The Bee Hive

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

Summer 2021 Volume 28, Number 2

"Rebuilding from Within"

Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes

Before the Pandemic "We Built" **During the Pandemic "We Build"**

Beyond the Pandemic, We are Rebuilding!

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

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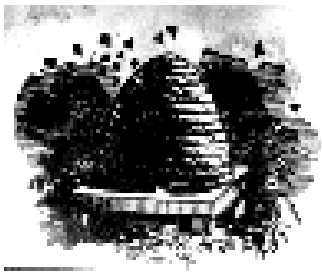
Table Of Contents



The Bee Hive

Vol. 28 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.*

3 Most Worshipful Grand Master Townes

5 From the Editor

6 WPM Shepard Receives VUU Tenure

7 Worshipful Grand Historian Myers

8 Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star

9 Grand Master's Annual Charity Golf Tournament

11 Lodge Events

15 Obituary

16 Grand Master's Calendar

MWPGM Page D. Cherry #3 (right), recognizes Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes #235 as RW Deputy Donald Wilson #67 looks on.

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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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Richard Townes #235

The 80th Most Worshipful Grand Master of the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of VA, F & AM, Inc

"Rebuilding from Within"

Brethren, to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens. We have turned the page to 2021 earlier this year with renewed optimism about what lies ahead. Many years ago a candle was lit that eventually grew to a beautiful torch. While that torch dimmed little in the past, we have made positive decisions in this administration to enhance and grow the torch more.

After much prayer consideration and in consultation with the Grand Lodge Board of Directors, I have carefully studied information surrounding "Recognition" with the A.E.A.O.N.M.S. I have asked the question, "What is in the best interest of this Jurisdiction?" I have concluded that the past disagreements should not be directed towards winning, because if one wins, then another loses. Rather the Masonic Family should bring different viewpoints together to discover the best solution to bring the complete Masonic Family back together again.

This is a conversation to meet common ground that the Masons and the Shriners in Virginia may come back together again. I have spoken to the Imperial Potentate about this and he is in agreement that the fraternal bond in Virginia between the Prince Hall Masons and the Prince Hall Shriners should be reconnected. Peace has to be in us, before it is around us.

Therefore, I, Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes, acting in the best interest of the Jurisdiction of Virginia do hereby grant Recognition to the A.E.A.O.N.M.S. effective May 6, 2021.

Also, in regard to the recent pandemic, I include the response to several questions presented to me by the Bee Hive staff.

- **Since the postponement of the 2020 Grand Lodge Session, you are one of the longest serving Virginia Grand Masters. How do you feel about that?** I feel honored and privileged for this extended service.
- **What did you think, when you recognized you had to cancel the 2020 Grand Lodge Session?** I considered that the safety and welfare of the members and their families was of most importance.
- **Lodges were limited or reframed from raising new members. Are there any programs to address recovering any of these interested men or candidates?** When we reopened, I addressed this matter by being present at requested districts and made Masons on site.
- **During the pandemic, the death of many deceased members could not receive proper Masonic Rites. Will there be any recourse in their memoriam?** At our 2021 Grand Lodge Session the Lodge of Sorrow **will address this issue.**
- **What do you believe was the Grand Lodge's greatest loss during the pandemic?** The decline in continuity, momentum, and the enthusiasm of the work in the lodges.
- **What do you believe to be the greatest gains?** Members were able to give more valued time to their families.

Finally, as the sunset of my administration arrives, we recognize the pandemic has changed how we receive our blessings and we appreciate them even more. I believe this Grand Lodge has survived, and the peace of God that passes all understanding will continue to abide with our brethren and the Jurisdiction of Virginia.

Richard Townes

From the Editor

WPM L. J McCoy, Jr. #33

In Barack Obama's book "A Promised Land" the 44th president spoke of his conversation with the late Senator Ted Kennedy about running for president of the United States. The senior senator told him "You don't choose the time, the time chooses you".

No one chose the timing of this pandemic – time chose the pandemic. We then chose to adhere to the World Health Organization and Center for Disease Control guidelines in order to overcome this pandemic.

Life has changed.

We social distanced ourselves, we thoroughly washed our hands, and we masked up. More importantly we made a reasonable decision to take a questionable vaccination that underwent rapid approval by the Food and Drug Administration. Under these conditions, we felt more comfortable for resuming such events as our Annual Charity Golf Tournament and the 2021 Annual Grand Lodge Session.

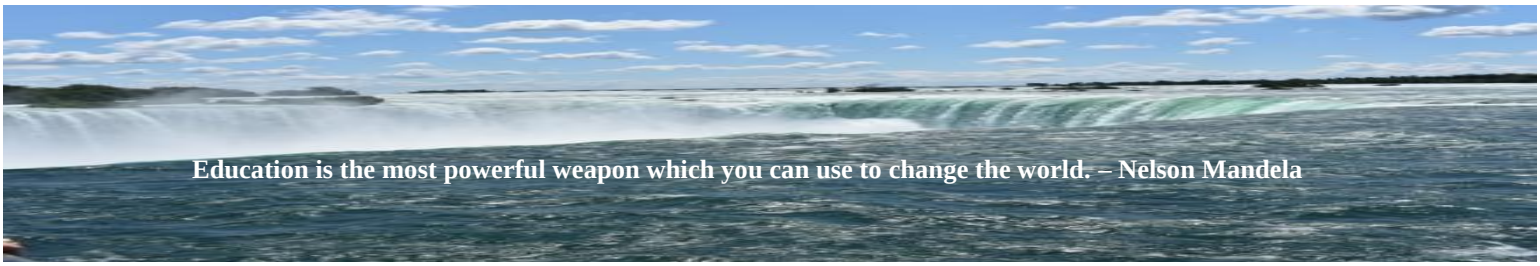
Life has changed.

