caribbean on a job well done.



Orient of the Far East

On Saturday, April 9, 2022, the Orient of the Far East held its 52nd Annual Council of Deliberation (COD). The Far East Commanders of the Rite (FECOR) meeting preceded the COD. Both gatherings occurred virtually, allowing fraters residing overseas and stateside to participate.

Far East Commanders of the Rite

The members of the Orient of the Far East were honored to have in their presence SGIG Daniel R. Poole, 33°, Illustrious Grand Recording Secretary for the United Supreme Council. There was a total of 59 Fraters in attendance. A period of remembrance was held to commemorate the fraters who passed away in the preceding year including SGIG Victor Sheldon Baxter, Jr. (85); GIGs Freddie L. Bradley (85);

Willie L. Coffield (110); and Abraham Amison, Jr. (110). Afterward, SGIG Poole spoke about President SGIG Lowery's legacy and his tremendous impact on the Orient having served as the FECOR President longer than many had been Grand Inspectors General. He thanked SGIG Lowery for his dedication and steadfast leadership.

With a quorum established, the Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief, SGIG Charles H. Bush, Jr., 33°, proceeded with conducting the business of the 52nd Orient of the Far East Council of Deliberation. Several action items and topics were discussed, including the FECOD website, United Supreme Council Stimulus Raffle Ticket Fundraiser, Education Grants, and our hallmark Peer Gazette Bulletin publication. Afterward, SGIG Bush presented his 2022 allocution as the Deputy for the Orient.

SGIG Bush began his Allocution by recognizing all present and those who could not be with us. He thanked the membership for their steadfast commitment and resilience and stated that we would continue to use virtual video teleconferencing to conduct business until we could meet again. He urged the membership to continue moving forward with a professional purpose. SGIG Bush began by addressing prevalent issues impacting the Nation, such as the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, and asked the members to remain vigilant in protecting themselves and their families. Additionally, he commented on pivotal social justice issues affecting our communities, such as freedom and equal rights to all people, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, religion, or any other status. Furthermore, he discussed the actions of some of our Nation's political leaders to pass legislation restricting the ability to vote for minority communities.

Afterward, SGIG Bush addressed the State of the Rite. He assured the membership that our United Supreme Council and that the USC Leadership is diligently working on growing the organization and improving the Scottish Rite Experience for all members. In his allocution, SGIG Bush addressed issues concerning the State of the Orient, such as: membership decline; administration; documenting the Orient's history; media and communication; and committee appointments. He informed the members that we continue to experience membership losses due to death, military relocations, and military reduction in overseas assignments; however, the Valleys are diligently working to increase membership. SGIG Bush also advocated creating an Orient History Team and emphasized the need to record our accomplishments and achievements. He urged the membership to submit Articles to the Orient Peer Gazette-Bulletin Team, consisting of SGIG Harry Jernigan, 33°, SGIG Stuart A. Lee, II, 33°, and GIG George L. Steward, 33°. Additionally, he addressed the FECOD Website and the need to provide current information to GIG Lorenzo Johnson, 33°, the Website Administrator, and the realignment of Orient Committees and Subcommittees with those of the USC to facilitate membership involvement, mentorship and preparation for leadership opportunities in the Orient and the USC. He announced the appointments of GIG Gregory Jamison, 33°, and SP Elmer

Logan, 32°, to the Orient's Medical/Health Matters Committee and GIG Rodney G. Roberson, 33°, to the Orient's Community Relations committee.

SGIG Bush also discussed the Order of the Golden Circle (OGC), Education, and Benevolence Projects. He stated and clarified there are three OGC Assemblies in the Orient of the Far East, each located in South Korea; Okinawa, Japan; and Mainland Japan. SGIG Bush expressed his intent to keep the Assemblies active and to operate if members are willing to support it. Additionally, he talked about the 33° Degree Preparation Training provided to the 33° Degree-Elects by GIG Kenneth Dix, 33°, and GIG Roberson, 33°, and updates to improve the Orient's Consistory Operating Guide. In closing, he informed the members that the Dwight R. Johnson Benevolent Fund has given over \$4,500 in charitable donations over the year.

Orient of Illinois

The 105th Annual ICOD Session was held in Springfield Illinois on October 13-16, 2022. The Honorable Melvin Frierson, 33°, Deputy for the Orient of Illinois (PHA), presided. On Thursday, the Executive Board of the Illinois Council of Deliberation Benevolent Fund (ICODBF) met and was visited by SGIG Daniel Poole. The President, Melvin Frierson, called the Board to Order and, after prayer from James R. Thompson, he brought greetings and gave a brief overview of the Board's Mission. Financial reports revealed that the finances are in good order. The President spoke about the charitable endeavors of the ICODBF and looks forward to greater works in the future.

On Friday morning the ICOD held its Annual Health Forum which focused on hypertension. The ICOD Degree Team followed presenting the 20th Degree (Prince Hall Degree). Led by SGIG Millard Driskell. After lunch, the 31st and 32nd degrees were bestowed on 45 Sublime Princes. The Commanders-of-the-Rite Meeting ensued on that afternoon under the direction of GIG Floyd Woods. All elected State officers retained their positions.

On Saturday, the 105th Annual Session of the ICOD was inaugurated. The Commander-In-Chief of Marquette/Joliet Consistory #104, Earl Bryant, opened the "occasional" Council for the purpose of receiving MICIC Frierson. After prayer from the Grand Prior, Rev. Leroy Gary, and his team, the session was opened. The Proclamation was read and the roll call of officers and Consistories which found all eight present. Illinois SGIGs Neal Carson, Homer Walton, DePlessie Drew, James Mitchell, Leroy Barnes, Daryl Andrews, Willie Lawler, W.W. Jackson, Charles Burns, Herman Gray, R.C. Brown, Millard Driskell, Donnie Merritt, James Thompson, and John Richardson were received followed by visiting dignitaries SGIGs Robert Meekins; Gregory Clark, Deputy (NMJ); Benny Grisham, Past Deputy (NMJ); and Kenny Craig (NMJ). The York Rite Heads of Houses were announced namely Brian Burton, MEGHP (HRAM); Tyrone Blount, GTIM (RSM); and Eugene Daniel, REGC (KT). SGIG Poole was escorted to the East and given appropriate honors. Most Worshipful Brother Roland Simon, Grand Master was lastly received.

MICIC Frierson gave an exceptional allocution thanking the membership for support and participation. The Educational Assistance Committee reported nine Educational Assistance Awards of \$600 each. The financial officers reported on the finances of the ICOD which were all in order. The MICIC applauded the large number of Sublime Princes in attendance which was echoed by SGIG Poole who brought felicitations on behalf of the USC. Greetings from SGIG Clark, Deputy, SGIG Grisham and SGIG Kenny Craig, all of the NMJ, were also received. After the greetings, the MICIC and his entourage, made their annual visit to the Illinois State Grand Assembly where the State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler, Lois Whitaker, presided. After the visit, all gathered for the Joint Memorial Service. Officiated by GIG Leroy Gary, a PowerPoint presentation of the demised members was given by SGIG Driskell. Lunch followed the service.

At lunch, a “Memorandum of Understanding” was signed between the Illinois Alzheimer’s Association (IAA) and the ICOD. After lunch, the ICOD reconvened. SGIG Poole and SGIG Clark were bestowed Honorary ICOD Membership. The day’s activities ended in the evening with an exquisite banquet and presentations of MSA Awards, fifty year membership awards, service awards to the Loyal Ladies, plaques to the Honorary Members of ICOD, in-house raffle, other presentations, were presented.

