The Bee Hive

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

Summer 2014 **Volume 20, Number 2**

First Place Golf Tournament Winners

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Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick (third from left) with First Place Golf Tournament winners ADDGM Isaac Curry #79, Wilbert Hopkins, DDGM Curtis Gunn #3, PGM Billie Thompson #46, and tournament coordinator PGM Larry Christian #253.

MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF VIRGINIA
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, INC.
OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

2012-2014

Joint GL St. John the Baptist Day in Tidewater

"Working Together In Unity"

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R.W. Deputy Grand Master Roger C. Brown #327, vpgovernor2@aol.com
R.W. Senior Grand Warden Paige D. Cherry #3, cherryd84@yahoo.com
R.W. Junior Grand Warden Richard Townes #235, rt235@kerrlake.com
R.W. Grand Trea. James E. Watkins, Jr. #44, james.watkins@dmv.virginia.gov
R.W. Grand Secretary Isaac S. Hughes #314, rwgsmwphglva@aol.com
R.W. Senior Grand Deacon Donald S. Wilson #67, dwilson82@cox.net
R.W. Junior Grand Deacon Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. #298, butch.morgan@fhwa.dot.gov
R.W. Grand Lecturer-West Kerry R. Brown #61, darkace93@verizon.net
R.W. Grand Lecturer-East Edward E. Lattimore, III #13, elattimore@hampton.gov

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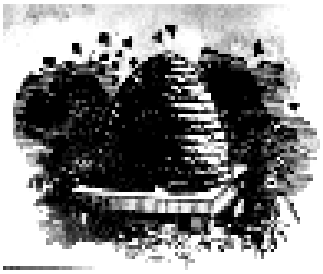
DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS & THEIR ASSISTANTS

1 Michael D. Brown #106, mdb46@yahoo.com
A/ Alton Miles #196, altonmiles@hotmail.com
A/ Erskine Dawson #132, bigdawgg1961@aol.com
2 Cecil Davis, Jr. #66, decilt@yahoo.com
A/ Joe L. Williams #66,
3 Curtis Gunn #3, curtis.gunn@verizon.net
A/ Elbert E. Scott, Jr. #46, scotteee04@cox.net
A/ Isaac Curry #79, issac.curry12@verizen.net
4 & 33 Burton A. Staples #93, buddy093@cox.net
A/ Kelvin D. Murray #69, kmu965@aol.com
6 John E. Amos #167, bossman35705@yahoo.com
A/ Shawn A. Wilson #229 shawnwilson357@cox.net
7 Thomas L. Jefferson, Jr. #94, thmsljrj@aol.com
A/ James H. Johnson, Jr. jjohnso475@cox.net
8 & 10 Curtis M. Holland #256, curtisholland@charter.net
11 Floyd M. Brown, Sr. #128, floydb874@adelphia.net
A/ Keith R. Brown #128, krbrown64@comcast.net
12 Joseph Diggs #43, josephdiggs2@verizon.net
A/ Cedric Lawrence #10, cwlawr@gmail.com
13 Willie M. Seward, Sr. #108, papa6.4life@yahoo.com
14 & 16 Wilbert Jones #235, wilbertjones@kerrlake.com
A/ John L. Austin #146,
A/ Clyde Boyd #208, bugboyd55@aol.com
15 Harvey Eggleston #187, egglestonh@aol.com
A/ Ardell J. Walker #187, jjwalker777@embargamil.com
17 David L. Wilson #104
A/ Artie S. Lea #179, mrartieleasr@aol.com
A/ Walter H. Davis #295,badblue32us@yahoo.com
18 & 19 Danny Plummer #31, dplummer@preferred.com
20 James O. Borders #109, deaconborders1@aol.com
21 & 22 Harry R. Holtz #18, hholtz2@comcast.net
A/ Edward L. Mock #18, elbay3e@aol.com
23 Howard Anderson #24, kneehiva@aol.com
A/ Eddie Waugh ##24, ewaug24@aol.com
24 Morris W. Nelson #113
A/ Raynard Moore #113, moore198@gmail.com
25 Douglas Gregory #188, dggreg@embargmail.com
26 Edward T. Henderson #23, bighead7532@aol.com
A/ Charles Shelton #307, l296m26@aol.com
A/ Willie Wynn #327, pmwynn@yahoo.com
A/ Waverly L. Jones #28, waverly@waverlyjones.com
A/ Michael Magum #81, deviousdawg@aol.com
27 James S. Burrell, Sr. #253, bu8425@aol.com
A/Nathaniel M. Boyd #297, weteachmusic@aol.com
28 William L. Lee #100
29 Leandre L. Bennett #61, libennett@aol.com
A/ Steven S. Legette #121, steven.legette@us.pentagon.mil
30 Steven S. Legette #121, steven.legette@us.pentagon.mil
A/ Dennis W. Gordon #238, dwg315@yahoo.com
31 Leonard C. Johnson #293, lcjapan@yahoo.com
A/ James C. Gordon #292, jgordon62@hotmail.com
A/ Carl A. Albritton #298, energizer1961@gmail.com
32 Robert Barnett #274, shirleneshro@aol.com
A/Mike Hairston # 434, mikechairston@comcast.net



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The Bee Hive

Vol. 20 No. 2

THE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH WE STAND

1. *Forever Loyal to our God.*
2. *Forever Devoted to our Grand Lodge.*
3. *Giving Due Respect to our Fellow Man.*
4. *Living Upright in our Community.*
5. *The Bee Hive Shall Be Non-Partisan and Non-Sectarian.*

Editor in Chief
The Honorable **Shelton Riddick #323**
MWGM

LaSalle J. McCoy, Jr. #33
Editor
Mccoygitlo@verizon.net
(804) 241-7866 Chester, VA

Raymond A. Sutton III #13
Associate Editor
Rasutton3rd@yahoo.com
(757) 827-7645 Hampton, VA

William E. Moore, Jr. #92
Grand Photographer
Moor357@gmail.com
(757) 574-3595 Chesapeake, VA

Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58
Staff Writer
Julius.d.spain@gmail.com
(703) 517-1703 Arlington, VA

Most Worshipful Grand Master Riddick at the Founders Day Celebration

Mission Statement

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. is a fraternal organization dedicated to the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

Our organization takes good men and develops them to be better men.

We dispense charity, promote family values and are endeavoring to significantly aid in the uplifting of humanity.