On July 1st of this year, Governor Ralph Northam lifted all COV-19 restrictions which allowed our opening of the 2021 Annual Grand Lodge Session in September.

Under these provisions, Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes #235 has directed RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314 to send the required communications to lodges for our 2021 Grand Lodge Session September 17 – 19 in Richmond.

Understanding the dilemma the world has experienced, many brothers may be reluctant to attend the Grand Lodge Session. But for those who do attend, it will be important to believe we will all continue to apply precautions to protect ourselves and our families. Therefore it may be to best interest to stay masked and social distance when applicable.

Life has changed, and we didn't choose it, it chose us. But salvation through Our Grand Architect of the Universe will never change. He's our Chose.



Working for Perfection

In previous Bee Hive issues, it has been an honor to showcase brothers that have labored unselfishly behind the scenes for our Grand Lodge and their own Subordinate Lodges.

They've worked on committees, been appointed to Grand Lodge positions, and volunteered for special assignments. Before the pandemic, we were able to interview these brothers at Schools of Instruction, Subordinate Lodge events, and our Grand Lodge Sessions. Now we find them at various lodge and community functions.

The Bee Hive Staff will continue these interviews of members 60 years old and older, after all we too have adjusted to a new norm. Look for them here in this issue and look for more throughout this issue.

After inspiration by his Masonic father, WPM **Carlton Newton** #58 (64) was raised in Arlington Lodge #58. WPM Newton held positions of the JD, SD, JW, and SW before being elected Worshipful Master in 1978-79. Brother Newton was influenced to join by his father who was also a member of Arlington Lodge #58. Upon completing his four years of military service in the Army, he was employed and retired from Howard University as a social worker. Traveling America after retirement through the Virgin Isles and Africa, he believes men would have stronger relationships through Masonry.

When his father-in-law the late Brother Willis Coker #43 and friend, a Brother from Eureka Lodge #15 came to his home and went into another room to talk. Those discussions peaked his curiosity and WPM **James Crocker, Jr**. #43 (90) wanted to become a part of this Masonic discussion.

Raised in Mt. Nebo Lodge #43 in December 1958, Brother Crocker was Lodge Secretary for over 30 years. During his 37 years with Allied-Signal now Honeywell, he served our Grand Lodge on the Committee on Work and was the late MWPGM Willie E. Massenburg #15 Worshipful Grand Pursuivant. Finally, you may have seen him at the Schools of Instruction managing the Grand Lodge's Masonic Store selling items of need for our Subordinate Lodge Secretaries, Treasuries and brothers.

Dr. Gerard McShepard Receives Tenure at Virginia Union University

Dr. Gerard McShepard #6 currently serves as the Worshipful Grand Assistant Secretary for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia. He is a Worshipful Past Master of Social Lodge No. 6, he is a Past Excellent High Priest of Richmond Chapter No. 7 of Holy Royal Arch Masons, he is a Past Thrice Illustrious Master of Richmond Council No. 4 of Royal & Select Masters, a Past Eminent Commander of Mt. Olivet Commandery No. 2 of the Knights Templar, and is a Past Illustrious Potentate of Mocha Temple No. 7. He is the Associate Patron of Richmond Chapter No. 1 of the Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia and is a 32nd Degree Mason. He currently holds the position of Illustrious Commander-In-Chief of Richmond Consistory No. 22 – PHA (Scottish Rite). He is also a member of the Astoria Beneficial Club, Inc. and numerous honor societies.

Dr. McShepard earned his Ph.D. in Biology with a cognate in Neuroscience from Tennessee State University. He also has a M.S. in Molecular Biology from Tennessee State University. He received his B.S. in Biology from Fisk University where he became a member of the Alpha Chi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Dr. McShepard has served as Chapter President of Beta Kappa Chi National Scientific Honor Society.

Dr. McShepard has taught the following courses: Microbiology, Natural Science, Writing in the Sciences Introduction to Biological Science, General Biology, Health, Introduction to Environmental Science, Ecology, Honors Biology, Cell Biology, Physiology, Pre-college Biology and for Spring 2021 he added a new course Health Disparities in the African American Community as well as Advanced Microbiology (Graduate Course) just to name a few.

His research interests in the past have been the molecular mechanisms that regulate sodium-dependent, high affinity Choline Transport in order to demonstrate the involvement of GTPases (i.e. Dynamin) in the retrieval of the ChCoT from the plasma membrane. He also works with a new research concept of Geological Agriculture. From 2012 to 2014, Dr. McShepard had an administrative role with the Office of Institutional Research, Effectiveness, Planning and Special Programs and he had special duties with the University President. This office assists with campus decision-making and planning. From January 2, 2014 to June 2018 he was appointed Chairman of the Department of Natural and Physical Sciences at Virginia Union University. On May 10, 2014 during Virginia Union University's commencement exercises, he received the Scott &Stringfellow Outstanding Professor Award for his outstanding teaching services to Virginia Union University. In July 2019, Dr. McShepard was appointed the Interim Dean of the newly formed School of Arts & Sciences at Virginia Union University which comprises 86% of the student population and has11 departments with over 80 full and part time faculty members. In May of 2020 he was appointed Assistant Dean of Graduate Programs in the School of Arts and Sciences. He is also the President of the Faculty Senate of Virginia Union University (2019/2020 and was re-elected for 2020 to Present).

