The Bee Hive

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

Summer 2022 Volume 29, Number 2

"Prince Hall Masons, Making a Difference"

Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67(pyramid at foot) at the Sovereign Prince Hall Grand Council, Order of the Knights of Pythagoras, Commonwealth of Virginia Statewide Meeting and Open House

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

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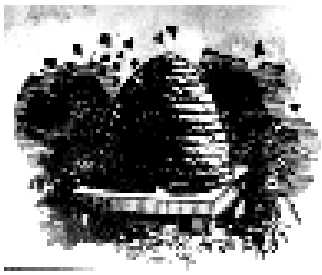

The Bee Hive

Vol. 29 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.*

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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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Donald S. Wilson

Campbell Lodge #67

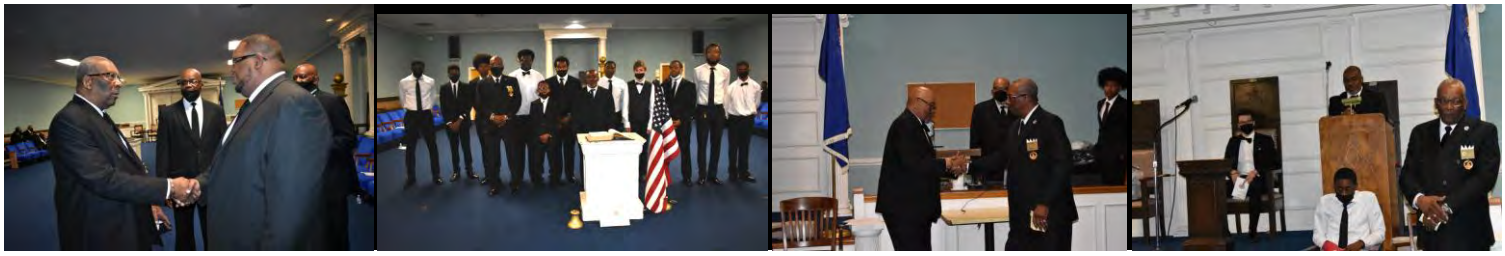
The 81st Most Worshipful Grand Master of the
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of VA. F & AM, Inc.

Brethren, allow me here to publicly restate by giving honor to them and especially to the Grand Worthy Matron Sandra A. Wilson my wife.

In a pictorial presentation, I am proud to express my presence as your Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of VA. F & AM, Inc. at our Schools,

In Martinsville, in Lawrenceville, in Buckingham, in Petersburg and Virginia Beach

My Brothers, we are bound by the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia, framed and ratified by you. This administration will follow one set of rules and regulations – the Constitution at our Knights of Pythagoras School of Instructions.



MWGM Wilson greeting Brother Maye, GM Wilson supporting new KOP members, DGM Morgan introducing the GM and MWGM addressing the KOP

The Ancient Landmarks should not be infringed upon by any member of the Craft, whatever your position or title. The rule and line applies to all members of the Prince Hall Family.

MWGM Wilson greets brothers outside; MWGM speaks inside, MWGM & Grand worthy Matron Sandra Wilson and laying the wreath at Founder's Day.

Finally, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the jurisdiction for the confidence reposed in me as Most Worshipful Grand Master. I accept the responsibility and challenge that rests upon my shoulders. From time to time, you may be called upon to serve for a specific time and I earnestly request your support and cooperation in making us "**Prince Hall Masons, Making a Difference**."

MWGM Wilson congratulates the Winners at the Annual Grand Master's Charity Golf Tournament

From the Editor

WPM L. J McCoy, Jr. #33

As we were raised in Masonry, we were taught about honor to the Supreme Being, respect for our fellowman and the charges of our order. Men who request membership into this ancient and honorable institution first approach a brother of their own free will and accord. Finding good men to make them better is often a challenge; therefore these men must prove their proficiency by undertaking degrees for this elevation.

While we do not solicit membership, you may have heard Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Robert E. Harris, Sr. (#26 & #34) make the statement, "If you see a man in your church, or at your work place or in your neighborhood that shows exemplary qualities, simply ask him, what you think about Free Masonry? Then let the conversation go from there".

Now some individuals may wonder, what has Freemasonry to offer candidates that desire light out of darkness?

Well, let's look to the charges as outlined by RW Grand Secretary Emeritus Isaac S. Hughes #314 he offers. While addressing attendees at the various Schools of Instruction, his message demands a broader audience throughout the Jurisdiction. Brother Hughes identifies five charges which include the First, Second and Third Degrees, as well as the Opening and Closing of a Masonic Lodge meeting.

In brief, our Grand Secretary Emeritus stated that there are three great duties in the First Degree Charge which inculcate God, our neighbors, as well as ourselves. This would include voiding ourselves of all irregular and intemperance which may impair our faculties or debase the dignity of our profession. While the Second Degree Charge denotes the internal, not the external qualifications of a man, Masonic laws and regulations require the brother to strenuously support and be always ready to assist in seeing that their duly is executed. He then insisted that the Third Degree Charge shows the progress made in the mystery of your conformity to Masonic Regulations that have pointed you out as a proper individual of favor and esteem.

The Fourth Charge is the Opening Ceremony of a Masonic Lodge, during which we encourage brothers to forgo any unselfish and egotistic behavior. By allowing the Benign Genius of the Mystic Art to preside over our councils, we act with a dignity becoming the high moral character of our venerable institution.