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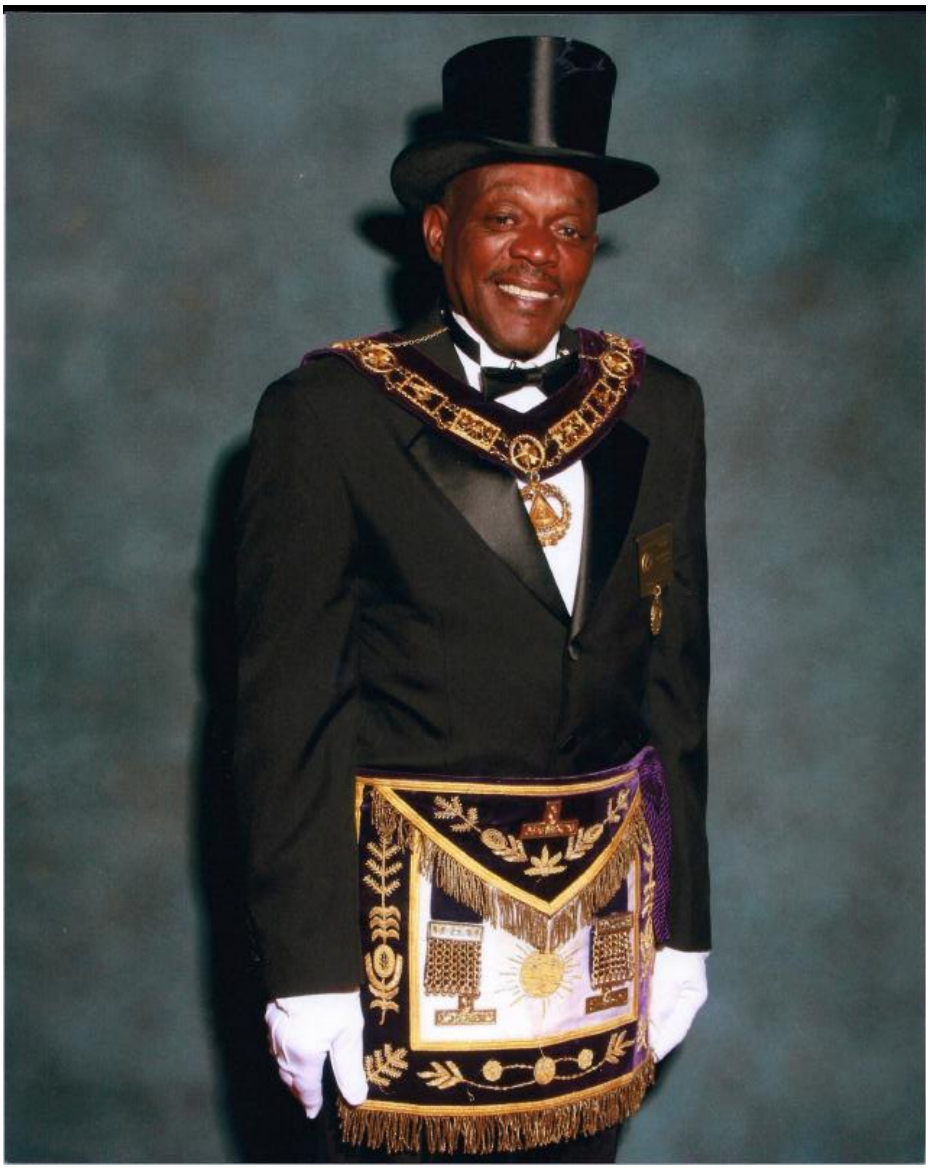
Shelton Riddick#323

The 77th Grand Master of the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of VA, F & AM, Inc.



I, Shelton Riddick, Most Worshipful Grand Master, bring you greetings from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Inc., and pray God's richest blessings upon each of you. I assure you that all is well with the Prince Hall Masonic Family in the Jurisdiction of Virginia.

In this 2014 Summer Issue of our Bee Hive we are sharing with you highlights from some of our programs and events throughout our Jurisdiction. I encourage you to continually provide news items and pictures of events and activities that occur in your community. I also encourage you to support each other and work together to move our Masonic organization to the next level. Always remember we are **"Working Together in Unity".**

MWGM Riddick has Occasional Lodge to install the mayor & police chief of Alexandria, leads Founder's Day, and affirms Joint St John's Day

From the Editor

L. J. McCoy, Jr. #33

In 1993, A. M. Jones Lodge #79 of the Third Masonic District had about 20 brothers, but in 2003 they had merged with Brighton Rock #133 to become Brighton Rock Lodge #79. In the Twelfth Masonic District, Gravel Run Lodge #202 had only 17 brothers in 1993. They have since consolidated as Moses /Gravel Run Lodge #209. In 2003, Omar Lodge #226 listed only nine brothers in the 2003 Annual Proceedings.

The lack of Masonic interest and the lack of Masonic membership have had a direct impact on the closing and consolidation of many of our Prince Hall lodges. When we become complacent and continue business as usual, we realize that our lodge has deteriorated spiritually, and in need of life support.

Understanding this need of revival, Most Worship Grand Master Shelton Riddick applied a jump start to his agenda with topics of discussion. He advocated attending our lodge and Masters Wardens Council meetings in order to gain firsthand knowledge of the direction and plans of both lodge and council. The Grand Master recommended we follow his calendar and edicts to witness his leadership. In order that lodges are administratively sound, he insisted that we inquire about our lodge's IRS status, Grand Lodge scholarship applications, and our Grand Lodge assessments status. The Grand Master was encouraging us to plan to succeed, instead of complaining about failure.

As travelers to that unknown country, who would endeavor to undertake the journey without a roadmap or GPS? We need to consider the survival of our lodge as a journey whereby guidance is needed to arrive in the future. Applying the guidelines to create the path to assure our lodges appear in future record books 50, 100, 200 years from now, is imperative.

Therefore, we should embrace the topics of discussion the Grand Master has issued and carefully apply them to our lodges and districts. Following this roadmap may not guarantee survival, but it does provide some structure for a vision to success.

Have you renewed your **NAACP** membership? We need your support! Join and support your local **NAACP** Branch. For more information visit: www.naacp.org or call 410 580-5613 **"All in for Justice and Equality"**

Our 139th Founder's Day Celebration

By L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – During a comfortable 74 degree spring afternoon, over 160 brothers formed a procession outside of First Baptist Church Harrison Street to celebrate the union of Prince Hall Masonry in Virginia. Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick was pleased to receive the brothers with more than 50 friends, guests, and members of the Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia who attended the services.

Right Worshipful Grand Lecturer Kerry Brown #61 conducted the program of events where prayer was given by RWGL Edward Lattimore, III #13, PDDGM Carroll Mickens #16, and Asst. DDGM Cedric Lawrence #10 respectively responded. RW Grand Secretary Isaac S. Hughes #314 then recognized the Appendant/Adopted Bodies and visiting dignitaries.

The history of the MWPHGL of Virginia, detailed by WPM Antonio Pride #43 found its roots from African Lodge # 459 of Boston Massachusetts which was chartered in 1787. It was not until 1875 however, that the two Grand Lodges of Virginia made arrangements to unify forming the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia. In the late 1950's, the name was changed to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, Free & Accepted Masons, Incorporated.

With a message from Matthew 6:33, the pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Tillman said, "Prayer must be consistent". As brothers, we need to spend some time with the word of God. He emphasized that we must be the best Christian men and women as Eastern Stars and Masons that we can be.

MW Grand Master Shelton Riddick #323 concluded the program with the laying of a commemorative wreath, in honor of our founding fathers, at the dedication stone of the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of VA, Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. in the church's fenced yard.