On Sunday, the ICOD held its Annual Devotional Service which was led by GIG Damon Anderson. The Session reconvened for unfinished business. After reports from the Time and Place Committee, In-House Raffle Committee, Registration Committee, the following fifteen nominees for the 33rd and last degree Class of 2024 from Illinois were read—Julian Abernathy, Brandon Ethridge, Earl Bryant, Brian Burton, Tara DeRamus, Terrell Ervin Sr., Marion Griffin, Lee McIntosh, Lydell Payne, H. Victor Payne, Shaune Thompson, Clarence Richards, Moses Robinson Jr., Fredric Spears, and Willie Wiley. MICIC Frierson thanked the members for attending the 105th Annual Session and for supporting the Council during the fiscal year. After closing remarks, formation of the “Chain of Union” and prayer, the ICOD 105th Session was closed.



In December, the SGIG Ernest L. Johnson Christmas Dinner was held at Shiloh Baptist Church. A gracious meal was served and toys given away to local youth.



In February, the Commanders of the Rite, Valley of Chicago provided milk and Cereal for the families of St. Ethelreda School in Chicago. This effort was contrived by GIG Frank Jarvis, Valley Vice President, to promote the importance of a healthy breakfast and uplift families in a blighted community. Over 200 were served.

Orient of Nebraska

The Nebraska Orient continues to support community-based activities, along with working on improving its membership’s growth and development. Joshua David Kelley Consistory # 27 is engaging in its 2nd year partnership with the Open-Door Mission for a



“Seats and Feet” (underwear and socks) Drive, along with the 2nd year partnership with the U.S. Marine Corp Toys for Tots program. This year, the Orient was able to donate 1150 toys to the youth in the community. The Open Door Mission was very thankful for the donation of underwear and socks for needy families, many which are homeless and resides at the Mission facility. These were very successful activities.

The Orient is also getting involved in the USC’s Cradle to College Program. This provides the Orient an opportunity to reach out to deserving members of the community and assist them in becoming outstanding citizens, both educationally, and socially. A special committee is being established to address and develop a means for the members to actively participate in civic engagement on social justice. In addition, a partnership with the NAACP was formed to engage in the protection of voting rights and voting education through the establishment of numerous community and precinct forums.

The Orient is looking forward to participating in and supporting the second annual Community Safety Day Program. This year, the Orient will conduct a CHIP (Children Identification Program) project to provide families with an opportunity to have their children provide DNA at no cost to them, for future emergency identification events, if needed. The Orient will also join forces with other organizations to provide meals to needy families on a monthly basis.

Orient of Iowa

The 102nd Annual Convocation of the Orient of Iowa Council of Deliberation (IACOD), (PHA) was held on October 8, 2022, at the Cedar Rapids Scottish Rite Temple, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. During the one-day event, six Sublime Princes - SP Mike Brown, 32°, #46, SP Lonnie Florence, 32°, #46, SP Marcus Bell, 32°, #46, SP Jerome Pierson, MD, 32°, #46, SP Paris Gardner, 32°, #46, and SP Walter Riley, 32°, #68 of The Roosevelt Taylor Class of 2022 were capped after advancing to the 32° of the Royal Secret on Friday, October 7, 2022. The capping ceremonies were performed by MICIC, Illustrious Osumana V. Cassell, 33° (68), Deputy for Iowa prior to the Official opening of the 102nd Annual Convocation of the Orient of Iowa because he wanted the new Fraters to participate in the 102nd Annual Convocation, rather than wait until the Annual Banquet as it has been customary to do.



During the Annual Banquet, The Orient of Iowa Lifetime Certificate of Achievement plaque was presented to a well deserving recipient – SP Kenneth F. Reed, 32° (68), for his many and continued years of service to the Iowa Council of Deliberation and the United Supreme Council, AASR, PHA, NJ, USA, Inc., as a true and faithful Scottish Rite Mason. A Distinguished Service Award plaque was presented to William F. Powell Consistory No. 46 for an Outstanding, Dedicated and Committed Service, Leadership and Continued Support rendered to the Orient of Iowa during the Scottish Rite



year. A presentation of two United Supreme Council Benevolent Foundation Student Aid Checks were also presented to our 2022 High School Graduates – Alea Renee Hoof – East High School, Des Moines, IA, and Ellen G.

Wayna where – Thomas Jefferson High School, Cedar Rapids, IA.



GIG Sherman L. Isaac, 33°, Illustrious CIC for No. 46,

opened an Occasional Consistory in due form, for the purpose of convening the 102nd Annual Convocation of the Iowa Council of Deliberation. GIG Isaac, 33° (46), received MICIC, SGIG Cassell, 33° (68), welcoming him into his 102nd Annual Convocation of the IACOD (PHA), giving him the gavel of Authority. MICIC then gave a brief explanation on regrets from invited dignitaries of other Orients and Jurisdictions to include: SGIG William R. Stark, 33°, Illustrious Grand Minister of State, and Direct Representative of Sovereign Grand Commander, Illustrious Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, 33°; SGIG Jeremy Mead, 33°, Personal Representative of SGIG, for the Supreme Council, SJ; SGIG John W. Hardeman, 33°, Deputy for the Orient of Minnesota; and then MWGM, MWPHGL of Iowa, Ike Rayford, 32°, was received.

The two Consistories in the Valleys of Des Moines and Waterloo respectively did conduct their annual elections with the following officers elected and installed: CIC – GIG Wendell G. Terry, 33° (68), and CIC - GIG Sherman Isaac, 33° (46). The Iowa Commanders of the Rite elected GIG Maurice Evans, 33° (46) as their President and he was installed. All reports were received and read from both Consistories and various Committees.

After closing remarks, and an impressive and harmonious Session, MICIC, SGIG Cassell, 33° (68), directed Illustrious Grand Master of Ceremonies, GIG Earl J. Harrison, 33° (68) to place the Fraters in the Chain of Union around the altar. Once the Chain of Unity was formed, closing prayer was offered by GIG Sherman Isaac, 33° (46), Illustrious Grand Prior; after prayer, SGIG Cassell, 33° (68), directed the Fraters around the altar to join him in singing ‘God be with You ‘til We Meet Again;’ The 102nd Annual Convocation of the Orient of IACOD (PHA) was then officially closed.

To climax the one-day Session, the 102nd Annual Banquet was held with a menu of Prime Rib or Grilled Chicken, Green Beans, Party Potatoes, Tossed Salad, Lemonade or Iced Tea, and Desert – Cake. Guests attending were the Grand Worthy Matron, Sis. Charlene Upchurch-Taylor, of Electa Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, PHA, State of Iowa and Jurisdiction, Inc. and her elected Grand Officers and Past Grand Officers; also in attendance were elected Grand and Past Grand Officers of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Iowa.



Orient of New York

A virtual meeting of the 97th Annual Session of the New York State Council of Deliberation (NYCOD) was held on October 15th, 2022. With Illustrious Deputy Grady Edge presiding, he received the Honorable Gregory Robeson Smith Jr., Grand Master, Ill. Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, Sovereign Grand Commander, Sovereign Grand Inspector Generals, Grand Inspectors Generals and Sublime Princes into the virtual meeting. SGC Melvin J. Bazemore brought remarks as well as the Grand Master.