Finally, the Fifth Charge is inplimented before leaving our lodge meeting. We are reminded of our obligations that we have taken and told to be of one mind where the love of God will delight to dwell with and bless us.

Making good men better as instructed by both MWPGM Harris and RW Grand Secretary Emeritus Hughes indicate the high moral standards which encourage making our fraternity and our world better. We should always continue our conversations with our Past Grand Masters, our present and past Grand Lodge Officers, as well as the senior members of our lodges in order to gain more light through their wisdom.

We continue Our On-going Series of

Working for Perfection

As the current secretary of Randolph Lodge #30, WPM **George Reid, Jr.** (75) was raised in the lodge in 1986. Having pleaded Omega Psi Phi Fraternity at Virginia State College (now University) Brother Reid admired membership in the Masons. After receiving his political science degree in 1968, he got involved in politics in Cumberland County's School Board for 25 years and 20 years as the board's chairman. He now enjoys retirement.

As a James Brown impressionist WPM **James E. Rowe, Sr.** (71) of Evergreen-Benjamin Lodge #131 saw other Masons act with dignity on their job where he also worked at Phillip Morris. Brother Rowe retired from Phillip Morris after 30 years of service in 2003. As the present Worshipful Master of the lodge, he remembers how his former lodge (#219) survived by merging with #131. The Past Master perfected a talent for imitating the Godfather of Soul in singing, dancing and style from 2007 to 2010. He now enjoys racing his classic 1968 Road Runner at area raceways.

WPM **Curtis Ellis** (74) was raised in Louisa Lodge #113 in 1973. After a conversation with the late Brother Jones of #113, he asked for a petition and has held many positions in his lodge where he presently acts as the Marshal of the lodge. Brother Ellis retired from the Sears and Roebuck Service Center after 35 years of service. He now enjoys his role as a Deacon at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Louisa and helping the elderly.

Knights of Pythagoras School of Instruction

Richmond – One shouted out "Bush Gardens", another said "Water Country" and another "King's Dominion" for the KOP July Fun Day. On April 24, 2022 at King David Lodge #28 over 25 young men and over 30 Master Masons assembled to receive and give wise council at the Sovereign Prince Hall Grand Council of the Knights of Pythagoras Statewide Meeting and Open House.

The session opened with a welcome and general instructions from KOP State Director Carl Albritton. Following this introduction, words of wisdom were given by Assistant State Director Bernard Johnson and Right Worshipful Jr. Grand Deacon Alton Miles. The council then received a gift of $500.00 from Progressive Lodge #80 which was presented by WPM Robert Garris #80.

After enjoying a prepared breakfast for the young men, the Knights initiated 13 new Master Masons as mentors to the Knights. Following the initiation ceremony, the Grand Council KOP held a ritualistic opening with Jamie Tanner C#5 as Master Knight, Zorion Ricks C#1 as Sr. Knight and James Mitchell C#3 as Jr. Knight.

The State Director then received a roll call of councils and outlined the various programs the Knights would pursue. Recognizing that these programs would include the American Red Cross, school readings and Fun Day, ASD Jonson stated that all Knights should go to the web site congressionalaward.org to get info on activities and registering for student programs and awards. RWJGD Miles spoke on arranging for the participation in the Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade. Brother Darius Maye #44 also invited the KOP to join him in his swearing in as the youngest African American judge on August 6th in Caroline County.

Next order of business State Director Albritton conducted the nomination and election of KOP Grand Council Officers. Elected were Most Venable Master Knight Murray Baker C-#8, Sr. Knight Zorian Ricks C-#1, Jr. Knight Jason Taylor C-#2, Treasurer Kaleb Oster C-#2 and Recorder James Mitchell C-#3.

At 30 years old, Adult Sir Knight Brother Darious Maye #44 announced he will be sworn in as the youngest African American judge in the Commonwealth of Virginia. He would soon take the oath in Caroline County in order to preside over cases in the immediate area and oversee law enforcement in Chesterfield and Henrico Counties and has invited all present to attend.

Before closing, the State Director then gave the floor to RW Deputy Grand Master Beverly "Butch" Morgan who formally introduced Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson. Expressing his support for a well planned program, he recognized the efforts of the Knights, the Master Masons and the State Director. He also gave a "shout-out" to Knight Jaiden Lexnoe who is the City of Roanoke Wrestling Champion. Before closing the session, he encouraged all the Knights to continue the positive progress they have made in the KOP and their communities.

MWPHGL of VA F&AM Masons, Inc. Founder's Day

Petersburg – During a humid and sunny May 14.2022, over 200 Masons and Eastern Stars assembled at First Baptist Church Harrison St. in Petersburg Virginia to celebrate the 147th Founder's Day. Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67 was formally escorted into the service by Worshipful Grand Marshal Ronald E. Owens #162 with the aid of King Baldwin Grand Commandrey – Knights Templar.

While RW Grand Lecturer (West) Larry T. Johnson #298 led the call to worship, he was followed by WADDGM James Parham #290 with scripture, Worshipful Grand Chaplain Rev. Leroy D. Evans #7 with prayer, RW Sr. Grand Deacon Antonio R. Pride #43 with a welcome and the Honorable Mayor of Petersburg Sam Parham with a greeting. RW Grand Secretary Stevie Gray #314 took the liberty of introducing the Grand Lodge Officers and Dignitaries before RW Grand Treasurer Rendell R. Briggs #43 gave the offering prayer.