Schools of Instruction

The Keysville School is held in Victoria

By L. J. McCoy #33

Victoria – Even though the sun shone bright, the 30 degree chill kept patches of ice along Rt. 460 to the Keysville School of Instruction. Brother Alfonzo Steward #108 addressed the body as a first time attendee, where RWJGD Beverly Morgan #298 responded to his expressions.

With over 120 brothers in attendance, Grand Lecturers Edward Lattimore #13 and Kerry Brown #61 opened the session with funeral service instructions, Worshipful Master's prerogatives, and the constitutional changes. After Committee on Work members Arthur Dean #120 and Thomas Herring #293 made corrections to the opening ceremony, brothers DDGM Robert Barnett #274, Walter Love #131, Trava Hawkins #187, James Rowe, Sr. #131, and Asst. Grand Marshal William Christian #65 had comments that were relevant to the school.

Brothers that proved proficiency and received their Certificate of Merit included Marcel Dance #203, Cory Davis #108, Joseph Hantso #40, William R. Harding #187, Larry D. Harris #187, Earnest Jones #146, Darnell C. Pegram #203, James E. Rowe #131, Frank Stokes III #146, and Clyde Wilkerson #235. The lodge with the most members present was Victoria Lodge #187 and the lodge with the highest percentage was Mecklenburg #280.

The Final School held in Petersburg

By L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick #323 was pleased to entertain over 170 brothers at the last School of Instruction held at the Petersburg Masonic Temple on February 8th. Over 20 first time attendees were also present where Brother Avon Miles, Sr. #33 gave expressions for these brothers. After RWSGD Donald Wilson #67 welcomed them, Past Grand Master Herman Eggleston #146 expressed thanks to the brothers for approving the constitutional changes at the 2013 Grand Lodge Session.

Before Grand Lecturers Kerry Brown #61 and Edward Lattimore #13 had their lectures presented, Committee on Work members Anthony Pride #43 and Terry Taylor #43 gave instructions on improving the opening ceremony. Then COW members Roger Redd #109 and Thomas Jennings #293 gave specific details on the Masonic Burial. Brothers Darrell Brown #17, Sterling Hill #324, Jeryle Jones #17, James Buffin #293, Joe Moore #7, Morris Evans #256, Sam Jones #256, Frederick L. Neblitt #80, Ronald Carter #92, Earnest Prather #293, Robert Starks #256, Moses Wyche #288, Leroyal Lee #107, Tim Sykes, #48, Carroll Mickens #16, Ricky Mabry #263, Kenyata Beasley #15, Ron Long #15, and Corey Mosely #307 requested clarity on many issues. But it was Brother Tony Hines #43 who stirred the most interest when he asked "Did Masonry originate in Africa, and are we the best kept secret?"

After roll call of lodges was made, Mt. Nebo Lodge #43 won the award for the most members present and St. James Lodge #128 had the highest percentage of members present. Certificates of Merit were presented to Brothers Tony Artis #256, Joshua Beasley #15, Kenyata Beasley #15, Clayton Britt #323, Khalil Coleman #15, John Covin #264, Travis Edmonds #7, John L. Epps III #7, Quinton Fields #237, Nathaniel Herring #17, Tony Hines #43, James Jackson, Jr. #17, Bernard Johnson #109, Jeryle A. Jones #17, Ronald Long #15, George C. Mason, Sr. #231, Corey M. Mosley, Sr. #307, Eric Wiley #109, and Woodrow R. Wilson #288.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick #32 took the gavel and closed the school.

Testimonial Banquet for the Honorable Shelton Riddick, MWGM

By L. J. McCoy #33

Newport News – Over 500 guests gathered to greet and commend Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick on April 5th for the outstanding job he has performed for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia. The event was hosted by Right Worshipful Grand Secretary Isaac S. Hughes #314 as master of ceremonies with a musical prelude by PM Melvin White, and invocation by the Grand Master's pastor, Rev. Michael Toliver, a greeting from honorary Past Grand Worthy Matron Tawana Hawks, and a response by RWJGW Donald Wilson #67.

After a biography of the Grand Master from RWSGW Paige D. Cherry #3, dinner was served and presentations were made by Appointed Grand Lodge Officers, the District Deputy Grand Masters, the Knights of Pythagoras, Appendant & Adopted Bodies, Grand Chapter OES, Grand Lecturers, Grand Directors, Past Grand Masters, visiting Grand Masters, Grand Lodge Officers, Brighton Light Chapter #118, OES District #6, 3rd Masonic District, Washington Lodge #323, and the 3rd Masonic District Deputies. Echoing special presentations from their hearts, the Grand Master's pastor and sister revealed how humble he continues to be as a faithful church member and supportive brother. First Lady of the MWPHGL of Va. Mrs. Shirley Riddick admitted she didn't mind his constant travel, if he left the check book at home.

All in all, the Grand Master summarized by reflecting on his theme song, **"If it had not been for the Lord on my side, Where would I be, Where would I be?"**

MWPHGL's Annual Visitation To Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center

By WPM Raymond A. Sutton, III #13 & PDDGM Thomas L. Jefferson, Jr. #94

Hampton - It was Wednesday, April 16th, 2014 and the time had come again for our Grand Lodge's annual visit to Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center to provide some Masonic Brotherly Love and down home comfort to the in-patients and staff at HVAMC. The sun was positively beautiful as it rose and lit the morning skies, but a real chill remained in the air. The two short weeks of April had not been enough to remove March's wicked blasts of cold.

Our visit was under the immediate direction of PDDGM Thomas L. Jefferson, Jr. #94. His coordination and planning with the Chief of Volunteer Services, Mrs. Judith Curtis revealed that we should once again have an indoor cook-out to protect our honored patients from the day's chill. Recreation Therapists, Ms. Monique Harris, Ms. Monica Adams, Mr. Paul Burchek, and Ms. Ashley Montgomery were assisted by Volunteer Services Techs. Roy Johnson, Hazell Reap, Webster Rose and Kuria Spindler and made all of the plans come to fruition as they moved about assuring safe and timely accomplishment. The necessary briefings from Mrs. Curtis insured that all Master Masons were aware of the specific privacy issues concerning all of the in-patients and the requisite safety measures prior to and during patient transport from their residence to the day-room and back. Of the 75 Brethren present, approximately half of them took on the task of assuring that our non-ambulatory veterans were brought to the cookout/picnic dayroom safely. Here, the patients received the cookout foods prepared under the watchful eyes and hands of the VAVS Staff and our Masonic Culinary Staff of Brothers.

A great time was enjoyed by all. Everyone was more than pleased with the hot dog and hot sausage sandwiches, hamburger sandwiches, a full selection of condiments, baked beans, snacks and assorted soft drinks. More than three hundred patients, staff and Brethren enjoyed the delectable repast along with the wide range of discussions, conversations and interfacings. Our Masonic Family and the VAMC/VAMS Staff worked tirelessly to ascertain that our veterans were properly honored and received the degree of care and attention that they justly deserve.