He has also published his book “Invertebrate Zoology: An exploration of a vast and diverse group of Animals” with McGraw-Hill publishers and plans to publish another book in 2022 on African Americans in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Dr. McShepard served as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Beta Gamma Lambda Education Foundation of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. for almost 9 years where they still currently distribute a total of 12 scholarships at $1,000 each. **On May 7, 2021, the Board of Trustees of Virginia Union University voted to bestow tenure to Dr. McShepard and during a second vote he was promoted to full Professor.**

Brother McShepard receives award at the 2019 Grand Lodge Banquet

Brother McShepard assisted at a Knights of Pythagoras banquet

Worshipful Grand Historian Myers – Preserving Alexandria's African American History

From the Zebra Press by Dominique Clayton

The article below was contributed by RWSGW Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. #298.

What is right? Actively serving your community in any capacity you see fit. Here you will find McArthur Myers doing just that. He is engaged in many community efforts to revitalize and restore the rich African American history of Alexandria.

Some of McArthur's early years serving others has been a passion. He says, "You got to step up and step in", as a call to action for all. His diligent community service extends from social justice and advocacy to preserving the history of African Americans in Alexandria. This is why McArthur Myers is a Living Legend.

Born and raised during segregation, Myers faced more challenges as he was the "first" at critical times of his life. During his formative years, he served to be around like-hearted individuals. He wanted to pursue the desires of his heart with his passion for helping others in the right way.

Myers attended Charles Houston Elementary School until fifth grade. His sister, Lucille, and he were among the first African Americans to attend Prince Street Elementary School. He integrated the Alexandria Boys Club and the Club's Boy Scout Troop. Upon graduating T. C. Williams High School, Myers began studying at American University, where he majored in Administration Justice. Myers worked for over 40 years with the District of Columbia Government Department of Mental Health.

McArthur was introduced to advocacy and politics by his mother Carrie Myers. He shadowed her moves as she served as a "Black Captain" during the civil rights era. His second "mom" enhanced his strength to serve. She was the late Vola Lawson former Alexandria city manager and a Living Legend in her own right. Myers was mentioned by Vola and her family and attended many Human Rights struggles in the community, "She helped me to become the man I am," he says.

In 2012, Myers became a Freemason with Universal Lodge #1, the oldest Prince Hall Lodge in the Commonwealth of Virginia. He petitioned the Department of Historic Resources to acknowledge the historic group. In March 2018, Universal Lodge #1 received its recognition with a new historical marker.

Myers served as the 174th Worshipful Master of Universal Lodge #1. He currently serves as the Grand Historian for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free & Accepted Masons, Inc. In September 2016 Myers became the first African American member of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. It was a significant moment to share his story there in 2016. In 20218, he arranged the first Prince Hall meeting in the Memorial. He currently serves on the sub-committee for the recognition of the 100 Year Cornerstone Rededication.

Myers is a dedicated advocate for historical landmarks identifying the significant impacts Alexandria African Americans have made in the community. He worked to have eight historical markers placed throughout the city. Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church, Beulah Baptist Church, Third Baptist Church, and Universal Lodge #1 are among those historic buildings.

Myers was part of the partnership to incorporate the Freedom House Museum into the Alexandria Museum System. He is now working on the Alexandria African American Heritage Trail Project to recognize the contributions of African Americans to Alexandria's history. The African American Heritage Trail committee is mapping a trail that will run along the Waterfront beginning at King Street and the "Breg" Canal and the "Hump" communities. It will continue north of King Street along the waterfront to Jones Point.

In 2019, Myers was honored by the Alexandria Archeological Commission with the Ben Brenman Archeology in Alexandria Award. Myers was presented the Outstanding Community History Award to recognize his dedication and interpreting Alexandria African American heritage.

A proclamation by the City Council praised Myers, that by working through organizations including the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission, the Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, and the African American Heritage Trails Committee, Myers has interpreted Alexandria's history at Universal Lodge #1 Third Baptist Church, and the Historic Waterfront.

A devotee in Alexandria and continues to advocate for the historical representation of African American in the city. McArthur's motto is "One city, many stories". He says Alexandria offers the opportunity to be the best and to enhance the quality of life for all, young and old." He also says "Stand on the shoulders of others," while he serves his community.

McArthur Myers hopes to be remembered as an author of the stories that impacted African American History and social justice in Alexandria.

member of his community, Myers has mentored 15 men for over 15 years. A recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, McArthur has worked with numerous organizations including the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black History Museum Board, the Alexandria Historic Resource Commission, and the Equal Justice Initiative's Community Remembrance Project.

McArthur Myers lives.

Newly elected GWM Sandra Wilson & GWP Clarence Williams

MWGM Richard Townes address the Grand Chapter Session

Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star of VA 119th Session

By WM Kim Mason OES #44

Richmond – On July 24, 2021, Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star of Virginia, PHA opened their 2021 Annual Grand Session to receive Grand Worthy Matron G. Sylvia Jackson, receive committee reports, and conduct the election of officers.