RW Grand Lecturer (East) Jose R. Ortiz then gave a brief history of Prince Hall Masonry, as well as the forming of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. at this very location in 1875.

After reading the Credo of the MWPHGL of VA by WPM Travis Edmonds #7, WADDGM Hosza Bagley #17 introduced our speaker Rev. Dr. George W. C. Lyons #43. Brother Lyons emphasized the importance of us inviting Jesus into our lives and Jesus will show up.

Before introducing the Grand Master, RW Deputy Grand Master Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. #298 yielded to Grand Worthy Matron Sandra A. Wilson who recognized Grand Chapter Officers. MWGM Wilson first expressed thanks to WDDGM Darrin Hill #43 for preparing today's program and thanking the Brothers and Sisters for attending.

Concluding the program of events, MWGM Wilson and Senior Past Grand Master Billie L. Thompson, Sr. #46 laid a memorial wealth at the church-side monument of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free and Accepted Masons, Inc.

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia F. & A.M., Inc. Schools of Instruction

The Hampton Roads & Tidewater School

Virginia Beach – After overcoming the frolic (not my "term", but the Grand Lecturer of the East) weather which postponed the last two schools, The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia held its fourth School of Instruction February 5, 2022 at the New Hope Baptist Church. Directing Committee on Work member WPM Alfred Simmons #124 to lead the opening, RW Grand Lecturer of the East Jose R. Ortiz #34 and RW Grand Lecturer of the West Larry T. Johnson #298 had other committee members in the remaining stations.

Properly receiving Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67, the Grand Master was pleased to have 17 first time attendees (pictured left) where WM Bruce B. Williams #132 spoke on their behalf. RW Jr. Grand Warden Edward E. Lattimore III #13 then gave them a warm welcome.

MW Grand Master Wilson then took the opportunity to have Health Chair WPM Dr. Melvin R. Johnson #13, Bee Hive Chair L. J. McCoy #33 and Chair of the Car Raffle RW Jr. Grand Deacon to give their reports. Adding to the reports, the Grand Master encouraged all brothers and Lodges to support the Golf Tournament which strengthens our scholarship program.

RW Grand Lecturer Ortiz then opened the session with brothers who had questions on today's opening ceremonies and general lodge proceedings. Brothers who had observations and questions included Williams Brooks #66, Thomas Jenkins #66, Antonia Johnson #13, Lindsay McFarland #106, Harold Brown #124, John Cherry #92, Jessie Cook #229, Todd Bowers #256, Kelvin Murray #69, Marcus Southern #106, Hason Parks #162, Willie Johnson #2, Reggie Clark #292, Ben Thompson #92, Harold Brown #124 and Jim Johnson #34.

While 26 brothers (pictured below) took the Certificate of Merit test, the MW Grand Master was pleased that 19 passed. Brothers that passed included Rashad McFarland #196, Gabriel Mathews #162, Robert Thompson #195, Dante Donald #186, James Baynm #196, David Blount #48, Bruce Loicliams #132, Carlon Lassiter #124, C. Brinkley #189, Tyshaun Robinson #13, Dacheon Penningson #66, Benamin Frasier #66, Brewer James #66, Brian Lucas #80, Kenneth Braun #80, Harold Brown #124, William Brooks #66, Jessie Cook #229, Steven Gadner #93, Anthony Spence #34, Mario Hudson #93, Vincent Steward #93, Sylvester Miller #139, Jamal Atkins #106, Marcus Southern #106, Valentine Hopkins #229 and James Clinton #196.

Finally, WM Grand Master Wilson presented the certificate of the most members to Alpha & Omega Lodge #46 (pictured above left) and to Blooming Light Lodge #132 (pictured above right) for having the highest percentage of members.

The Petersburg School of Instruction

Petersburg – Under the watchful eye of RW Grand Lecturers Jose R. Ortiz #34 and Larry T. Johnson #298, Mt. Nebo Lodge #43 with WPM Tyquan Taylor as Worshipful Master, WPM Rendell Briggs as Sr. Warden, Brother Darius Johnson as Jr. Warden and other lodge members opened the sixth 2021-22 School of Instruction on February 19th.

After properly receiving Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67, the Grand Master had RW Sr. Grand Warden George T. Cutler, Jr. #80 welcome five first time attendees (pictured left) where Brother Marcus Smith #323 spoke for them. Following those expressions, MWGM Wilson had presentations from Health Chair - WPM Dr. Melvin Johnson #13, Auto Raffle Chair – RW Jr. Grand Deacon Alton Miles #196 and Bee Hive Chair – WPM L. J. McCoy #33.

The Grand Lecturers then began their instructions on the quorum on opening a lodge, alternate locations for having St. Johns' Days, lodge visitations and personal contact during the pandemic. Reflecting on these issues included Brothers James Manning #61, Melvin Johnson #13, James Clinton #196, Darrin Hill #43, William Moore #92, Conrad Bradley #16, David Diggs #290, Allen Jones #293, Jerrail Jones #17, Vernon Long #189, Reggie Clark #292, Billy Peters #92, Ricky Haskins #17, George Lyons #43, Gregory Goode #43 and Travis Edmond #7.