There were 69 Master Masons present that signed in and there were several that missed the roster for a total of around 75. In addition there were 19 VAVS Personnel who assisted with our usual planning, setting up, cooking, and serving. Four Sisters of the Order of the Eastern Star, Worthy Matron Margaret S. King #3, Past Worthy Matron Ellen A. Stewart #150, Sister Audrey Boone #3 and Sister Julia Bailey #195 signed in on our roster and rendered vital assistance in all areas. Several active duty U. S. Army Master Masons were present and joined in with the festivities and providing services.

Grand Lodge oversight was ably provided by our RWSGW Paige D. Cherry #3 and RWSGD Donald S. Wilson #67 with available advice from MWPGM Billie L. Thompson, Sr. #46, MWPGM Curtis S. Vaughan, Jr. #67 and RWGD Maurice J. Holland #79. WGAP Larry D. Spence #67 and WGAT Ernest 'Sunny' Harris #69 rounded off the appointed GLOs in service. MWGM Shelton Riddick #323 was unable to attend as he was taking care of three of his nephews, one of which was too sick to accompany him to the visitation. WPM Braxton W. Mitchell, Jr. #90, a past Chairman of our Hampton VAMC Visitations, was present and an asset to Chairman Jefferson. All area Districts were represented by their District Deputy Grand Masters and Assistants as well as the Subordinate Lodges of those Districts. Craft photos were taken by WG Photographer William E. Moore, Jr. #92 and several VAMC/VAMS Personnel.

Northern Virginia Celebrate Our Veterans

By WM Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58

Ft. Belvoir - On Wednesday April 16, 2014, members of the 31st Masonic District participated in the annual Veterans Visitation directed by the MWPHGLVA F&AM Inc. The event was held at the Soldier & Family Assistance Center located aboard U.S. Military Installation, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Over 200 wounded warriors, active duty personnel, and permanent staff participated and enjoyed themselves. Special thanks to ADDGM James Gordon #292, the Junior Wardens and Stewards of the 31st for their outstanding efforts!

VA Visitation in the West

By ADDGM Walter Davis #295

Salem - On April 16, 2014, Western District Prince Hall Masons visited the patients and staff at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Salem.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, and fixings were served to everyone who attended. The brothers were also joined by our Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden Richard Townes #235.

*"I sought my soul, but my soul I could not see. I sought my God, but my God eluded me. I sought my brother and I found all three." — **Unknown***

The Brothers Honor Our Nation's Heroes

By L. J. McCoy #33

Richmond – There was a little chill in the air, but the bright and sunny skies made the outdoor grilling and socializing a perfect day to honor the veterans and staff at McGuire Veterans'' Hospital. On April 16th, the 12th and 26th Masonic Districts visited our country's heroes to thank them for the service they had given to make this nation the best.

Coordinated by committee chair Board of Director PM Charles Jones #81, he received the support of District Deputy Grand Masters Joseph Diggs #43, Henderson #23, and over 50 other brothers throughout the districts. This visit was one of four VA visits within the state by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia held to show our appreciation to those individuals in our armed services. The VA Visitation which is in its seventh year now was the creative idea of Past Grand Master Curtis Vaughan, Jr. #67. Enlisting the support from Past District Deputy Grand Master George Ellis #7, they designed the affair to coordinate in Hampton, Northern Virginia, Roanoke, and Richmond simultaneously. After serving as co-chair under Brother Ellis, PM Jones served as chair the second year up to present.

After serving over 60 veterans, the brothers turned their attention to about 100 staff and administration members who enjoyed the services and the camaraderie of the Prince Hall family.

The 2014 KOP Summer Encampment

Petersburg – They tied ties, they shined shoes, they learned etiquette, and they had a little fun with councils throughout the state.

On July 10 – 13, over 70 young men assembled at Virginia State University under the leadership of KOP State Director Carl Albritton for the 49th Knights of Pythagoras Summer Encampment. It was an enriching event where the Knights live on campus where they were taught the meaning of developing from boyhood to manhood.

The purpose of the encampment provided an annual meeting of all Youth Knights and Sir Knights in the state of Virginia. It allowed our youth mentors and parents from around the state for fun, fellowship, and training. Guest Knights from other states were also welcomed to participate. Hosting the event on a college campus gave the Youth Knights an opportunity to value the importance of continuing their education. With the exposure of the classrooms, dining facilities, and living in dorm rooms, these young men also had a little experience of the college lifestyle.

On their first day, the Knights were taught how to tie ties and proper grooming. Day two was a little relaxed until they had to properly dress for the evening's banquet which featured celebrity guest speaker comedian Brother Alex Scott #6. Brother Scott who has worked with Steve Harvey, Kevin Hart, and BET told the young men about speaking from the heart. Reflecting on how Lebron James returned home to Cleveland, he stated you should always (remember) to return home. Remarks at the banquet for MWGM Shelton Riddick #323 were given by Deputy Grand Master Roger C. Brown #327.

On Saturday, the Adult Knights managed a full line of events for the Youth Knights from a cookout to basketball to pool basketball where GM Riddick took the opportunity to stress to the young men the importance of the event. The encampment came to a close on Sunday after worship service.

Join or become a member Call or Email
State Director Carl Albritton at
540 604-3651 or carlalbritton43@aol.com

Grand Lodge Annual Charity Golf Tournament

By MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253

Williamsburg - Twelve years ago, we started this event at the Hampton Golf Club. With only three teams participating, we recognized that this would become a tradition. We then moved to KISKIACK Golf Course where the event has grown from three teams to as many as twenty two teams.

This year we had fifteen teams with a total of 60 players participating. We now host a fall tournament that is beginning to grow in popularity also. Lodges, Districts, and individuals sponsor holes at a cost of $100.00, which has also grown over the past three years. The Golf Committee sold lapel pins, shirts, jackets, and caps where the proceeds from the event assist our 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year college students. This year we had players from the MWPHGL of D.C. and the MWPHGL of Delaware.

The Committee Members included DDGM John Amos #167, DDGM Michael D. Brown #106, DDGM Curtis Gunn #3, DDGM Leonard Johnson #293, RWGL Edward Lattimore #13, and PM Leonard Hawkins #327.

The 1st Place winners were Curtis Gunn #3, Wilbert Hopkins, Ike Curry, and Billie Thompson with 61; 2nd Place winners were Jim Davis, Jonathan Coley, Kori Pratt, and Sterling McNair with 63, and 3rd Place winners were Leonard Hawkins #327, Walter Brown #18, Junius King, and Fred Middleton with 64. The longest drive went to Ed Mose on Hole #1 and Hole #18. Closest to the pin went to Linwood Carter and James T. Brown of the MWPHGL of DC and the Grand Prize of a Kindle Fire HD was awarded to Curtis Gunn #3.

> **"**The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack in will.**"— Vince Lombardi**

The OES School of Instruction

By L. J. McCoy #33

Henrico – As participants traveled through misting rain and fog to St. Paul's Baptist Church on the out skirts of Richmond, over 200 sisters and brothers were present at the March 29th Order of the Eastern Star School of Instruction. Grand Worthy Matron Gracie H. Drake (pictured left) stated that in her over thirty years as a Star, she has never seen a school with this large of attendance.