After reports were made, nominations of officers were conducted and elections were held. Officers elected included Grand Worthy Matron Sandra A. Wilson, Grand Worthy Patron Clarence Williams, Associate Grand Worthy Matron Jacqueline Sutton, Associate Grand Worthy Patron Albert Ruffin, Grand Secretary Debora Brooks, Grand Conductress Gwendolyn S. Davis, Grand Associate Conductress LaThornia C. D. Murph, Grand Warder Gracie P. Johnson, and Grand Chaplain Brenda Austin OES #3.

All officers were formally installed Sunday July 25, 2021.

Grand Chapter of Sorrow

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Richmond – The services for the 2021 Grand Chapter of Sorrow on July 25, 2021were conducted by HPGWM Tawana Hawks OES #132. She introduced the sisters who would honor and recognize members and officers who passed during the past year.

- Sister Evette Robinson OES #130 read a tribute to the late HGP William Henry Steele #7,
- Sister Barbara Ellis read a tribute for the late AGP Jonathan Franklin #34,
- HPGWM Tawana Hawks OES #132 read a tribute for Sister Maratha Rose OES #85,
- A tribute to the late Past Grand Worthy Patron Robert L. Chadwick, Sr. #4 & OES #197 was read, and
- HPGWM Tawana Hawks OES #132 read a tribute to Annette Anderson OES #238.

Grand Chaplain Brenda Austin OES #3 then preached a memorial “May the Works I’ve Done Speak for Me” from Revelation 14:13. Grand Worthy Matron G. Sylvia Jackson OES #5 then closed the Lodge of Sorrow.

Top right to left, AGDDO Robinson, Sister Barbara Ellis, Grand Chaplain Alston, PGWM Jackson, newly elected Grand Chapter Secretary Brooks, a tribute reading, Assoc. Grand Matron Sutton, DGM Wilson presentation to GWM Wilson, GWP Holland & GWP-Elect Williams, MWPGM Eggleston, Vaughn, Riddick, & Cherry, and GWM Jackson at podium.

Grand Master's 2021 Charity Golf Tournament

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Raffle winners

MWPGM's in attendance Thompson, Spruill, DGM Wilson, & MWPGM Christian

DGM & MWPGM Christian with youths

Williamsburg – Visiting youths Bradley Haliday, Jr. and Earl Haliday III couldn't contain their excitement when Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Larry D. Christian #253called them to the presentation area to receive a Complimentary Award for assisting at the golf tournament.

As the threat of rain challenged the event's continuance, the 2021 Charity Golf Tournament, the event proceeded as planned. The was tournament at the Kiskiack Golf Course on June 12th was a complete success.

The Tournament committee which performs each year to raise scholarship funds for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year college students is chaired by MWPGM Larry Christian and his committee.

More than 60 golfers who made up 16 paid teams competed in the event which was cancelled in 2020 due to the Pandemic. Brothers and friends assembled unmasked after the event in the open-air club house for the program of prizes, awards and raffle give-a-ways.

Also participating in this year's tournament was a former Washington Redskin, Ron Middleton, who played as a tight end in Super Bowl XXVI defeating the Buffalo Bills 37-24.

Teams Awards were presented to,

1st place - Curtis Gunn, Wilbert Hopkins, Billie Thompson, James Forrest - score was 56
2nd place - Edward Lattimore, Newt Smith, John Lewis, Bill Amado - score was - 60
3rd place - Devery Travers, Eric Richardson, John Wilson, Johnny Pope - score was – 61

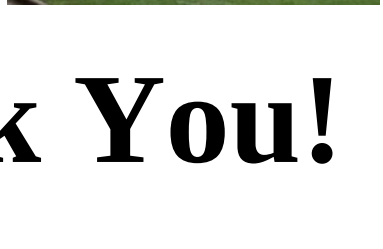
Closest to the Pin were presented to,
Hole #2-Kenneth Lee
Hole #5-Mike Forrest
Hole #11-Jordan Forrest

Longest Drive were presented to,
Hole #1-Newt Smith
Hole #8-Jordan Forrest
Hole #18-Ron Middleton

Tournament Teams that Joined in the Competition

Enjoying the absence of fellowship caused by COVID-19, RW Deputy Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67, RW Sr. Grand Warden Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. #298, RWSGD Edward E. Lattimore III #13, MWPGM Billie L. Thompson, Sr. #46, and MWPGM Lionell Spruill, Sr. #189 were welcomed to the revival.

<u>The Golf Tournament Committee Thanks the Individuals and Organizations Who Supported This Event</u>



Thank You!

Generous Donation Given at Golf Tournament

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Williamsburg – As she begin to sort through her recently passed father's belongings (Brother Jefferson Watford), Mrs. Gwen Watford-Miller of Maryland found a Masonic booklet of her father. Reviewing the document indicated that her father's Prince Hall Lodge supported events that awarded deserving graduating students with scholarships to advance their education.

Mrs. Watford-Miller was so impressed she searched the internet for the Prince Hall Masons of Virginia in order to contact us for her appreciation of our generous efforts. She discovered Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Larry D. Christian #253 would be sponsoring the Grand Master's Annual Charity Golf Tournament on June 12, 2021 and attended to make a special donation at the tournament of $1,000. Mrs. Watford-Miller also made an earlier sponsorship donation of $500 prior to the event which made her total donation of $1,500.