Following the roll call of lodges by RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314, MWGM Wilson presented the highest percentage of members present to St. Stevens Lodge #247 and the highest number of members present to Mt. Nebo Lodge #43 (pictured right). While 13 brothers took the Certificate of Merit test, only Brothers James Clinton #196, John Epps #7, Gregory Goode #43, Harold Johnson #15, Willie Lee #7,William Moore #92 Anthony Price #7, Tyshaun Robinson #13, Tyquan Taylor #43 and Ricky Williams #43 (pictured below).

MWGM Wilson closed out with a poem about LIFE and thanked everyone for attending.

Richmond's School of Instruction

Richmond – Painted as a picture of strong leadership in the 26th Masonic District, District Deputy Grand Master Lynwood Jones #27 sat humbly as the Grand Master framed him as his "go to" man in the district. On a picture perfect day at Hobson Lodge, the sixth School of Instruction was opened on March 5, 2022 with Hobson Lodge members in the duty stations of Brothers Patrice Whitfield, Michael Mitchell and Casey Lewis as Worshipful Master, Sr. Warden and Jr. Warden respectfully.

Following instructions by Grand Lecturers Jose R. Ortiz #34 and Larry T. Johnson #298, Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67 asked the first time attendees to come before the alter. WPM Mario Kinney #300 spoke on behalf of the 15 brothers and RWGJW Edward E. Lattimore, III #13 welcomed the brothers.

MWGM Wilson then took the opportunity to have WPM Dr. Melvin Johnson #13 – Chair of the Health Committee, WPM L. J. McCoy, Jr. #33 – Chair of the Publication Committee, MWPGM Shelton Riddick #323 - CCFC and Car Raffle Chair RWJGD Alton Miles #196 to give brief presentations from their committees.

The Grand Lectures then began explanation of the most asked issues to include the Certificate of Merit, the quorum for opening a lodge, examining visitors and Landmark #10. Comments and questions were received from Brothers Wilktion Shaw #23, Anthony Streeter #107, Reginald Chesseboro #196, George Winfield #65, Johnnie Burton #365, Keill Davidson #288John Webb #28, Billy Johnson #124, Clayton Gregory #19, Richard Marby #263, Edward Logan #81, Arthur Smith #28, Kenneth Randolph #27, George Dean #107, Desmond Middleton #44, Ricky Williams #324, Harold Brown #124, Eric Scott, Jr. #25, Ancell Hamilton #233 and Clarence Craddock #107.

After taking the roll call of lodges by RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314, MWGM Wilson presented Richmond Lodge #65 (pictured above left) an award with the largest number of members present and Triple River Lodge #253 (pictured above right) with the largest percentage of members present. MWGM Wilson then presented Certificates of Merit to Brothers Casey Lewis #65, Carton Lassiter #124, Philip Branch #81, Daquan Reinhart #23, James Clinton #196, Vernon Thomas Plumpgok #23, Greg Darrison #23, Michael Mitchell #65, Keith Toliver #18, Jerry Stevenson #107 and Clarence Craddock #107.

Before closing in due and ample form, MWGM Wilson thanked those in attendance and hoped everyone would enlighten their lodge with the information they received at the school.

The 2021-22 Final School of Instruction for Northern Virginia

King George – Observing the opening of last School of Instruction, Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67 was please to see WPM Kevin Wheeler #58 as Worshipful Master, WPM Payton Dade, Sr. #11 as Sr. Warden and WPM Jesse Haynes #298 as Jr. Warden open the session.

The April 2, 2022 School was held at King George Lodge #314 where Grand Master Wilson received 14 first-time attendees (pictured below left). Brother Fred Mitchell spoke on behalf of the brothers and RW Sr. Grand Deacon Antonio Pride #43 gave them words of wisdom.

MWGM Wilson welcomes 98 year old WPM Carroll Braxton #292 to the school.

Following a tradition by older administrations, the Grand Master had presentations by Grand Secretary Isaac Hughes #314 on Masonic Charges, Health Chair WPM Dr. Melvin Johnson #13 on cholesterol and Bee Hive Chair L. J. McCoy #33 on the Bee Hive.

As RW Grand Lecturer of the East Jose R. Ortiz #34 looked on, RW Grand Lecturer of the West Larry T. Johnson #298 began his lecture from instruction in the Grand Lodge ritual. The Lecturers presentation inspired questions and responses from Brothers Rudolph Tyson #58, Cordon Green #58, George Jackson #314, Billy Johnson #124, Al-Hadid Rollins #1, Israel Sanchez, Jr. #330, Don Moore #298, Payton Dade #11, Robert Burnett #58, Curtis Lassiter #124, Eric Dawson #292, Quincy Henderson #58, Amir Hopkins #229, Eugene Porter #293, James Manning #61, James Garris #80 and Howard Simpson #73.

Following the roll call of lodges by RW Grand Secretary Stevie R. Gray #314, Triangle Lodge #293 (pictured left below) received the award for the highest number of brothers present and Piedmont Lodge #75 (pictured right below) received the award for the highest percentage of brothers present.

Nineteen brothers passed the Certificate of Merit Award to include Brothers Lydell Fortune #125, Cofield Gordon #314, Alton James #293, Cedric Martin #293, Dario Armstrong #298, Roger Bastern #58, Cordon Green #58, Milton Jones #54, Kevin Wheeler #298, Kyle Teylur #298, Cheir Winston #298, Charles Baldur #293, Regina Clarke #292, Scan Hill #293, Clifford Clark #298, Don Moore #298, Robert McDonald #233, Dale Dazir #264 and Vonzell Parrish #20 (pictured below).