Opening in ritualistic form, Synthia Wells Grand Lecturer of the East gave the call to order. While scripture was given by Grace Washington GDDO #5 and prayer was by Martha Rose Grand Lecturer of the West, Grand Worthy Patron Robert L. Chadwick, Sr. introduced the Grand Worthy Matron. Worthy Patron and Sr. Grand Deacon Donald Wilson introduced Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick.

Grand Warder Sandra Wilson #20 then commented on the opening ceremony corrections.

Of the 75 chapters that were on Grand Secretary Erma Harris' roll call list, only two chapters were absent. The Grand Secretary then took the opportunity to give instructions on completing the 990 forms for the IRS and observing deadlines of the Grand Chapter's mailing.

After a brief break, the Grand Lecturers conducted thorough directions to keep Virginia on one accord. Issues that were addressed included burials by GL Synthia Wells; initiations by GL Martha Rose; dress codes by Florence Brown GDDO #12; demits by Eva Taylor GDDO #22; and small chapter openings by GW Sandra Wilson.

Filled with a renewed knowledge to return to their chapters, it was only fitting and appropriate to enjoy a filling lunch from the kitchen of the St. Paul's Church banquet hall.

District #2 OES Chapter of Sorrow

By WPM Ray Sutton, III #13

Norfolk - On Sunday, March 16, 2014 at Mount Lebanon Baptist Church in Norfolk, VA, everyone could sense that there was something special going to happen. From the recognition given to our Grand Worthy Matron, Mrs. Gracie H. Drake, our Grand Worthy Patron, Mr. Robert L. Chadwick, Sr. and Our Most Worshipful Grand Master, The Honorable Shelton Riddick we all knew that all of this programs 'i's' would be dotted and its 't's' properly crossed.

The Worship Leader, Grand Warder, Mrs. Sandra Wilson #20, set a very high bar as the Worship Leader with her own inimitable and personable style of reaching each individual and inviting them to travel with her on 'her journey'. Each program element from the Scripture of Vicky Mosley #2, to the Prayer by Ada Blair #111, the Church Choirs' Chant, the Welcome of Sharon Cason #82 and the Response of LaKisha Branch #111 were all delivered with great clarity and were most favorably received by the audience of approximately 200 Sisters of the Order, Master Masons and guests.

The essence of the program was the ritualistic work of the Chapter of Sorrow which was impeccably led by our Grand Lodge's Right Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon Donald S. Wilson as the Worthy Patron. His performance meticulously guided the Chapter Officers through the ceremony as each recited without misstep or flaw. Camisa Bishop #197 as Worthy Matron, Gloria Cole #82 as Associate Matron, Leon McAlister #101 as Associate Patron, Tracey Mamma #101 as Conductress, Mary Holmes #20 as Associate Conductress, Lillie Rascoe #197 as Treasurer, Jeanette Darden-Yates #197 as Secretary, Patricia Turner #111 as Warder, Frances Bailey #82 as Adah, Sonya Williams #197 as Ruth, Dominique Taborn #197 as Esther, Michelle Greer #197 as Martha, Kendra Cherry #101 as Electa, and William Johnson #82 as the Chaplain are all to be commended singularly and collectively for their exemplary performances in their portrayals of the Chapter Officers in this public program.

The Pastor of Mt. Lebanon, Rev. Bobby Bowser, delivered a powerful and effective eulogy from Deuteronomy 6:1 on the 'Challenge of Change'. Stressing the necessity of adjustments to new leadership, new locations and new lifestyles, one becomes an adamant follower of 'The Word'.

Appropriate program comments were made by the District #2 Council President Melvine Wyatt Norman, GDDO Dist. #2 Cheryl Hicks, GWP Robert L. Chadwick, Sr., our GWM Gracie H. Drake, and our MWGM Shelton Riddick, all lauding the performances of the evening with added guidance from our MWGM to assist our youth to preserve our future.

\ State-Wide Whit Sunday Service

By L. J. McCoy #33

Chesapeake – It was a steamy 87 degrees on the outside, but inside the New Galilee Missionary Baptist Church at 1765 South Military Highway no fans were needed until the pastor delivered his fired-up message. During the Whit Sunday Service on June 8th, Grand Worthy Matron Gracie H. Drake was pleased to welcome over 243 brothers and sisters to the celebration.

Honorary Past Grand Worthy Matron Estherine J. Harding served as worshipful leader, while Sisters Rosalind Holland GDDO #8 and Jeanette Cherry GDDO #3 gave scripture and prayer respectively.

The background and history of the event was then given by Sister R. Francine Hightower AGDDO #2. As one of three Christian holidays along with Christmas and Easter, Whit Sunday or Pentecost, as it is sometimes called, came about in the first century. Celebrated 50 days after Easter, Whit Sunday has significance to the death and resurrection of Christ.

Directing a message for the evening from Esther 4:11 and 5:1, 2, & 3, the pastor Rev. Dr. Anderson O. Foreman stated, "You can make it, if you let God be God." The pastor adamantly stressed that we must be patient and allow God to work it out, and not us.

GWM Drake was supported by her Grand Worthy Patron Robert Chadwick, Sr., Grand Associate Matron Robin Brown, the Grand Associate Patron Clarence Williams, and the Grand Secretary Erma Allen-Harris. Supporting the sisters, DDGM Cecil T. Davis recognized BOD Maurice Holland #79, BOD Charles A Jones #81, Grand Lecturer Edward Lattimore III #13, PGM Lionel Spruill, PGM Larry Christian #253, SGD Donald Wilson #67, SGW Paige Cherry #3, and DGM Roger Brow #327 who introduced Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick #323.

After addressing the body focusing on our youth, the Grand Master invited the pastor to close and welcomed everyone to an evening repast.

Triangle #293 July 4th Parade

By WM Julius Spain, Sr. #58

Dale City - On Friday, 4 July 2014, members of Triangle Lodge #293 Triangle, VA, marked their 3rd year participating in the 4th of July Parade in Dale City, VA. The parade route was lined with members of the Prince William County and surrounding communities. Accompanying Triangle #293 were representatives from Arlington #58, King Tyre #292, The Martin Luther King Council #39 Knights of Pythagoras, DDGM Leonard C. Johnson #293, RWDGL(W) Kerry Brown #61, and members of the Masonic Riders Motorcycle Club. Grace Chapter #239 OES provided water and cold towels along the 3.5 mile parade route in support of the brothers' efforts. The parade culminated with a Fish Fry Fundraiser at the end of the route to raise funds for Triangle #293's WPM John Tabourne Scholarship fund. The scholarship fund provides needed monies in support of college bound youth in the Northern Virginia area. Credits: WM Philip Brannon #293.

St. John's Celebration also Award 12th MD Scholarships

By L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – As WM Rodney Tucker #10 rose to give the purpose of the evening it could be clearly detected in his voice that he was being used by the Holy Spirit as a vessel to spread the Word of this celebration. The first day of summer brought the 12th Masonic District to Tabernacle Baptist St. in Petersburg on June 22nd.