Following brief comments with her husband (Mr. Charles Watford) and her brother (Jeffery Watford) by her side, MWPGM Christian presented them with tokens of appreciation.

The Golf committee also received a generous donation from WPM Dr. Melvin Johnson #13 in the amount of $500.00

MW Grand Master Townes visits Lodges in the West

By WDDGM Walter H. Davis #295

Axton - MWGM Richard Townes visited Sandy Level Lodge #274 and G.P. Watkins Lodge #320 of Martinsville on June 5, 2021. These lodges were able to meet the Grand Master in the evening.

50 Years for Brother Quinn Harris

By Mrs. Ruth Harris

Louisville, KY – While supporting his step-daughter's illness at the M. D. Anderson Medical Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky, Brother Quinn Harris #33 return to Virginia for a formal presentation of his 50th Year pin and certificate so Worshipful Master Marquell Tucker commissioned WPM L. J. McCoy #33 to make the presentation to him.

As a native of Hopewell, Virginia, he graduated from Carter G Woodson High School. After graduation, he joined the Army and was stationed in Augsburg, Germany for a period of 32 months serving as an NCO.

In 1962, he returned to Hopewell and worked at Hercules Powder Co for nine years and during his tenure he became the first black laboratory technician.

After leaving Hercules, he was employed by Renn Enterprises. Brother Harris worked in sales and held an entry level position, but was quickly promoted through the ranks to Field Vice President.

During his employment with Renn, he also attended LaSalle University from 1975-1977. He completed his undergraduate degrees in Business Management and Marketing.

After graduation he was hired by Conrail Railroad and worked there for 19 years. During his time at Conrail, he returned to LaSalle University and earned a MBA in Marketing. His MBA afforded him the opportunity to excel and retired from Conrail as Director of LTL sales.

Later, he completed Real Estate and Insurance School and then decided to buy, renovate, and sell houses. As an entrepreneur, he also built a ten unit apartment building in Durham N.C. After retiring, for the second time, Brother Harris was blessed to embark on a life-time desire of teaching. He taught in the Hampton, Virginia school system until he decided to accompany his lovely wife, Ruth, when she was offered an executive position in Kaiserslautern, Germany for Twenty Four months.

They have traveled internationally to many cities in Asia, Africa, and Europe. They have also traveled extensively across the United States, and with God's Grace they look forward to continuing their travels indefinitely.

Blessed to receive his 50th Year in Masonry, he is most thankful that his step-daughter has received her bone marrow transplant and treatment through "Be the Match. Com".

KYCH makes Food Bank Donation

By Worshipful Grand Photographer William E. Moore, Jr. #92

Tidewater – On that historic day that the Honorable Joseph R. Biden was installed as our 46th President of the United States, Regal Prioress Rachel P. Gee and members of Virginia Priorate No. 7 York Cross of Honor Princesses and Eminent Prior William E. Moore, Jr. and members of Virginia Priory No. 8 Knights York Cross of Honor made a donation to the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore.

This donation provided 925 meals to the communities most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, KYCH and PYCH members in the Richmond area also made a donation to Feed More which provided over 875 meals which totaling 1,800 meals altogether. Thank You all for making this a success.

RW Past Grand Director Spain Receives FBI Award

Arlington - On Monday March 22, 2021, Arlington NAACP Branch President WPM Julius D. "JD" Spain, Sr. #58 and Past RW Grand Director MWPHGL of Virginia received an official notification of his selection as the Recipient of the 2020 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award.

In a prepared statement, President Spain stated,

"*I am humbled for such a prestigious award from the Federal Bureau of Investigation - Washington Field Office. This award would not have been possible without the selfless service and sacrifices of the women and men of the NAACP who have come before me and, most importantly, our dedicated members of today. They, along with our multigenerational and multicultural allies, are committed to defending our democracy and eradicating the racial inequalities that keep us from reaching equality for all.*"

According to the FBI website, "Since 1990, the Director's Community Leadership Award has been the principal means for the FBI to publicly recognize achievements of individuals and organizations that make extraordinary contributions to education and the prevention of crime and violence in their communities. Each field office nominates an individual or organization for the award, and, once selected, the recipients are invited to a ceremony and reception at FBI Headquarters prevention of crime and violence in their communities.

MW Grand Master Townes traveled to lodges in the Southwest

By WDDGM Walter H. Davis #295

Keeling – On June 5, 2021, MWGM Richard Townes took the opportunity to visit and bring words of wisdom to Olympia Lodge #179 and Brandon Chapel Lodge #282. These 32nd Masonic District lodges received the Grand Master in a morning meeting.

Hopewell Names Post Office After the Late Worshipful Past Master Harris

From the Richmond Times Dispatch by Kenya Hunter

Hopewell – The City of Hopewell has named its post office after the late WPM Rev. Dr. Curtis West Harris, Sr. #33. Portions of the article from the Richmond Times Dispatch article are listed below.

The renaming of the post office for the civil rights activist was due to legislation introduced by Rep. Donald McEachin, D-4th, in December 2019. Since the U.S. Postal Service is a federal government agency, its facilities must be renamed through legislation passed by Congress.