On September 17th, 2022, the Orient of New York and King David Consistory #3 had the distinct pleasure of receiving Sovereign Grand Commander Bazemore, who congratulated the Deputy and the Orient of New York on its efforts around growing the Rite. More than 60 new members come out of two of its larger consistories. The Sovereign Grand Commander Service Medallion was presented to the CICs and VPs of the Commanders of the Rite, of King David #3, Long Island #61 and Pentecost #98, and Grand Master Smith in conjunction with Sublime Prince, State Senator Kevin Parker. Parker presented a Proclamation to the Sovereign Grand Commander Commemorating the day, and his efforts in leading the United Supreme Council in New York and abroad.



SGC Bazemore also took a moment to thank the Orient of New York for its work in supporting the newly established Orient of the Caribbean. I'd like to take a moment to echo the sentiments of the SGC and thank the Fraters of King David who conducted the degree work.

On November 27th, 2022, the Orient was truly blessed with the announcement that Deputy Ill. SGIG Grady Edge was promoted and advanced to the position of Grand Minister of State for the United Supreme Council. I was truly humbled to be appointed Overseer of the Orient of New York to succeed him. My prayer is that we, in the Orient of New York, can together continue the 22 year legacy of faithful service that our Deputy Grady Edge rendered to us and build on that legacy, boldly stepping into a new era.

Immediate initiatives include the formulation of a Sovereign Grand Inspector General Council, A Past Commanders in Chiefs Council, and the launching of the "Leadership Academy" - a school designed to prepare our future and present leaders with a historical education, one that defines "True Leadership" as well as a deeper understanding of our Ritualistic and Constitutional Regulations and Protocols—adopting the USC Educational Department's outlined plan. A Medical Department has been created to educate and perform routine tests for Hypertension, Diabetes, Prostate

Cancer, Breast Cancer Awareness and Mental Health Awareness. Once again, I'd like to thank SGC Bazemore for appointing me to the position of Overseer, I will endeavor to do my utmost to serve the Orient of New York and the Rite with dignity, progress, and integrity. The current officers of the NYCOD and the Commanders of the Rite (COR) were re-elected to office and the registrants for the 97th Annual Session included 27 SGIGs, 93 GIGs and 48 SPs. Total attendance was 168. SGC Bazemore was impressed with the 48 SPs in attendance. 641 members are on the rolls, an increase of 29 from the prior period. The COR consists of 213 members.

The "Statement of Unity Signing Ceremony" that occurred on September 7, 2022, was well publicized throughout the Orient and the video of the signing event was viewed by many who witnessed the eloquence of SGC Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore. Grand Inspector Generals of the SGIG Samuel J.D. Shook, Jr. Class of 2022 were also welcomed into the Commanders of the Rite and we proudly reported that the Life Membership Program, Annual Raffle Drawing and Paver Programs have all been supported. Recruitment, Reclamation, and Retention remains a priority. The 98th Annual Session in October 2023 will be held in person at the Binghamton Holiday Inn, Binghamton, NY.

SGC Bazemore visited the Valley of New York and the Consistorial Chambers of King David Consistory #3 on September 17, 2022. The sole purpose of his visit was to honor and celebrate the team responsible for separating Errol Walton Barrow Consistory #109, Rising Sun House of Rose Croix #109, and St. John Lodge of Perfection #109 from the Orient of New York and establishing the Orient for the Caribbean in Bridgetown, Barbados. He also recognized several other Fraters of King David, Long Island Consistory #61 and Pentecost Consistory #98 for their extraordinary work in the Orient. SGIG Adam C. Jones co-led the delegation to Barbados. They were all presented the Sovereign Grand Commander's Service Medallion.

King David hosted a Virtual Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal. 150 attended and 30 new members were added to the rolls. At least 20 of the Fraters attend study classes twice monthly where research assignments are given. Ritualistic and Education goals have been achieved. The Online Dues Payment Portal has resulted in a near perfect payment of Consistory dues. Monetary donations to the Grady Edge Reading and STEM Program. Work continues to re-establish non-profit status and endowment.

For over a decade, members of King David Consistory have coordinated food and clothing drives monthly at the Grand East located at 454 West 155th Street. A partnership developed with City Harvest in recent years has increased our capacity to provide sustenance to well over 700 families monthly. Despite challenges related to Covid, this initiative has not stopped and in fact instead it has grown.

Bison Consistory #29 added 2 new members to the rolls. The total membership of the Commanders of the Rite is 44. Bison continued its involvement with the Buffalo Youth and Young Adult Choral Society where GIG Donald Howard, Vice President Commanders of the Rite serves as Treasurer and his wife, Mrs. Louetta Howard, as Musician. To spread awareness, Fraters attended the Buffalo Urban League's Annual Affair where GIG Thomas Beauford is the current

President. They support various events within the city. Appreciation was shown to GIG Oswaldo Mestre who received numerous "Service Awards" for his outstanding aid and assistance to communities and to the initiatives of SGIG Dr. Adam B. Sumlin, who conducts numerous clinics on Prostate Cancer Awareness in and around the city.

Utica Consistory elevated 6 new Sublime Princes of the Royal Secret. GIG Cedric T. Bolton led the Grady Edge Reading and STEM Program initiative this year. He held meetings with several Elementary School Administrators in Syracuse, New York to discuss adopting the Grady Edge Reading Program and the opportunity to coordinate the program at schools. They donated 50 book bags, 100 books, and other supplies at the start of the school year.

In September, Long Island made an official visit to King David Consistory to receive the Sovereign Grand Commander. The Sovereign Grand Commander's Service Medallion was given to SGIG Alonzo Ivery, GIG George R. Jackson, and GIG Mark Alexander. All were amazed and honored. In October, Long Island held its annual Divine Service at the New Brown Memorial Baptist Church where the Fraters made up half of the attendees. In November, they hosted their annual Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway of 200 Turkeys at the church. Participation in the study classes by all grades provided for robust discussions. Learning was made greater and the future looks bright!

Albany continued its community engagement in the area. The Grady Edge Reading Program is a statewide program that will continue to expand under the leadership of Deputy Simpson. The program aims to promote literacy in economically challenged communities by giving books to students who may not have access to reading materials at home. Deputy Simpson has committed to the initiatives of Albany Consistory #90 and the entire Orient to foster a presence in communities. As New York, faces economic unrest, unemployment, healthcare, affordable housing, job opportunities for college graduates, and disparities in education, SGIG El-Wise Noisette and Albany will focus on activities and events such as the Grady Edge Reading Program, STEM, breast cancer awareness, prostate screening, community health initiatives, local food bank, and economic job development, and education to stimulate the community and bring resourceful awareness. SGIG Noisette looks forward to collaborating with the Deputy to establish and maintain positive relationships with community-based institutions, churches, and schools.