After DDGM Joseph Diggs #43 led the procession of over 60 brothers into the sanctuary, WM Terry Taylor #43 had the call to worship with assistance from WM Hosza Bagley #17, WM Josh Beasley #15, and PM Avon Miles, Sr. #33 rendering the music. Sister Magnolia Rivers GDDO #16 introduced the sisters present and PM Antonio Pride #43 introduced Grand Lodge Officers and dignitaries.

Introducing the speaker of the evening, ADDGM Darrin Hill #43 stated that the North Carolina native was well qualified with a PHD in Health and Ministry degrees from Virginia Union University. Rev. Dr. Bridget Wilson tailored her message from Proverbs 16:3 where she asked "How many of you know, you are committed to something?" She noted it takes real commitment to become a Mason, and we should not be committed to the world, but to God.

ADDGM Cedric Lawrence #10 then introduced DDGM Joseph Diggs who presented several students with Grand Lodge Scholarship Awards.

Richmond #65 Helping Needy Families

By JD Michael K. Calloway #65

Richmond – On December 19, 2013 the 2013 Line of Richmond #65 consisting of WM Ray O Green, SW Marcel Wilson, JW Ricky R McNight, SD Louie Wynn, JD Michael K Calloway, and SS Albert Rogers put together 10 Christmas Baskets for the annual Christmas Basket donation. The baskets were delivered to the families on Saturday, December 21, 2013; the distribution team included: SW Marcel Wilson, PM Tony Burton, PM William Christian, Sr., PM Walter Meyers, PM Maury Harris, and JW Ricky McKnight, Jr. Charitable giving was extended by taking one of the families Christmas shopping as part of the 26th Masonic District's annual Operation Santa Claus.

Bro. Welch Awarded as Mentor

By WM Julius Spain, Sr. #58

Congratulations are in order for Junior Warden Neville Welch of Arlington Lodge #58 who on January 31, 2014, was competitively selected by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs to serve as a 2014 mentor for the US Senate Youth Program on Capitol Hill from 8-15 March 2014. The program is an annual event managed and funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. Bro. Welch graduated from Howard University with a BS in Health Systems Management and previously served as an enlisted Marine. He graduated from Officer Candidate School in 2005, and in that same year he became a Comptroller and Finance Officer. Earning a certificate in government affairs from Georgetown University and a Master's in Business Administration from Webster University, he has had the good fortune of being an academic instructor, platoon commander, and company executive officer at Officer Candidate School. In 2011, he served as a DoD Congressional Fellow in the office of Congressman Tim Ryan (D-OH). Currently, Bro. Welch serves as the Congressional Liaison and Comptroller at Marine Forces Cyber Command.

GM Riddick hosts Occasional Lodge for Two

By WM Julius Spain, Sr. #58

Alexandria - On Saturday, April 26, 2014, an Occasional Lodge was hosted at Magnus Temple #3. During the ceremony Most Worshipful Grand Master Shelton Riddick #323 conferred three degrees on two newly made brothers of our fraternity. Bro. William D. Euille who is the Mayor of Alexandria, Virginia and Bro. Earl L. Cook who is the Police Chief for the City of Alexandria, Virginia are now obligated Prince Hall Freemasons of Universal Lodge#1.

Thanksgiving Day Project 2013

By Myles Jackson #109

Roanoke - Brothers from Alleghany-Dunbar Lodge #109 gathered food items for several families in the Roanoke area during the Thanksgiving Holiday. WM James Smith asked the Brothers of the lodge to donate non-perishable items for needy families in the community. The lodge filled boxes with food that were delivered to several families a few days before Thanksgiving. Brother Theo Taylor was responsible for coordinating the event. The lodge received a monetary donation from Lanford Brothers Construction **(**where Brother Taylor works) to help with this effort.

Richmond Lodge #65 Celebrates 122 Years

By L. J. McCoy #33

Richmond – With Assistant Grand Marshall PM William Christian, Sr. #65 leading the head table guests, the program was Master of Ceremony, JD Michael K. Calloway #65welcomed over 80 brothers, sisters, and guests to their ballroom at 3059 Hull St. on the Southside of Richmond.

The program continued to flow after dinner with a welcome by SD Louie E. Wynn II, a musical selection by Ms. Michelle Henderson, and an address by JW Ricky McKnight, Jr. While introducing the speaker, Bishop John Harris, Mrs. Rose Harris stated that her husband was a resident of Chesterfield and a product of Virginia Union University School of Theology. She also recognized him as the founder of Crusade for Christians which is a 100 acre campground and recreation facility in Powhatan.

With an opening dialogue thanking the kitchen staff and the MC, Bishop Harris had as his subject, "What God wants, God gets" from Psalm 24. The man of God said, "You have to develop an ear to learn that when God wants something, he uses men to fulfill that task. In conclusion, the bishop sited Moses, David, and Jesus may be absent in the body, but they are all present with the Lord.

Worshipful Master Ray O. Green #65 then presented his line officers as well as his appointed officers, gifts to show his appreciation for their hard work and dedication to the lodge.

Hobson Lodge, Still Blazing Trails

By L. J. McCoy #33

Richmond – On May 10, 1871 in Manchester, Virginia, charter members Ballard T. Edwards, William Henry Hughes, J. H. Cunningham, Henry Randolph, William Randolph, Thomas Hewlett, Edward Dickens, Rev. Richard Wells, and Richard Baker branched out from their mother lodge Social #6. These brothers were under the superb leadership of Brother Robert Hobson, when they chose Brother Ballard Edwards as the first Worshipful Master of the lodge.

Hobson Lodge #23 celebrated its 143rd anniversary on June 1, 2014 at their lodge ballroom at 801 Prince Hall Dr. in Richmond. Under the theme of "Building a Better Image", the program was led by WM George Bowser, Sr. #23 with prayers by Malcolm Lynch-Chaplain and a welcome by JW Coy Washington #23. DDGM Edward T. Henderson #23 did double duly in recognizing present and past Grand Lodge officers, in addition to introducing the speaker.

Past State Executive Director of the NAACP Jack W. Gravely was the guest speaker. As a veteran broadcaster over 15 years with his own show on 990 AM, Mr. Gravely (pictured left with Brother Bowser) congratulated the lodge on its accomplishments and encouraged them to continue to make the brothers and the community more responsible.

In 1992 after careful planning, managing contributions, soliciting personal bricks, and selling chicken dinners, their dream of leaving 1101 Decatur St., and moving into their own debt-free building on 18001 Robinview Dr. (since renamed Prince Hall Dr.) came true. Then, WM Craig Walton thanked brothers Archie Parker, Joshua Crumm, Robert "Lil Bro" Lewis, Co-chair PM William Parker, Chair Willie Williams, III, and a host of other brothers for their labor of love.

At 143 years old, Hobson continues in "Blazing Trails, Not Just Following Paths".

Capital City #107 Awards Scholarships on St John the Baptist Day

By SD Glen Hence

Richmond - On June 22, 2014, at the Way of the Lord Church, 1700 Blair St, Richmond VA, the brothers of Capital City #107 stood shoulder to shoulder in continuing its long tradition of awarding scholarships to deserving students. A successful academic record, along with evidence of community service, letters of recommendations and a financial need are the basis of awarding scholarships. "The students selected are some of the most diverse academic talent and community service oriented leaders we have recognized in some time" said Bro. Lamar Williams, Scholarship Chairman.