After comments from his line officers and MWPGM's, MWGM Wilson proceeded in closing in due and amble foam.

A Moment in Our History

Brother Dr. William T. Fuller

By Brother David A. Blount #48

Having always had an eagerness to learn black history and history in general, it's always a delight to run across biographies and auto-biographies of black people whom it's thought should have public acclaim and respect but for some reason or another wasn't receiving the admiration they deserved.

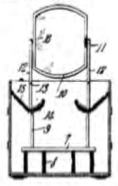
Let's realize an entire world of history that would unfold before our eyes. More specifically, being African American and becoming a Prince Hall freemason the history becomes upfront and personal. After joining, we would discover an amazing Prince Hall Mason by the name of Dr. William T. Fuller. Dr. Fuller could be considered one of the most inspiring historical black figures in Suffolk, Virginia of the early 1900's. He was born January 24, 1886 in Caswell County, North Carolina to two loving parents Norman Fuller and Elizabeth Macon where he was raised in Danville, Virginia. This is where he would attend school and his intelligence would make him stand out as a youth.

After graduating high school, W.T. Fuller would go on to attend Hampton institute (now Hampton University) of which he would graduate with honors in 1891. Mr. Fuller with an appetite for academic excellence would enroll into Leonard's medical school at Shaw university in Raleigh, North Carolina that same year.

Upon graduating Brother Fuller would remain in North Carolina to practice medicine, first in Reidsville and then Winston-Salem for approximately six years. During which time he would be drafted into the Spanish-American war 1898. Returning to North Carolina and being unsatisfied with the condition of his practice there in Winston-Salem, and losing his first wife, Dr. Fuller, he would then move back home to his home state of Virginia. He opened his practice once more in Nansemond County (Suffolk) where he would plant his roots. He would remarry to Ms. Lavonia Carter, and with the assistance of his wife, opened a very lucrative drug store in the county. They would have two children together, Cory and Gory Mae.

Dr. Fuller was a man of many talents one of those was design and innovation. It was discovered that a blueprint that he had patented for a possible invention (pictured right). It appears to be an adjustable mirror of some sort.

941,446. TRUNK. WILLIAM T. FULLER, Suffolk, Va. Filed May 14, 1909. Serial No. 495,920. Issued November 30, 1909.

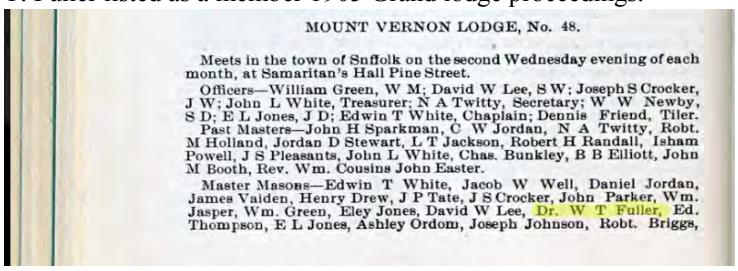


1. A device of the class described including a body, a mirror slidably and removably mounted therein, mirror supports movably connected to and shiftable into position above the body, and elastic means for clamping the supports upon the elevated mirror.

2. A device of the class described including a body, mirror supports movably connected to and constituting closures for a portion of the body, a mirror within the body and movable between and into engagement with said supports, and mirror cushioning means within the body.

3. A device of the class described including a body having a compartment, oppositely disposed closures for said compartment, yielding means for holding the closures normally in position, a structure slidably and removably mounted within the compartment, said closures constituting means for yieldingly bearing against and supporting the structure above the body.

Outside of just business, Dr. Fuller was a remarkable man in his civic engagement. He would serve as president of the Nansemond Emancipation Association and director of the Tidewater fair association. He was also an active member of Mount Vernon Lodge #48, the oldest and at that time, the only Masonic lodge comprising of black men in Nansemond County. Mount Vernon Lodge #48 is one of many lodges in the state that was under the authority of what would later be known as the Prince Hall grand lodge of Virginia. These lodges whose membership comprised of Black men had heritage tracing back to a revolutionary war veteran named Prince Hall in Boston, Massachusetts. Being excluded from joining traditionally white Masonic lodges, Black men often sought membership in these lodges. Below is Dr. William T. Fuller listed as a member 1905 Grand lodge proceedings.



MOUNT VERNON LODGE, No. 48.

Meets in the town of Suffolk on the second Wednesday evening of each month, at Samaritan's Hall Pine Street.

Officers—William Green, W M; David W Lee, S W; Joseph S Crocker, J W; John L White, Treasurer; N A Twitty, Secretary; W W Newby, S D; E L Jones, J D; Edwin T White, Chaplain; Dennis Friend, Tiler.

Past Masters—John H Sparkman, C W Jordan, N A Twitty, Robt. M Holland, Jordan D Stewart, L T Jackson, Robert H Randall, Isham Powell, J S Pleasants, John L White, Chas. Bunkley, B B Elliott, John M Booth, Rev. Wm. Cousins John Easter.