Pentecost Consistory participated in the Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal hosted by Long Island Consistory. Members attended, en-masse, at the Macedonia Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon where GIG Rev. Darren Morton is the Minister in charge. The Charity Committee organized a trip to the Westhelp Family Shelter to deliver Back-to-School gift cards to 37 residents. Joint activities are planned with Pentecost Assembly #86 including a community wide Barbeque and several church visits. The Annual Breakfast is expected to draw large numbers and influential supporters from the community. Pentecost also attended a joint Consistorial Meeting on September 17, 2022, with the downstate Consistories (King David Consistory #3, Long Island Consistory #61, and Pentecost Consistory #98). SGC Bazemore honored several with the

Sovereign Grand Commander's Service Medallion including SGIG Clarence High, SGIG Henry Rowlett, CIC Delvin Hodges, and GIG Timothy B. McKnight (posthumously). SGIG Leonard LaRue hosts several lectures via ZOOM on every second Tuesday. Attendance and interests were high. Commander In Chief SP Jerry Bailey, with others, led the continuing work with local shelters and worked to maximize fundraising. They donated a total of \$1,900 in gift cards to families who needed financial assistance. Reclamation, Recruitment and Retention efforts remain a priority. In the summer months, Pentecost #98, and Assembly #86 will host community wide Barbeque to expand benevolence to increase engagement. They will jointly attend their Annual Church Divine Service. The Annual Breakfast held in September, as in prior years, is expected to draw a large crowd.

Orient of Connecticut

The 129th Annual Session of the CCOD was held on November 19th at the Hartog Activity Center in Ashlar Village in Wallingford where we were honored to have welcomed Grand Master Alfred B. Grady, Jr., 33^o; SGIG Raynard W. Hughes, 33^o representing our Sovereign Grand Commander; Hon. Bruce Belmore, AF&AM Grand Master; and SGLLR Nancy Sims, CSGA. Reports were made from the various bodies of the Scottish Rite. Council officers were elected to succeed themselves for the ensuing year and were duly installed. The Council paid tribute to our late GIGs Cecil Alston, Charles Hills, Sr, and Charles Robinson who passed on to that undiscovered Country since we last met as a Council.



The Silver Eagle Committee under the dynamic leadership of SGIGs James Gatling and Floyd Bagwell reported on the honor paid to five outstanding role models at our highly successful 15th Annual Silver Eagle Award Dinner. The recipients were Jon-Paul Venoit, Executive Director of Masonicare; Belinda Weaver, Alder of Waterbury, Director of WOW/NRZ Community Learning Center and a human resource specialist for the CT Department of Developmental Services; Doris J. Dumas, President, Greater New Haven Branch of the NAACP; the Rev. Wade A. Hyslop, Jr., Pastor, Trinity Missionary Baptist Church of New London; and William R. Hales, publisher of the North End Agent.

The Deputy awarded SP Eric Brown, the Deputy's Annual Award for Service to the Scottish Rite for his long-term

professional photo services to the Orient. The United Supreme Council Benevolent Grant for 2022 was made to Ms. Aisha Rose Elliott, daughter of SP Willie Elliott. She is a 4 year National Honor Society Award winner who makes quality volunteer time with the Police Athletic League and Waterbury Hungry Walks. She received the Waterbury Promise 2022 Scholarship. The CCOD approved the nominations of SPs Junius Hayes and Elliott For the USC Class of 2024.



Orient of New Jersey

The NJCOD was held from November 25 - 27, 2022 at the Holiday Inn, 2175 Marlton Pike West, Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The annual session began on Friday evening with the NJCOTR meeting, under the leadership and direction of GIG Jeffrey M. Perry, 33°. The NJCOTR was delighted to have had at the meeting SGIG Daniel R. Poole, 33°, Grand Recording Secretary representing the Sovereign Grand Commander; SGIG Edward M. Brooks, 33°, Secretary General; SGIG Sean Sneed, 33°, Asst. Grand Seneschal; SGIG Milton Jackson, 33° and GIG Gordon Brewer, Jr., 33° (Illinois); and SGIG John Goss, 33° (Pennsylvania).



The NJCOTR continues to advance in efforts and promoting the vision and goals of our Sovereign Grand Commander. During its meeting, GIG Douglas P. Curry, 33°, Hospitaller gave a report on sick and distressed members and families within the Orient and the GIG Terence Berry, 33°, Chairman of our Youth Mentoring Program, reported on the status of the youth activities throughout the Orient. The Valley Presidents were given the same opportunity to report on the status of their Consistories and various charitable activities taking place within the Valleys of Camden, Plainfield, Atlantic City, Newark, Trenton and Asbury Park. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year of office—President: GIG Alexander Perry, 33°, Vice President: GIG James Mack, Jr., 33°, SGIG Charles F. Williams, 33° and GIG Walter A. Smith, 33°. Prior to closing, SGIG Poole gave remarks on the visit to New Jersey, work that has been displayed by the NJCOTR, and various activities being implemented in the Orient.

The Ritualistic Opening was performed on Saturday by Douglass Consistory #10 (Plainfield) under the leadership of SP Kevin S. Turner, 32°, Commander-In-Chief. He received MICIC Oglesby. The Sovereign and Grand Inspectors Generals were, then, received and given their proper honors and requested to take their respective “Stations and Places”. Roll Call yielded all officers present and all Consistories responded to the roll call. MICIC Oglesby received SGIG Poole and other invited guests including SGIG Sneed, SGIG Milton Jackson, GIG Gordon, L. Brewer, Jr., 33°, SGIG Douglas R. Policastro, 33°, Deputy for New Jersey (NMJ), SGIG Larry S. Plasket, 33° (Active) and GIG David J. Herman, Jr., 33°, Secretary. Ill. Oglesby, Sr. 33° received LL Daphne P. Roberts, State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler and the Past State Grand Loyal Lady Rulers of the State Grand Assembly, and the Honorable Michael Anthony Wiggins, Grand Master of the MWP HGL of New Jersey along with the Grand Lodge Cabinet Officers. General remarks and congratulations were given by M.E. Harry L. Young, Most Excellent Grand High Priest on behalf of the Prince Hall Family.

MICIC Oglesby’s Allocation was received and accepted by the NJCOD. The main emphasis of his allocation was the



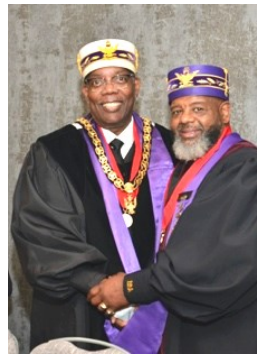
The Loyal Ladies of both Hartford and New Haven Assemblies continue with their community work. LLR Naomi Campbell reported 3 new members; delivered Easter treats to our firemen neighbors at the Goffe Street Fire House; participated in the Sickie Cell Walk; donated books to two schools gave out four Thanksgiving dinners; and held its Annual Christmas Party for our Senior neighbors of the St. Luke Senior Center. LLR Ngina McMillian reported on the giving of Thanksgiving baskets.

In December SGIG Cherry found that the illness of his wife Tarah was such that he gave up all outside activities to take full care of his wife who was in Hospice Care service and submitted his resignation as the Deputy for the Orient of Connecticut. Sovereign Grand Commander Bazemore appointed Ill. Ronald A. Thomas, Sr, 33° as the Overseer for Connecticut. In January Mrs. Cherry peacefully passed. Ill Cherry gave and still gives his profound thanks to the many Fraters and Ladies of the Order for their sincere support during this most stressful time for the entire Cherry and Evans family hood.

SGIG Thomas brings a wide level of organizational experience to the office of Overseer. He is a retired Executive of the State of Connecticut Department of Rehabilitative Services; Past Master of Widow Son’s Lodge #1 of New Haven; Past Commander-in-Chief of New Haven Consistory #7; Past Most Worshipful Grand Master of the MWP HGL of Connecticut; Grand Worthy Patron, Prince Hall Grand Chapter, OES; member of the Omega Psi Phi and member of the NAACP. For his fraternal and community activities, he was named one of the 100 Most Influential Blacks in Connecticut in 2009 and 2010. He is married to State Grand Worthy Matron Sonda Thomas.