Worshipful Master Rodney Barnes presented the scholarships to Bro. Darren Hagins on behalf of his daughter Queen Imani Hagins, who will be attending Bridgeport College. Mr. and Ms. Datius Young received the scholarship award on behalf of their son Darius Emmanuel Young who will be attending Norfolk State University. Both recipients were unable attend due to college commitments. Congratulations and best wishes to the 2014 Scholarship recipients on a successful school year.

Divine Service in the 17th MD

By ADDGM Walter Davis #295

Danville - On March 30, 2014, the 17th Masonic District Prince Hall Masons celebrated the fifth Sunday Divine Worship Service at God Ministries Church, 425 North Main Street in Danville.

"Rightly Dividing" was the word delivered by Pastors Carilla and Clyde Brandon.

Along with over 13 brothers, DDGM David L Wilson #104, ADDGM Walter H. Davis #295, and ADDGM Artie Lea #179 were proud to assemble in unity once again.

Capital City Lodge #107 Installs Officers for 2014-15

By SD Glen Hence

Richmond - On June 12, 2014 Capital City Lodge #107 installed their newly elected and appointed officers for the 2014 administration. The following officers were installed: seated are WM Rodney D.C. Barnes, SW Timothy Williams, and JW Marion Edwards, standing are Treasurer PM Johnny Young, Secretary PM George Dean Jr., SD Glen Hence, JD Darren Hagins, SS James Hinton, JS Antonio Steel, Tiler Dennis Roberts., Marshal PM Richard Dotson, Chaplain PM Willie Kinsler, Trustee Bro. Lamar Williams. Congratulations to these outstanding brothers who continue the long tradition of enhancing our community outreach programs and building our lodge. WM Rodney Barnes has communicated his theme as "Brotherly Love" with the goals of continuing to establish unity within the Lodge, the 26th Masonic District and throughout the Masonic community.

Arlington #58 & the Bee Hive Club, Inc. Donate Over $3000.00 in Scholarships

By Michael Collins #58

Arlington - On May 18, 2014 Arlington Lodge No. 58 PH F&AM and The Bee Hive Club Inc. of Arlington held its 16th Annual Night of Songs in Praise and Scholarship Awards ceremony at Lomax AME Zion Church in Arlington, Virginia. Since 1998 Arlington Lodge No. 58 and The Bee Hive Club has awarded over fifty students with scholarships to help further their education. Minister James Gibson of Macedonia Baptist Church who served as the moderator for the ceremony stated, "Many of the past recipients have gone on to earn their bachelor's degrees and to include one of which who is now a doctor." In the spirit of giving back to the community, this year Arlington Lodge No. 58 and The Bee Hive Club expanded their outreach and awarded five stipends in addition to the three $1,000 scholarships. This year's recipients of the $1,000 scholarships were Alexander Humphrey, Westfield High School, Kirsten Pettaway, Wakefield High School and Samara Singer, Yorktown High School. The students who received $75 stipends were Darby Grover, Washington Lee HS, Kelli Humphrey, Westfield HS, Farajana Pireya, Washington Lee HS, Gabriel Solomon, Washington Lee HS and Kenneth Weston, South County HS.

(Pictured in photo: Scholarship recipients or family member who accepted the award on their behalf and then SW Julius D. Spain Sr. #58 and President of The Bee Hive Club, Minister James Gibson, then WM Eddie Key #58.)

31st MD Celebrates St. John the Baptist

By WM Julius Spain, Sr. #58

Arlington - On Sunday, June 24, 2014, at Lomax AME Zion Church, Arlington, Virginia, where the Reverend Samuel W. Whittaker presides, Brothers of the 31st Masonic District and Sisters of District No. 26, OES, PHA came together in celebration of Saint John the Baptist Day . Arlington Lodge #58 served as host lodge and Reverend Whittaker provided both a biblical and historical perspectives of Saint John the Baptist which correlated perfectly with the occasion. The Saint John's festival is a widely celebrated Masonic holiday.

Traditionally, June 24th (or summer Solstice) is taken to be John the Baptist Day. Saint John the Baptist was a man of character and integrity, and someone all Freemasons would do well in emulating. In him we have a singular instance of purity, of zeal, simplicity of manners, and a passionate wish to benefit mankind by his example. To him we are grateful for the introduction of that magnificent tenet of our society, which it is our glory to support: Peace on earth, good will toward men.

23rd MD has Divine Sunday

By DDGM Howard Anderson

Lynchburg - The 23rd Masonic District gathered together at Mead Memorial United Methodist Church (Lynchburg) on March 30, 2014 for a Divine Sunday worship service. Bro Alex Duncan Jr., (Worshipful Master of Star of the West, #24) extended the invitation to Bro Howard Anderson (DDGM) of the 23rd Masonic District. Bro Duncan is also the pastor of Mead Memorial United Methodist Church and the first African-American pastor of this majority Caucasian congregation.

Bro Duncan delivered a powerful message from the subject,"The Fatherhood of God, The Brotherhood of Man".

The worship service was covered by the Lynchburg local paper (The News and Advance) and they reported that, "Smiles, greetings and handshakes were exchanged Sunday morning as a predominantly white congregation and a historically African-American fraternity mingled, embodying the service's message that all are God's children". Bro Duncan said from the pulpit in full Masonic dress that, "There is only one God, creator of all humanity, hence Father of us all". Therefore, we are brothers."

DDGM Howard Anderson (center above) and ADDGM Eddie Waugh were elated at the turnout. There were approximately 35-40 brothers from the 23rd District present at the service. The District Deputy and assistant District Deputy encouraged the brothers to continue to support Divine Sundays and to come out and support all of the District and Grand Lodge functions and activities that they are able to support. "This is how we rejuvenate our Lodges", said Brother Anderson.

The members of Mead Memorial were very friendly and receptive. "It's really a pleasure to see you here," said Lonnie Godfrey, who is both a committee chairman for the church as well as a 36-year member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. During the prayers, Godfrey welcomed the Prince Hall Masons to the church, calling them brothers and inviting them to an event his lodge will host in April. "Just like our pastor said, it's the brotherhood of men," Godfrey said. "It doesn't matter if you're black, white, purple, pink — you're a brother." He said he especially loved the service as a Mason.

31ST MD Hosts 2014 Senior Days

By WM Julius Spain, Sr. #58

Falls Church - Led by District Deputy Grand Master Leonard C. Johnson #293, over 50 brothers from the 31st Masonic District came together on Saturday, 12 July 2014 from 8:00 am – 4: 00 p.m. at the James Lee Community Center in Falls Church, Virginia to spread that brotherly love with their local senior citizens. All attendees were provided a barbecued meal with sides, listened to some great music, and participated in bingo games with prizes valued up to $400.00. This is an annual event hosted by the 31st Masonic District

that many seniors anxiously await. Worshipful Past Master Cosmo Costner #292 and Worshipful Grand Assistant Marshal Jimmy C. J. James #11 took on the challenge of coordinating this year's outstanding event attended by over 150 people. Senior Wardens John Collins #292, Robert H. Greene, Jr. #58, and Junior Warden Neville Welch #58 prepared a splendid meal for everyone's pleasure. Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge Officers from the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, F&AM, Inc. in attendance included Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Roger C. Brown #327, Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden Richard L. Townes #235, Assistant Grand Treasurer Richard C. Dotson #107, Assistant District Deputy Grand Master of the 31st Masonic District James C. Gordon #292, and Grand Lodge Committee on Work Member WPM Thomas J. Jennings, Jr. #293.