The Past Master is known in Hopewell and across Virginia as a man who marched alongside the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma and as a pioneer for fighting for racial justice. Once in 1966, he led a march to Hopewell City Hall to fight a proposal to build a landfill near a predominately Black neighborhood in the city. Once he got there, he was met by 22 members of the Ku Klux Klan. He still presented his demands.

Brother Harris also sued the city to abandon at-large elections and implement a ward-based system. After that, in 1986, he was elected to the Hopewell City Council. His colleagues selected him as mayor in 1998.

Brother Harris passed away in 2017 at age 93.

Charlotte Masonic Lodge #146 Donates to the Carl U. Eggleston Foundation

By WPM Frank Stokes III #146 before the pandemic

Keysville – The Charlotte Masonic Lodge #146 of Keysville, Virginia presented a donation of $1,250.00 to the Carl U. Eggleston Foundation in June 2019.

As a 501 © 3 organization, the Eggleston Foundation is tax exempt under the IRS. Sponsoring Back to School Rallies for Prince Edward County and surrounding county students, they give school supplies and provide motivational speakers for the students.

The foundation also gives toys to children on Christmas Eve and assist college students with financial contributions.

50 Years for Brother Carter

By MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253

West Point – On July 3, 2021, the brothers of Triple River Lodge #253 assembled to present its oldest member with an exceptional award. Worshipful Master Michael Christian along with WADDGM Kenneth Byrd, WDDGM James Burrell, JW Bradley Haliday, and MWPGM Larry Christian (not pictured) presented Brother Alvin W. Carter with his 50th Year pin and certificate. Brother Carter was raised in Triple River in 1965.

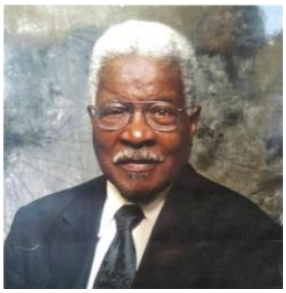
Grand Master makes Masons on Site

By WDDGM Walter H. Davis #295

Roanoke – On Saturday July 17, 2021, Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes #235 presided over a Masonic initiation at the Williams Memorial Baptist Church. The Grand Master assisted the 20th Masonic District in making 17 men Masons.

Working for Perfection

These brothers who continue to support their lodges and districts provide substance in developing Grand Lodge materials. As we try to find these Master Masons, we will make every effort to find your story.



WPM **Charlie E. Basnight** (92) was encouraged by his father-in-law was a Worshipful Past Master Gary Mrynes and Worshipful Past Master Charles Brockett encouraged him to become a Mason. Raised on August 4, 1960 in Ruth Lodge #92, he has held every position of the lodge with the exception of Treasurer and Secretary. Serving in the Eastern Star from 1986, Brother Basnight served as Worthy Patron for 50 years. After retiring from the Oceana Naval Air Station Civil Service as a Supervisor in Transportation, he still operates his own lawn service business. WPM Basnight now chairs the Diaconate of the Oak Grove Church of Virginia Beach Deacon's Board and is recognized as it's oldest member.

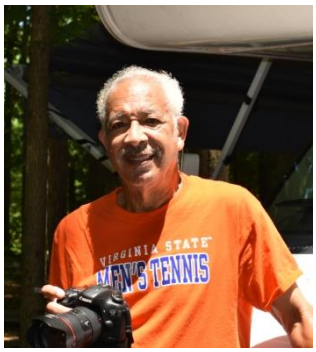
WPM **Ricky James** was raised in 1990 at Golden Rule Lodge #295. Influenced by his grandfather and close family members, he sat in all stations of his lodge and now is a Worshipful Past Master. Brother James was employed at the Virginia ABC Board for over 40 years before he retired, but returned to work at the same place.

WPM **Stanley Fitzgerald** was raised in Golden Rule #295 on June 15, 1990. He was a good man and recommended by his friends to join. He held the positions of Tiler, Jr. Warden, Sr. Warden, and Worshipful Master of his lodge. After retiring as a truck driver, he now drives tour buses throughout the local area.

Practicing 31 years at Eastern State Hospital and a total of 40 years in the medical field, Worshipful Past Master Dr. **Harold Jones** (65) decided it was time to retire. WPM Jones was raised in Berea Lodge #114 in 1980. He did his undergraduate work at Virginia State University in 1978, attended Eastern State Medical School, and did his residency at Howard University. Born in Gloucester, he was impressed by his father who was a Mason and remembers his grandfather who was an Odd Fellow.

As a regular icon at the Annual Grand Master's Charity Golf Tournament, WPM **Wilbert Hopkins** (67) of Omar Lodge #226 was raised in June of 2007. After 31 years of service in the Army, Brother Hopkins retired. He then was employed as Surveillance Officer and then served in the Department of Corrections from 2004 to 2019.

Brother **Michael J. Forrest** (72) of Mt. Gilead – Alpha /Omega Lodge #46 who had an appreciation of Masonry for the aims and goals in making good men better was raised in 1982. As an engineering professor in electronics, the Norfolk State University graduate enjoyed additional studies at Virginia State University, Duke, George Mason University, and Old Dominion University. Retirement was not an option for Brother Forrest as he continues to support LEGO and Aquatics educational challenges in the City of Portsmouth, as well as the Grand Master's Annual Charity Golf Tournament.