“State of the Craft”. He stated that first he must thank the Commanders-In-Chiefs for all of their assistance thus far. We are still asking our members to continue to promote Scottish Rite Masonry within their respective Lodges and that this year’s SGIG William R. Revels Class will introduce nineteen new Fraters. He also expressed pride in the charitable acts being performed especially in conjunction with the Assemblies. He stated “collectively we can truly make a difference”. He added that we must continue to support the programs of the United Supreme Council as outlined in the Strategic Plan including the Educational and Membership Program, Marketing, and Social Justice and Civic Action Program. He thanked the elected and appointed officers and various committees for their steadfast commitment and dedication. He also thanked his lovely wife Angela, the joy of his life for the last 38 years. “You are the right in my life that removes every wrong. I love you and thank you for blessing me with two beautiful children and, from that union, five wonderful grandchildren with one grandchild on the way.”

The Annual Session of the State Grand Assembly, Order of the Golden Circle under the leadership of LL Daphne P. Roberts, State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler also met on November 25, 2022. SGIG Oglesby; SGIG William M. Moore, 33°, Assistant to the Deputy of the Orient of New Jersey; and MW Michael Anthony Wiggins, Grand Master visited their Annual Session. All six



Assemblies were present and all of their charitable activities continue to go very well. In a Historic Scottish Rite moment, SGIG Oglesby bestowed the honor of Honorary Membership to SGIG Edward M. Brooks, 33°, Secretary – General, H.E., SGIG Douglas R. Policastro, 33°, Deputy for New Jersey - Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and SGIG Larry S. Plasket (NMJ) for their sincere display of Brotherly

Love and support and promoting Scottish Rite Unity.

At the NJCOD’s Annual Scholarship Banquet, SGIG Oglesby presented LL Amelita McDowell, PGLLR of State Assembly Order of the Golden Circle a “Gold Plaque Service Award” for her commitment, dedication and service to Order of the Golden Circle’s Working Committee. GIG Harry Lee Young, 33°, Veteran Resource Committee, State of New



Jersey, United Supreme Council instituted our first Veterans Program, “Veterans of Distinction” for the NJCOD. The Distinguished Service Medal New Jersey’s highest military award. This award was

presented to several Fraters and Loyal Ladies who have served during multiple campaigns with New Jersey State Medals for their service inside and outside countries within this organization. Recipients of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs - New Jersey State Military Awards included Jessi Banks (E-7) Sergeant First Class, Army (MSM), John Bettis (E-5) Staff Sergeant, Airforce (MSM), Tyshiem Dasher (E-3) Private First Class, Navy (DSM), Carmen Ellis-Jackson (O-3) Captain, Army (MSM/GWOT), James Ferrell (E-5) Specialist-Five, Army (DSM/VSM), Jerome Goff (E-7) Sergeant First Class, Army (MSM), Sean Hoggs (O-4) Major, Army (MSM), George Jelks (E-6) Staff Sergeant, Army (MSM/GWOT/DSSSM) and Harry Lee



Young (E-7) Sergeant First Class, Army (NJGWOT). The NJCOD’s C. Morris Cain Scholarship Awards Committee under the leadership of GIG Walter Smith, 33°, Chairman continues to celebrate the accomplishments and educational milestones of eight deserving “2022” graduates from across of the Orient. NJCOD awarded eight \$1,000 academic scholarships. Each Consistory in the Orient is allotted one scholarship and, with the assistance of the USC and NJCOTR, these students are financially assisted as they matriculate into institutions of higher learning.

SGIG Douglas R. Posicastro, 33°, Deputy for New Jersey (NMJ) invited the NJCOD to it’s Annual Council of Deliberation and requested the NJCOD’s “Degree Team” to exemplify the 20th Degree “Master Ad Vitam” including the Second Section “The Light of Patriotism” along with his Orient at their Annual Reunion titled Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite “Class of Masonic Unity” on October 8, 2022. The Light of Patriotism “An Interpolation” where General George Washington meets with Prince Hall an allegory designed to dramatize and further inculcate the lessons of the Sixth Great Light.

The NJCOTR Bulletin continues to feature messages from the Deputy of the Orient; historical items; Health Awareness items; Scottish Rite Enlightenment; acknowledgements and accomplishments of our members in the Orient as well as other Scottish Rite philanthropic, charitable endeavors and activities. The Orient of New Jersey congratulated Ill. John M. Bettis, 33° and Ill. James G. Allen, 33° on being elected to the position of “Active” which is a representative position of the United Supreme Council to the Orient of New Jersey. To closeout the Annual Session of the NJCOD, SGIG Daniel R. Poole, 33° and M.W. Michael Anthony Wiggins, Grand Master brought greetings and gave remarks on behalf of their respective offices.

The NJCOD Ways and Means Committee, chaired by SGIG Bettis hosted the 13th Annual Appreciation Luncheon honoring GIGs Jeffrey M. Perry, 33°, Arnold Williams, 33°, Prince L. Burnett, 33° and Terrence M. Grimes, 33° for their commitment and dedication to Scottish Rite Freemasonry. Also, at the NJCOD Appreciation Luncheon III. Oglesby presented Certificates of Appreciation and Service Awards to Loyal Ladies, OES Sisters, Grand Inspectors General and Subline Princes.

Dead? No, not dead. In our Mystic Brotherhood we live forever - our union is eternal. It is with great sadness to report on the passing of (13) members of the NJCOD. The Orient of New Jersey also mourns the loss of four of it's "Scottish Rite Legends", SGIG Garrett L. Winn, 33°, Minister of State (NJCOD) and SGIG Dr. Kenneth Walton, 33° (Medical Dept. USC and the NJCOD) who were both members of Sardonias Consistory No. 41 (Valley of Newark), GIG Edward M. Taylor, 33° (Scholarship Committee, NJCOD) and SGIG Homer O. Justice, 33° (2nd Lt. Commander, NJCOD and Most Worshipful Past Grand Master (MWP HGL of NJ). "Our memories of these Illustrious Sirs will live on forever".

In closing as the Most Illustrious Commander-In-Chief, I first must thank my heavenly father for all of the many blessings that has been presented to the Orient of NJ. Also, I would like to thank the elected and appointed officers of the NJCOD and the State Grand Assembly for their commitment, dedication and support. Remember from whence cometh your help. Remember that God loves you and so do I. "Stay Blessed!"

Orient of Minnesota

Greetings from the Valley of Minneapolis, Orient of Minnesota; currently know as the Land of 10,000 frozen lakes. Please join us as we highlight and give praise to two American Hero's and Men of Distinction from our Orient, GIG Wayne Glanton and GIG Fred Doughty.



Both GIG Wayne Glanton and GIG Fred Doughty grew up during the heart of a segregated United States of America. Wayne grew up in south Minneapolis, becoming intrigued with the construction trade at just the age of 12 where he would carry materials, and tools to the workers. His apprenticeship paid off so well, that after his time in U.S. Army, he used his G.I. Bill to finish his studies at Dunwoody College of Technology in Minneapolis, MN. Which was the start of his fortune. But before we speak on that, lets take a moment to explore his military journey.