Master Masons—Edwin T White, Jacob W Well, Daniel Jordan, James Vaiden, Henry Drew, J P Tate, J S Crocker, John Parker, Wm. Jasper, Wm. Green, Eley Jones, David W Lee, Dr. W T Fuller, Ed. Thompson, E L Jones, Ashley Ordom, Joseph Johnson, Robt. Briggs,

(Proceedings of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia Af & Am 1905)

In the most outstanding accomplishment of his and the primary purpose of this writing, is the founding of the first black financial institution in and around Nansemond County. In 1903 Dr. William T. Fuller would establish and serve as the first president of the Phoenix Bank, a financial institution whose purpose was to serve black laborers and farmers. Suffolk being the peanut capital, was bustling with Black farm labor in the peanut industry followed by a growing Black entrepreneurship in other industries. Dr. Fuller knew Blacks were in desperate need of financial institutional support. He along with his Masonic brother John W. Richardson of Suffolk Lodge #99 would establish the Phoenix Bank. This bank would serve its purpose even after the passing of Dr. Fuller in 1921. Unfortunately the Phoenix Bank of Nansemond was met with America's Great depression, and like many Black institutions across the nation would meet its demise. By the time of Dr. Fullers passing, the bank amassed capital of $125,000 ($1,773,225 in today's money). The bank would close its doors around 1937 leaving behind its vacant building which is registered as a historic site.

Dr. William T. Fuller was interned at what is now known as the historic Oak Lawn cemetery in Suffolk, Virginia.

(Left Phoenix Bank of Nansemond wikipedia image)

About the Author:

David A. Blount is a graduate of Southside Community college, a community leader and a member of Mt. Vernon Lodge #48. He is an avid reader and researcher and active Prince Hall Freemason.

It's good to hear from brothers of Suffolk Lodge #99 which merged with Mount Vernon Lodge #48. I have been leisurely looking for a family connection between Dr. Fuller and PGM James Fuller but have not found a connection. I spoke with a descendant of Dr. Fuller who studied genealogy and he doesn't think they are related. What drives me to do this research is my desire to understand our existence as Prince Hall Masons. We have a very unique history in the world of Freemasonry and up until recently, it has been told with half truths and sometimes outright falsehoods. It's a journey that is rewarding everyday. As far as the format, it can be prepared as a historical article. Thank you and I'm glad you enjoyed reading it.

The Kilmarnock Investment

Lancaster- "Not all your wages are paid in corn, wine and oil", stated MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253 as we toured the Grand Lodge real estate in Lancaster County. The property located near the Tappahannock River area continues to undergo facelifts by clearing trees, installing utilities, and building cabins.

Initially, the Kilmarnock Project began when WPM William L. Lee #100 approached the Grand Lodge through MWPGM Christian for help in preventing the foreclosure of their Lodge on two acres in Lancaster. Brother Christian who was a line officer of the Grand Lodge at the time promised WPM Lee that the Grand Lodge Board of Directors would work with Palestine Lodge #100 to save the property. After making financial arrangements with the bank, the Grand Lodge assumed the loan, and now leases the building to the Lodge. The bottom floor of the Lodge is rented to out for weddings, Church affairs and other similar events. MWPGM Christian instituted a program that cost each member of the Grand Lodge $49.00, which prevented the Grand Lodge from having to borrow the funds, each member of the Grand Lodge is now a share holder in the Investment of the property.

Recognizing the opportunity to expand the Kilmarnock investment, the Grand Lodge purchased an additional 30 acres from Mrs. Brenda Campbell in 2010. After the Grand Lodge delegates approved the Grand Directors plan to develop the property, construction of the first cabin began.

Not since MWPGM Billie L. Thompson, Sr. #46 made arrangements to purchase 906 N. Thompson St. Grand Lodge Offices in 1994 had the Grand Lodge own real estate.

RW Grand Directors, Walter E. Brown #18, Larry D. Christian #253 and Charles A. Jones #81 who manage the project, journey to the area regularly in order to oversee the progress of contractor Mr. Dwayne Redmond. When the land had to be cleared of the trees and leveled the team hired J. E Kelly & Company. Saving the Grand Lodge the cost of a new well, the team acquired the help of county administrators who found the records from 1992. And, when Dominion Energy Virginia dragged their feet on installing basic power, MWPGM Christian was on the phone with a Dominion Energy Virginia representative and DEV trucks were on the site that week.

While the first cabin is near completion, ground was broken on June 16, 2022, for the second cabin."1 Kings 10:7 – However I did not believe the words until I came and saw with my own eyes."

The vision for the site will include basketball and tennis courts for Knights of Pythagoras Encampments, an outdoor pavilion for Grand Lodge events and rental, along with the cabins. Sr. Project Manager MWPGM Christian again reminded us, "that a $49.00 investment by each member now equates to a property assessed at over one million dollars and each member is a shareholder."

Grand Chapter School of Instruction

Numbers after names denote the Chapter of member

Petersburg – Blossoming in a garden of heavenly whiteness, the Sisters of the Order of the Eastern Star assembled Saturday May 21st at the Petersburg Masonic Temple. The Committee on Work members Cheryl Hicks #20 acting as Worthy Matron, Sister Latisha McCormack #79 acting as Associate Matron, Sister Ann Beverly #197 acting as Conductress and Sister Nicole Daye #101 acting as Associate Conductress opened the informal session under the direction of Grand Lecturer of the East Demetrius Fowlkes and Grand Lecturer of the West Tonya Clark.