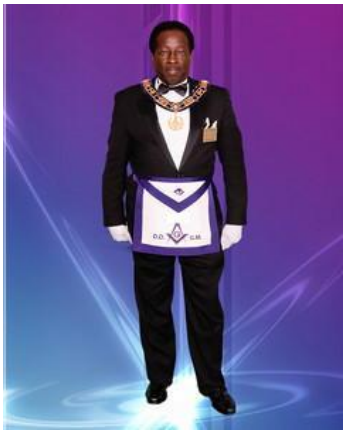


WPM **Frank A. Davis, Sr.** (74) was raised in John W. Barnes #305 in 1974. Influenced by his father the late Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Robert G. Davis #305, Brother Davis served as his Grand Pursuivant from 1984 to 1986.

Following his 1975 degree in recreation, the Air Force veteran began his career with the state of Virginia in recreation which followed by Chesterfield and Hopewell Virginia. In Hopewell, he demitted to Shiloh Lodge #33 where he became Worshipful Master.

As his career continued to advance to Charles City and to Franklin City in recreation, the Past Master photographed and wrote sporting events and advanced to events at St. Paul College, Virginia Union, as well as Virginia State University events.

The retired veteran now continues to submit photos and articles at university and high school events throughout the state which enjoying RV sites throughout the surrounding areas.

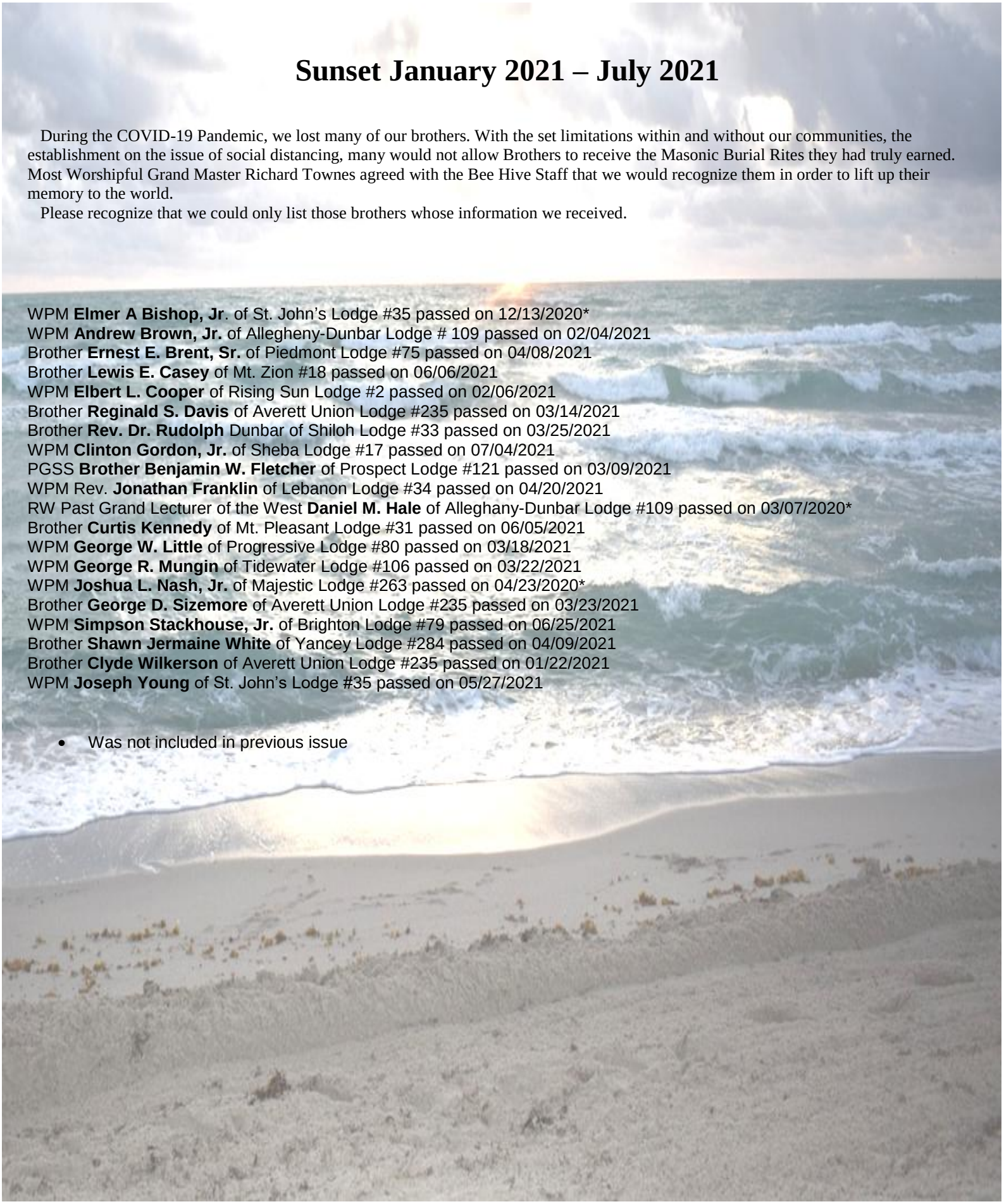


Watching other Masons on how they conducted themselves, convinced WDDGM **Walter H. Davis** to join Golden Rule Lodge #295 in 1995. Brother Davis has held every position in his lodge before being appointed Asst. DDGM for four years in the 17th district before being appointed to District Deputy Grand Master. Retiring from the military after 36 years, 10 months, and 21 days, he believed in helping other young brothers in becoming a man in Freemasonry. He still proudly represents the 17th Masonic District. Of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free & Accepted Masons, Inc.