One of the things GIG Glanton built while in the military was run ways for airplanes. While GIG Glanton was in



Italy a P-51 Mustang came in for an emergency landing. "When that happened", he said, "we would rush out to the aircraft to try and get the pilot out before the plane burst into flames. We got this guy out and he took off his mask, and he was a black man." The pilot happened to be a Tuskegee Airman AKA The Red Tails.

Needless to say, Wayne had an interesting career in the military, which followed him to his civilian life. He learned so much that he was able to get a loan and start his very own lucrative construction company, and in doing so, did many projects around the Twin Cities, creating much needed job opportunities for members of his community. He also played a pivotal role with the construction of Interstate 394 that runs through Minneapolis. His construction company built the Prince Hall Masonic Temple that's located at 3832 4th Ave S. in 1957 and it is still being used today. He has been a member of Palestine Lodge #7 for 75 years. He retired sometime back, but tries to remain as active as he can with his charitable work in the order and the community. He has been honored for his contributions many times over the years with plaques and certificates. We honor him now. The G.A.O.T.U. willing, this World War II Hero will celebrate his 101st birthday this year.

While many of you may not know the name Fred Doughty, you, more than likely, have or will come in contact with his contributions to the Prince Hall Blue Lodge, York Rite, Scottish Rite or the Shrine. Unfortunately, GIG Doughty laid down his working tools, but while amongst us, he did whatever he could for not only his family but also his PHAmily. He was so well loved by the City of Minneapolis that his military carrier was placed on display at the government center for Black History Month. He too served in the military, proudly serving his country for 26 years in the U.S. Army, participating in two war campaigns and obtaining the rank of Sergeant Major, the highest pay grade that can be obtained by an enlisted man. While stationed in Panama, he was unable to attend the Masonic Ball, so he and others created the Nubian Ball, which was well attended. He had 5 star generals in attendance on his right of table. With all that our Illustrious Sir did, he was able to retire from the work force at the young age of 46.

GIG Doughty presented Masonic swords to the late SGIG Dr. Solomon Wallace, 33°, which is located in the cathedral, as well as to SGIG Melvin J. Bazemore. He was truly the type of man we all strive to be as we walk the path of our Masonic journey. He was a 60 year member of Palestine Lodge #7, the second oldest member of the Lodge and was elevated to the honorary degree of GIG in 1990. No matter his health situation, if a brother needed anything, he would make sure it was taken care of, no questions asked. The words we share about our dear brother do not do him justice. So we will share the words of his grandson, Charles Doughty, Sr. who said "yesterday was rough. We lost the prime example of everything you want to be as a man. He wasn't perfect but he was perfect to us. My family is losing our family tree and my grandfather is a part of the roots of that tree, and just like roots, he's embedded forever in all of us". And likewise so, in the Orient of Minnesota, GIG Fred Doughty was 86 years young.

Orient of Wisconsin

The Orient of Wisconsin remains very active within our organization and in the community. As Deputy, I participated in feeding the hungry by preparing meals to be served, and worked with a back to school book bag give-away. Our labors together have been plentiful. In October, Fraters accompanied me to the Morning Worship Service at St. Mark AME Church in Milwaukee. During the Council of Deliberation I conducted the election and installation of the newly elected State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler, Marsha McHenry and her staff. On February 15, 2023, Milwaukee Assembly #28 celebrated its 70th Anniversary and hosted a reception for the newly made Fraters of Ionic Consistory #70. Several accompanied me to their program and to the visitation in February to Madison/Beloit Assembly #70.

SGIG Walter E. Ward and SGIG Jimmie D. Foster reported on multiple activities in Beloit and Madison. They continue to mentor Fraters by phone calls, texting, and GroupMe to check on their health and families. SGIG Thomas Steele, fell, was hospitalized, received therapy, and is currently home and doing well. In August, we funeralized SGIG Frank A. Humphrey who was vital to our Consistory, his Lodge, and the community. The NAACP Image Awards, on February 25, 2023, acknowledged his death.

On September 24-25, 7 Fraters were elevated to the 32nd degree at W. B. Kennedy Lodge. SGIGs Ward and Foster attended the WCOD in Milwaukee and visited the Wisconsin State Assembly with the Deputy. In



January, the new Commander-In-Chief, GIG Bobby Moore, was installed. Both pledge to work with him, provide instruction and provide support.

Other activities during the Winter months were also extensive. In December, the Orient assisted W.B. Kennedy Lodge and Rebecca Chapter #4 OES in distributing toys, and food gift cards to families in the community and the Boys and Girls Club of Beloit. W.B. Kennedy Lodge was also setup so that it could assist these families with repass functions especially those who cannot afford the cost. Volunteer work continues at Beloit Memorial Hospital on Mondays and Thursdays escorting patients. SGIG Ward also meets with Kiwanis International on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. With the blessings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Madison Beloit Consistory will continue to progress.

The Orient of Wisconsin continues to move forward in all directions. Education is paramount with formal classes given one hour prior to each meeting with SGIG James E. Martin, 33°. When any Frater asks questions, informal classes are given by any of the GIG's or SGIG's present.

With Spring coming on, the Rose Croix of Wisconsin lays out its table to

celebrate Remembrance and Renewal in recognizing those members who have once passed by here - Lest we Forget. The Orient of Wisconsin is also preparing and organizing for the hosting of the USC in 2024. Committees are being established to address the many areas of making all visitors welcome.



All individuals in the Orient are doing their part in reaching out to reclaim members and looking forward to initiating new Ancient Craft Masons to the Sublime Degree of Prince of the Royal Secret. The Wisconsin Commanders of the Rite voted unanimously to continue our Annual Scholarship with a huge change that the scholarship will now be in honor of our beloved Grand Minister of State William R. Stark whom we lost on October 28, 2022. Grand Minister of State William R. Stark will always be remembered.

We also voted to change the name of our Annual Bowling Tournament to the Marshall E. Tharpe Bowling Tournament. Marshall E. Tharpe is our current Deputy for the Orient of Wisconsin and we found it fitting to name this tournament after him because of the tremendous work he has done in the Orient of Wisconsin and the United Supreme Council.



Orient of Delaware

Good things happened on October 14 & 15, 2022 at the DCOD under the new 5 year plan. It focused on leadership and sustainment and was hosted by the Valley of Milton under the leadership of GIG, PGM Frederick Duffy and Commander in Chief SP Bruce Duffy. The Order of the Golden Circle was hosted by Milton Assembly #81.



The Council was opened with the reception of Deputy James A. Scott after prayer from GIG Frederick Norman. The MC, GIG Jeffery Chandler, announced all Council Officers, members and guests. After receiving Most Worshipful Brother Isacce Morris, Grand Master; SGIG Robert Oglesby, Sr., Deputy, New Jersey; and representing the Sovereign Grand Commander at the Council was SGIG Edward M. Brooks, Secretary General of the Holy Empire with appropriate honors, the business was professionally accomplished. The Highlight of the Council was the 1st Annual Recognition and Scholarship Luncheon. Each Consistory and the State Grand Assembly awarded Education Grants to Students. The guest speaker for the Luncheon was past President of Delaware State University, and current member of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Wilma Mishoe. Her parents were both members of the Scottish Rite. Her father Dr. Luna Mishoe was President of Delaware State University, a SGIG and he was also an original Tuskegee Airman. PSGLLR Sandra Turner was recognized for her past performance as State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler of Delaware State Grand Assembly.