Sister Fowlkes took the opportunity to directed Sisters Glenda Benion #101, Billie Winzor Grand District Deputy Organizer #5 and Angela D. Sampson Scott Grand District Deputy Organizer #16 & #18 to give invocation, scripture and welcome respectively. Following the opening, Grand Secretary Deborah Brooks gave the roll call of chapters along with the introduction of Grand Chapter Officers. Grand Worthy Patron Clarence Williams then formally introduced Grand Worthy Matron Sandra Wilson who gave greetings and the purpose of the session.

After the opening of the chapter, GWM Wilson and the Grand Lectures took questions for the members on their observations. Sisters and Brothers who had questions or comments included Shelia Brown #110, Lynette Smith #79, Jose Ortiz #10, Glenda Benion #101, Sandra Price #79, Curtis James #2, Clyde Lindsey #110, Curtis Holland #162, Brenda Scott #78, Barbara Bell #164, Latricia Alexander #79, Naphenose Whitehead #86, Catherine Washington #44 and Robin Brown #110.

The session also included a mental wellness lecture by Grand District Deputy Organizer #1 Nadia Spruill who advised everyone to dial 988 in the event of medical illness awareness instead of dialing 911.

Following petition/initiation questions by Grand Lecturer Tonya Clark and Worthy Patron responsibilities by Grand Worthy Patron Clarence Williams, the Grand Lecturers distributed a Starom Proficiency Examination for those who wanted to show their knowledge in the OES. Those that passed the test included Kimberly Coleman #128, Sandra Rice #79, Chantel Williams #7, Charles Jones #79, Clyde Lindsey #110, Latricia Alexander #79, Sonya Freeman #79, Glenda Benion #101, Minnie Mayes #137, Ebonee Williams #7 and MWGM Donald Wilson #20.

After remarks by Grand Worthy Matron Sandra Wilson, the MWGM Donald Wilson thanked everyone's participation and asked the Committee on Work to close the session.

Order of the Eastern Star Whit Sunday Program

By L. J. McCoy, Jr.

Dinwiddle – Representing Grand Worthy Matron Sandra A. Wilson at Olive Branch Baptist Church in Dinwiddle, Grand District Deputy Organizer Angela D. Sampson Scott of the 16th and 18th Districts directed Sisters of the Order of the Eastern Star Prince Hall Affiliate in their Whit (Pentecost) Sunday Celebrations. The event is one of several celebrations the Eastern Stars recognize annually in order to recognize the Pentecost and the unity of the community.

Pictured left to right front row Darrin Hill, Antonio Pride, Clarence Williams, Angela Sampson-Scott, Pastor Kevin Northam, Billie Winzor, Past Grand Worthy Matron Sylvia Jackson and Hosza Bagley.

Worship leader Sister Shirley Brown #7 received Sisters Robin Ellis #33, Zenobia Walker #7 and Worthy Patron Clyde Lindsey in scripture reading, invocation and welcome respectively.

Defining the purpose of the occasion, Sister Rita Winkler #130 defined Pentecost as the event which is celebrated by Christians 50 days after the resurrection of Christ and is recognized by the Order as Whit Sunday. Designated by Christians as a Holy day, the church's pastor, Rev. Dr. Kevin M. Northam, delivered a message from Luke 15:8-20 entitled "Something worth Celebrating".

Following the message, District Deputy Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. and Petersburg City Council Member Rev. Darrin Hill of Mt. Nebo Lodge #43 expressed positive comments about the program and thanked everyone's support of the event and the Statewide Whit Sunday.

MWPHGL Annual Spring Golf Tournament

By MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253

Williamsburg – Sunshine and blue skies covered the players on the pristine green courses and fairways of the Kiskiack Golf Club in Williamsburg. On June 11, 2022, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge held its 19th Annual Spring Golf Tournament.

Along with Co-chair Michael Christian #253 and the other golf committee members, Committee Chair MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253 was pleased to have 15 teams registered to participate. Following a prayer by Rev. Eddie Jones of Fellowship Baptist Church in New Kent, the teams begin play.

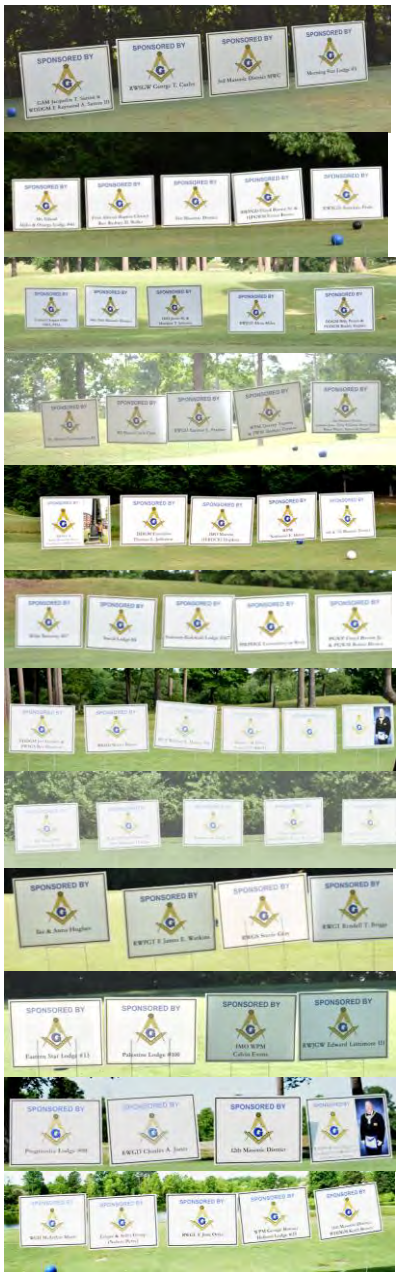
The event is the monetary foundation in strengthening the Grand Lodge Scholarship Program. While supporting high school graduates, it also supplements 2nd, 3rd and 4th year college students.