Sunset January 2021 – July 2021

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, we lost many of our brothers. With the set limitations within and without our communities, the establishment on the issue of social distancing, many would not allow Brothers to receive the Masonic Burial Rites they had truly earned. Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard Townes agreed with the Bee Hive Staff that we would recognize them in order to lift up their memory to the world.

Please recognize that we could only list those brothers whose information we received.



WPM **Elmer A Bishop, Jr**. of St. John's Lodge #35 passed on 12/13/2020*
WPM **Andrew Brown, Jr.** of Allegheny-Dunbar Lodge # 109 passed on 02/04/2021
Brother **Ernest E. Brent, Sr.** of Piedmont Lodge #75 passed on 04/08/2021
Brother **Lewis E. Casey** of Mt. Zion #18 passed on 06/06/2021
WPM **Elbert L. Cooper** of Rising Sun Lodge #2 passed on 02/06/2021
Brother **Reginald S. Davis** of Averett Union Lodge #235 passed on 03/14/2021
Brother **Rev. Dr. Rudolph** Dunbar of Shiloh Lodge #33 passed on 03/25/2021
WPM **Clinton Gordon, Jr.** of Sheba Lodge #17 passed on 07/04/2021
PGSS **Brother Benjamin W. Fletcher** of Prospect Lodge #121 passed on 03/09/2021
WPM Rev. **Jonathan Franklin** of Lebanon Lodge #34 passed on 04/20/2021
RW Past Grand Lecturer of the West **Daniel M. Hale** of Alleghany-Dunbar Lodge #109 passed on 03/07/2020*
Brother **Curtis Kennedy** of Mt. Pleasant Lodge #31 passed on 06/05/2021
WPM **George W. Little** of Progressive Lodge #80 passed on 03/18/2021
WPM **George R. Mungin** of Tidewater Lodge #106 passed on 03/22/2021
WPM **Joshua L. Nash, Jr.** of Majestic Lodge #263 passed on 04/23/2020*
Brother **George D. Sizemore** of Averett Union Lodge #235 passed on 03/23/2021
WPM **Simpson Stackhouse, Jr.** of Brighton Lodge #79 passed on 06/25/2021
Brother **Shawn Jermaine White** of Yancey Lodge #284 passed on 04/09/2021
Brother **Clyde Wilkerson** of Averett Union Lodge #235 passed on 01/22/2021
WPM **Joseph Young** of St. John's Lodge #35 passed on 05/27/2021

- Was not included in previous issue

Grand Lodge Session for 2021 Agenda of Events

Monday, September 13, 2021
- 10:00 a.m. Grand Lodge Office Set-Up
- 4:00 p.m. Prepare kits

Tuesday, September 14, 2021
- 8:00 a.m. Prepare for Registration of the 144th Session

Wednesday, September 15, 2021
- 3:00 p.m. Registration & Credentials, close at 10 p.m.
- 7:00 p.m. **Prince Hall Day & Lodge of Sorrow**

Thursday, September 16, 2021
- 7:00 a.m. Registration & Credentials, close at 5:00 p.m.
- 7:30 Devotionals
- 8:30 a.m. Ceremony of Opening
- 10:00 a.m. Official Opening of Grand Lodge
- 11:30 a.m. Presentation of MWGM Townes
- 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

Friday, September 17, 2021
- 7:00 a.m. Registration & Credentials close at 8:30 a.m.
- 7:30 a.m. Devotionals
- 8:30 a.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 8:30 a.m. Final Credentials Report
- 9:25 a.m. Grand Lodge called Off
- 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. Voting & Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 12:45 p.m. Reports
- 4:00 p.m. Grand Lodge Called Off
- 7:00 p.m. **Grand Lodge Annual Banquet**

Saturday, September 18, 2021
- 7:30 a.m. Devotionals
- 8:30 a.m. Grand Lodge Called On
- 9:00 a.m. Results of Voting
- 9:15 a.m. Unfinished Business
- 9:45 a.m. Reception of Visitors from Sister Jurisdictions
- 10:00 a. m. Reception of Appendant Bodies
- 12:00 p.m. Reception of the Knights of Pythagoras
- 1:00 p.m. Grand Lodge Called Off
- 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 Post Board Dinner Meeting**

The Grand Master's Fall Annual Charity Golf Tournament
Saturday, October 9, 2021 at The KISKIACK Golf Club, 8104 Club Dr., Williamsburg, Virginia 23188
$240 per team or $60 per player, Registration 7 AM – Shotgun Start 8 AM
Awards for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd places, also Longest Drive, Closest To Pin, & Hole In One & Non-player lunch $15.
Make checks payable to **MWPHGL of VA** and mail to PGM Larry D. Christian, 241 Reflection Dr, Williamsburg, VA 23188 or 757 566-2066, or email PGM Christian at lchristian2@verizon.net

Contact Brothers

Leonard Hawkins	John Amos	Curtis Gunn	Edward Lattimore III	Leonard Johnson	Devery Travers
804 271-7136	757 605-8513	757 593-4913	757 236-9099	703 856-3188	703 906-7682

A Tribute to Our Sisters of the Order of Eastern Star

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality."— Desmond Tutu

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.

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