Being the new State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler for The Delaware Grand Assembly is a joy and a pleasure. During COVID-19, the Loyal Ladies kept up the great task of continuing their community service through scholarship funds, clothing and food drives, basket donations and school supplies. The three Assemblies also made monetary donations to a variety of local organizations that aid young men and women recently released from incarceration. At least five have individually accumulated over one thousand hours of community service and made monetary donations of thousands of dollars to continue the states dedication to charity. Thanks to, Assemblies #43, #81 and #96 for their continued diligence in uplifting the communities in the State



of Delaware. Thanks and praise goes to our PSGLLR Sandra Floyd for the support she gave during her tenure. Delaware is the small wonder state, and the members of Delaware Assemblies are all SMALL WONDERS.



The State Grand Assembly donated \$2,000 to two of the state school districts to buy books for the Book Vending Machines which are filled with books for our elementary school children to enhance their reading skills and give them a chance to share their experience at home with their families. The Principal and Board Chair from each district were very appreciative of the donations and said that many books can be brought with the generous monetary donation.

PLLRL Carla Outen has passed the gavel to the new Loyal Lady Ruler for Dover Assembly #96. She had a wonderful year as Ruler. Her Assembly was chosen as Assembly of the Year. Born in Long Island, NY, she graduated from Roosevelt High School and continued her education at Nassau Community College and Capstone Real Estate School, receiving her Real Estate Brokers License. She became a business owner of a Mortgage Company but relocated from New York to Milford in 2007 continuing her 33 year career as a Mortgage Underwriter. She is a member of Antioch AME Church in Frankford and various Masonic organizations—Rock of Ages Chapter #15, OES and Fez Court #211. We wish her continued success.



LL Angelia L. McNair, new Loyal Lady Ruler of #96, who joined the Order of the Golden Circle in 2002, St. Joseph's Assembly, Hollywood, Florida, served in all elected officer positions except that of the Loyal Lady Ruler. After relocating to Delaware in 2009, she transferred to Martha Chapter #2, OES; Ruth M. Tucker #1, HOJ (currently the Grand Senior Attendant, Queen of Sheba Grand Court HOJ); Delaware Assembly #43, OGC; Suakim Court #54, ICD; and is now Imperial Deputy, Oasis of Middletown of Mina Court #142. She believes in continuously striving for excellence and enjoys working for the good of the Order, the community, and mankind.

PSGLLR Gloria Duffy, Milton Assembly #81, and her husband GIG William Duffy from the G. Oscar Carrington Consistory #93, as well as their Grandson Tyzhir Morris of Be True Apparel, delivered Men's Hygiene kits to the Sussex County Probation and Parole In-Reach program. The donation came at the perfect time as the facility had run out of kits. They look forward to donating more in the future.



LLR Bernice V. Gladney is a native of Wilmington Delaware. She is a retiree of AstraZeneca Pharmaceutical after 28 years. In her employment with AstraZeneca

she developed a training program on teaching FDA rules and regulations to ensure all the i's were dotted and t's were crossed and the product (medication) got to market on time. She was a member of the Organization of Minority Woman as Treasurer for 38 years. Through fund raisers the organization, has given thousands in scholarships to deserving students and helped seniors get medications and food when their own money ran out. She has been a member of Morning Star Chapter #7 for 15 years where she served as Worthy Matron for two terms. She received the distinction of Honorary Past Grand Worthy Matron in 2022 of St. Mathews Grand Chapter, OES, PHA of Delaware. She was one of the first members of Delaware Dover Assembly #96 and now elected Loyal Lady Ruler.



Corinthian Consistory #5 has supported the Friendship House (FH) for more than 5 years. It has been and continues to be a foundation of its charitable program. FH works with people who are experiencing homelessness which is defined in two different ways. Helplessness is the loss of community and homelessness is the loss of one's physical residence. When someone loses a community (helplessness), homelessness can quickly follow. Also, a sudden loss of residence can also result in helplessness. So, FH strives to

ensure every person is ultimately connected to a loving, supportive community to break these cycles.

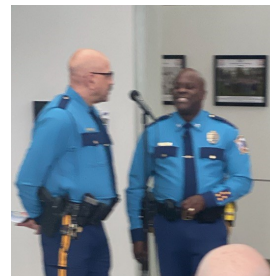
Ensuring love and support are at the heart of all they do. They address homelessness through a Clothing Bank, Empowerment Centers, Code Purple, Financial Assistance, and Transitional Housing. For more than 35 years, it has served the Delaware community aiding more than 10,000 people annually filling the gaps and supporting those in need. Corinthian is part of that support group. We believe every person deserves to have hope and safety. The Transitional Housing Program is designed for people who are recovering from substance abuse, domestic violence, or incarceration and need additional time to learn how to manage their lives with the goal of obtaining self-sufficient housing. Every night, volunteers prepare a meal and bring it to the Stage One homes. The volunteers eat with residents and staff in a casual environment as a way to embrace family and friends of the community. The Consistory is part of the monthly food program. Every month Corinthian provides a meal for the 10+ residents of The Friendship House Transitional Housing Program located Clark House Wilmington DE. Additionally Corinthian also makes donations to The Friendship House Clothing Bank. They accept new and gently used clothing for men, women, and children. Fraters of Corinthian have donated and are encouraged to personally donate clothing as no official donation drive is planned because of COVID restrictions.

Orient of Alaska

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." - Psalms 23:1

The ACOD convened its on October 1, 2022. Northern Lights Consistory #72, Valley of Anchorage, opened the proceedings and received the Deputy of the Orient, SGIG Clifford Hastings. He received the SGIGs and the GIGS. The Proclamation was read followed by the Allocution. Zoom was used for our out-of-state members including SGIGs Ruben Jackson and Anthony Horton. Throughout the meeting, they were given opportunities to speak on different subjects. Discussion was held on the Life Membership Program and the USC Brick Paving Program. After breaking bread together during lunch, business resumed, and the floor was opened for Fraters to speak. It was suggested that a GIG give a 15-to-20-minute class pertaining to Scottish Rite at future ACODs. The annual visit to the Grand Assembly followed. All were received graciously by SGLLR Jackie M. Parker (below).

2023 began well. In January, two new men were received into the Orient. On February 24, 2023, GIG Anthony April, an Alaska State Trooper, was promoted and pinned from Captain to Major.



Congratulations on a job well done!!!



Orient of Ohio

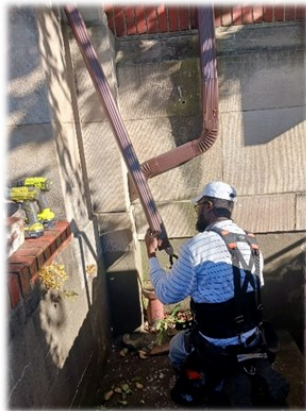
The Orient of Ohio maintains a steady pace of meaningful activity in the Scottish Rite and beyond. Our members are excited, engaged, and enthusiastic about embodying the mission and theme of our Sovereign Grand Commander.

On Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at the invitation of Sovereign Grand Commander James D. Cole 33°, Southern Jurisdiction, the other three Sovereign Grand Commanders of the regular and recognized Supreme Councils in the United States— Sovereign Grand Commander Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore 33°; Sovereign Grand Commander Corey D. Hawkins Sr. Esq. 33° (USC SJ PHA) and Sovereign Grand Commander Peter J. Samiec 33° (NMJ) - met at the House of the Temple to sign a Statement of Unity. Lieutenant Grand Commander Sidney D. Broadnax Jr. 33° (20) was present along with other members of the Cabinet. The Orient of Ohio was doubly represented by the presence of Grand Historian SGIG Reginald B. Stewart 33° (15).



The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in Beachwood chose SGIG Rev. Dr. Otis Moss Jr. 33° (15) as their initial subject to transform into an interactive biography. Visitors to the museum can interact in real time with an artificial intelligence version of his hologram and receive actual answers. This will ensure his experiences in the civil rights movement and his legacy will be preserved forever.

On Saturday, October 1, 2022, Dove Assembly #34 held an event honoring all past Loyal Lady Rulers who served from 2011 through 2021. Vice Mayor of Cincinnati, the Honorable Jan-Michelle Kearney was the keynote speaker. Bezaleel Consistory #15, led by Commander-in-Chief Emmanuel Ashong 33°, engaged in a meaningful community service project at an often forgotten about yet essential cultural institution in the Valley of Cleveland. SGIG Robert L. Alexander 33°; GIG Aaron Jackson 33°; GIG Maurio D. Powell 33°; GIG Kenneth Williams 33°; and SP Kaleo Mackenzie 32° responded to a call for assistance from Frances Caldwell, director of the African-American Museum, to give the museum a little tender loving care in a kickoff event.



Downspouts and gutters for rainwater mitigation were donated by the Illustrious Commander-in-Chief on behalf of his business (Osah's Home Improvement Group LLC). This and other preparatory work will be facilitated by Consistory volunteers (and members of other organizations) to prepare the museum for a public grand opening in the near future.

Painting, flooring, and sorting of artifacts are among the necessary tasks. Through the generous donation of materials from Home Depot and working in the spirit of the adage "many hands make light work" we will, with other community partners and city agencies, restore to glory to a longstanding museum for and by us! Invitations for volunteer opportunities will be extended to the Cleveland



Prince Hall family and this is especially important considering one of the end results of the revitalization will include a wall dedicated to Prince Hall freemasonry in Cleveland. There will be future visits to continue the work again in October and in December.

In assisting with the revitalization of the museum, Bezaleel Consistory #15 is fulfilling the mission statement of our Sovereign Grand Commander Melvin J. Bazemore 33°— United in Service and Commitment through Action, Accountability and Sustainable Results. The African American Museum (formerly the Afro-American Cultural & Historical Society Museum) was established in April 1953. It is a nonprofit cultural and educational museum that aims to share the achievements of African Americans. It is the only organization of its kind in Ohio.

The 113th Annual Session of the Ohio Council of Deliberation and 51st Annual Session of the Ohio Grand Assembly of the Order of the Golden Circle was held in the Valley of Columbus from Friday, October 21 through Sunday, October 23, 2022. Lieutenant Grand Commander SGIG Sidney D. Broadnax Jr. 33° (20) represented Sovereign Grand Commander Bazemore. A number of visitors from other Orients attended as well. LL Krymecia Proctor, Bezaleel Assembly #19, won the Ohio Grand Assembly Queen's Contest. GIG Howard D. Melvin 33° (20) was honored with the Meritorious Service Award. The highlight of the weekend was the banquet for the outgoing State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler LL Charlene Reese, Capital Valley #36, and it was well attended. On Sunday, October 23, a new State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler was elected in the person of LL Janice Bostic, Bezaleel Assembly #19. Overall, this was a very productive session indeed!

Immediately after the close of the session we were met with the news of the loss of Illustrious Grand Minister of State, SGIG William R. Stark 33°. His masonic and civil services were held at St. Marks AME Church on Saturday, November 5, 2022. A contingent from Ohio attended consisting of Most Illustrious Commander-in-Chief and Deputy for the Orient SGIG Carl A. Williams 33° (15); Illustrious Grand Master of Ceremonies SGIG Jerry D. Springer Sr. 33° (26); and SGIG Darryl R. Smith 33° (26). Valentine's Day is usually the day that women are shown love by their loved one. On this Valentine's Day, February 14, 2023, four Loyal Ladies of Bezaleel Assembly #19, Cleveland, Ohio set out to four companies of first responders. In preparation, LL Diane P. Jofferion called the fire departments of Richmond Heights; Highland Heights;

and Euclid and also to the 5th District police station in Cleveland, to find out how many responders would be working the first shift on this day. After securing the numbers, we ended up with a total of 55 first responders.



Euclid Fire Dept (above) - Cleveland 5th District (below)



On Sunday, February 12, 2023, LL Jofferion started baking cookies and Monday, February 13, 2023, LL Dianna Alexander and LL Berkeley Dixon joined in watching, cooling, and boxing cookies. A total of 240 cookies were baked. About 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Valentine’s Day, our morning began as LL Ruler Joan Hampton, LL Associate Ruler Diane P. Jofferion, LL Secretary Dianna Alexander, and LL Berkeley Dixon made a “Golden Circle” from Richmond to Highland to Euclid and then to Cleveland’s 5th District police station. As we entered and exited, we were warmly greeted with smiles, hugs, and thanks for thinking of them. Valentine’s Day 2023—Oh what a truly beautiful day; giving to those who gives their lives in service to us! Thank You First Responders!



LL Associate Ruler Diane P. Jofferion; LL Secretary Dianna Alexander; LL Berkeley Dixon; PLLR Sarah Holland; and LL

Cynthia Ziegler also volunteered with the Cleveland Food Bank and assisted in packing food boxes for the schoolchildren lunches in the city of Cleveland.



Richmond Heights (above) - Highland Heights (below)



Hamilton County Commission President Alicia Reece honored Dr. C. Keith Melvin and Marcia M. Broadnax for their civic contributions as part of the County’s ongoing Black History Month celebration. In a packed house filled with members of Prince Hall Masonic Family and community leaders from across the county, she declared February 16th Marcia M. Broadnax Day and February 17th as Dr. C. Keith Melvin Day in all of Hamilton County. Beyond being an active member in her community, Broadnax retired from the University of Cincinnati School of Designing, Architecture, Art, and Planning



(DAAP) in 2001 after serving for more than 30 years. Dr. Melvin has practiced emergency medicine, critical care medicine, and general primary care for more than 40 years and was instrumental in leading COVID-19 vaccination efforts for thousands of citizens. LL Broadnax, Dove Assembly #34 and Illustrious Melvin (20) received proclamations commemorating this day. Congratulations!!!



1514 Fitzwater Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146

ORIENT OF THE CARIBBEAN

Welcome to the Northern Jurisdiction



History continues to be made within the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. On April 26, 2022, Errol W. Barrow Consistory #109, Rising Sun House of the Rose Croix #109 and St. Johns Lodge of Perfection #109 separated from the Orient of New York and established the Orient of the Caribbean in Bridgetown Barbados. Forty-six Master Masons were also initiated into the Degrees of the Scottish Rite on the same day which increased the total membership to seventy. The work coordinated by the hands of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General Edward B. Darnell and Adam C. Jones was extraordinary in making this dream a reality. With the addition of the Valley of Barbados, Orient of the Caribbean, the Scottish Rite has been successfully extended with the support of Grand Master Claude Jackman. United and strong, we look forward to continued growth and success.