Allegany – Dunbar #109 Celebrates Juneteeth

By Myles Jackson #109

Roanoke - The sun was shining, the temperature was hot, and the fellowship was GREAT. On June 14, 2014, Brothers of Allegany-Dunbar #109, help celebrate the City of Roanoke's 8th Annual JUNETEETH Celebration at Washington Park. This is an annual celebration sponsored by the Roanoke Chapter of the Southern Christians Leadership Conference and the City of Roanoke marking the end of slavery. This celebration brings numerous City and State government agencies, community service agencies, and local business together to provide city residents with information about resources available to help them in their daily lives.

Normally, you would see agencies such as the police and fire departments, social service agencies, and local business at this event and connecting with the residents of the City of Roanoke, but Brother Bernard Johnson suggested to the Brothers of the Lodge that it was time for Allegany-Dunbar #109 to show so some "LIGHT" in the community. Because they had no "giveaways," Allegany-Dunbar #109 served as a collection point for food items that were being donated by individuals attending this great event. All food items collected were donated to "Feed America – Southwest Virginia," who distributes food items to churches and social service agencies. They then deliver these much needed items to individuals and families that are in need. Over 350 canned items were collected at our table and later given to a representative of "Feed America" at the close of the event.

The Brothers provided information to individuals about the "Brotherhood of Masonry" when asked and had an information pamphlet describing Prince Hall Masons of Virginia which was developed by the Virginia Grand Lodge. The organizers of this event publicly recognized the Allegany-Dunbar Lodge #109 to all those attending. All of the Brothers had an opportunity to talk to individuals about the mission of Masonry and its part in the community.

The Lodge Brothers assisting in this event were Past Masters Felix Morgan and Darmar Gill, Brothers Myles Jackson, Silas Chapman, Al Levesy, Jr., Eric Wiley, and Bernard Johnson.

Capital City #107 attends Divine Sunday Worship Services

By Glen Hence #107

Richmond - Divine Sunday Worship Services is the 5th Sunday in June where all the Lodges of the 26th Masonic District and the Sisters of the Order of the Eastern Star come together to worship. The brothers of Capital City #107, led by WM Rodney D. C. Barnes attended worship services at the Rock Hill Baptist Church in Mechanicsville, VA. We were extremely blessed with the message by the Rev. Phillip E. Knight, Sr.; pastor of Rock Hill Baptist Church entitled "What is your excuse" the reference text from Luke 14, verse 16, and a powerful rendition of "Save a seat for me". The pastor thanked everyone for their attendance and donations.

GM Riddick sat among the KOP at their Summer Encampment

Honor Society Inducts Daughter

Arlington - Monique Esmeralda Spain was inducted into the Tau Nu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Northern Virginia Community College on 04/10/2014.

Ms. Spain is majoring in Economics and is the daughter of WM Julius D. Spain, Sr. #58 & Mrs. Adriana Spain of Arlington.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, is the largest honor society in American higher education. There are 1,280 chapters on college campuses in all 50 of the United States, Canada, Germany, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the British Virgin Islands, the United Arab Emirates, U.S. territorial possessions, and Peru. More than 2.5 million students have been inducted since its founding in 1918, with approximately 135,000 students inducted annually.

Ms. Spain was also a 2011 Grand Lodge Scholarship Award recipient.

R. M. Webster third from left receives a Grand Lodge scholarship by DDGM Joseph Diggs #43 (left) and parents.

Grand Lodge Session Agenda of Events for 2014*

Monday, September 15, 2014
- 10:00 a.m. Grand Lodge Office Set-Up
- 4:00 p.m. Prepare kits

Tuesday, September 16, 2014
- 8:00 a.m. Prepare for Registration of the 139th Session

Wednesday, September 17, 2014
- 10:00 a.m. Treasurers/Secretary School
  Discussion of GL office operation & more
- 3:00 p.m. Registration & Credentials, close at 10 p.m.
- 7:00 p.m. **Prince Hall Day & Lodge of Sorrow**

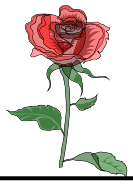
Thursday, September 18, 2014
- 7:00 a.m. Registration & Credentials, close at 5:00 p.m.
- 8:30 a.m. Ceremony of Opening
- 10:00 a.m. Official Opening of Grand Lodge
- 11:30 a.m. Presentation of MWGM Riddick
- 12:30 p.m. Grand Lodge called Off
- 1:30 p.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 4:00 p.m. Grand Lodge Called Off
- 4:15 – 6:30 p.m. Committee meetings
- 7:00 p.m. **Grand Lodge Gospel Concert**

Friday, September 19, 2014
- 7:00 a.m. Registration & Credentials close at 8:30 a.m.
- 8:30 a.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 10:10 a.m. Final Credentials Report
- 10:15 a. m. Voting Instructions
- 10:30 a.m. Grand Lodge called Off
- 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. Voting & Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 12:45 p.m. Reports
- 2:00 p. m. Reception of Appendant Bodies
- 4:00 p.m. Grand Lodge Called Off
- 7:00 p.m. **Grand Lodge Annual Banquet**

Saturday, September 20, 2014
- 8:30 a.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 9:00 a.m. Results of Voting
- 9:15 a.m. Unfinished Business
- 10:00 a.m. Reception of Visitors from Sister Jurisdictions
- 11:00 a.m. Grand Lodge Called Off
- 11:30 a.m. Reception of the Knights of Pythagoras
- 1:45 p.m. Grand Chapter OES
- 3:45 p.m Grand Lodge Called On & Installation of Officers
- 4:30 p.m. **Ceremony of Closing Grand Lodge**
- 7:00 p.m. **Grand Master Reception**

*** All events held at the Fairview Park Marriott 3111 Fairview Park Dr. Falls Church, VA 22042 call 703 849-9400 0r 1 800 228-9290**

At the Annual Communication of the MWPHGL of Washington DC in December 1970 pictured here from left to right DGM Brodgen of Ohio, DGM of DC, and MWGM B. B. Simmons of the MWPHGL of VA F & AM, Inc.



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

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." **— Harriet Tubman**

We encourage you to continue to furnish the ***Bee Hive*** with PERTINENT and RELEVANT information regarding your lodge and district activities. ALL INFORMATION for PUBLICATION and questions relative to the ***Bee Hive*** should be addressed to: ***Editor, Bee Hive Magazine, 2417 Osborne Rd. Chester, VA 23831 or e-mail to*** mccoygitlo@verizon.net.

The Most Worshipful
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia,
F. & A. M., Inc.
P.O. Box 14646
Richmond, VA 23221-4646