After a five hour display of skills, trophies and awards were present to:

- 1st Place score of 59 to WPM Devery Travers, Maury Walker, Clarence Yeargen & Bill Scott
- 2nd Place score of 60 to Fred Florence, Donald Graves and Quincy Bonnet
- 3rd Place score of 60 to Leonard Hawkins, David Shelton, Lee Pringles & Robert Jones
- Longest Drive went to David Shelton who also received a monetary gift
- Closest to the Pin went to John Wilson who also received a monetary gift
- Closest to the Pin also went to Lee Pringle who also received a monetary gift
- Our only female participate, Ms Dee-Dee Coston received a special gift

Golf Raffle Drawing Winners were:

42" TV - Curtis Gunn
$25.00 Gas Card - Curtis Gunn
$25.00 Gas Card - Curtis Gunn
$25.00 Gas Card - Matt Mullins
$50.00 Gas Card - Maury Walker
Chrome-book - Dr. Melvin Johnson



Grand Lodge Officers who participated included MWGM Donald S. Wilson #67, RWSGW George T. Cutler, Jr. #80, RWSGD Antonio R. Pride #43, RWJGD Alton Miles #196, RWGD Walter E. Brown #18 and MWPGM Billie L. Thompson, Sr. #46.

Finally, MWPGM Christian invited everyone to plan to participate in the Fall Tournament October 8, 2022 at the course in Kiskiack.

Be a Part of the Fun & SUPPORT the Annual Grand Lodge Golf Tournament

Contact MWPGM Larry D. Christian at 757 566-2066, or email him at lchristian2@verizon.net

Check the back cover of this issue for more details.

The 26th Masonic District Honors our Veterans

By WM Demond Middleton #44

Deuteronomy 15:10 "You shall generously give to him, and your heart shall not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all your undertakings."

Richmond - On Friday May 20, 2022, the 26th Masonic District of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia had the privilege of presenting McGuire VA Hospital with a check for $1,000. Although the VA Visitation had been canceled for the jurisdiction of Virginia, the 26th Masonic District decided to help our Veterans in another way. With the understanding that many Veterans need assistance and depend on the VA for help, the district decided to dedicate these funds specifically towards helping veterans who suffer from substance abuse.

WDDGM Lynwood Jones #27, ADDGM Ricky Williams #324, ADDGM Morris Hicks #6, ADDGM Wayne Whittle #264, ADDGM Robert McDonald #233, RWGD Charles Jones #81 and all 20 lodges of the district would like to thank the representatives of the VA for their assistance and hope to continue to support McGuire VA Hospital in the near future.

29th MD and OES District 27th and 30th First Annual Appreciation Banquet

King George - On Saturday April 9, 2022, 29th Masonic District and the OES Districts #27 and #30 had their first Annual Awards Banquet to honor those Masonic Brothers and OES Sisters who have diligently worked to improve and make Masonry better within their respective districts.

The Master of Ceremony RWGSE Isaac S. Hughes #314 started the program by asking RW Deputy Grand Master Beverly W. Morgan #298 to introduce and receive the Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67 and his wife Grand Worthy Matron Sandra Wilson. The Master of Ceremonies then called on Senior Warden Andrew Mason #314 to start with the invocation and receive greetings by Charity Baker-Dean Asst. Grand District Deputy Organizer. Introduction of Chapters and Grand Chapter Officers was done by Delia V. Yates Grand District Deputy Organizer who did the introduction of Chapters and Grand Chapter Officers. District Deputy Grand Master Dwayne L. Parker, Sr. #314 then introduced Lodges and Grand Lodge Officers in attendance.

Asst. District Deputy Grand Master James "Jay" Manning #61 then explained the occasion and was proud to introduce to the attendees his mother Ms. Doris Manning whose birthday was the day of the evening's event. All in attendance gave her a standing ovation for being they're on her special day.

After blessing of the food by Associate Matron Deborah Logan View Point #117, everyone enjoyed their meals and the evening got down to the main event of presenting awards. DDGM Parker and Worshipful Asst DDGM Manning covered all aspects of brothers and sisters working throughout the years and their interest in what they do for Masonry to this day. Here are the awards and the order they were presented to the recipients.

Closing with prayer was done by WPM Robert S. Ashton, Jr. King #314 presented Worshipful Past Masters, and Members over 40 + years, Worshipful Past Master of the Decade, Treasurer, Secretary and WPDDGM Certificates. The most anticipated award of the evening was the Deputy's Cup for Ritual Contest and Deputy's Cup for Lodge of the year. The winner of both Cups was King George Lodge #314. All award recipients and the winners of the Deputy's Cup posed for pictures with Grand Master Donald S. Wilson. At the end of the evening Grand Master Wilson gave his remarks. He stated he enjoyed being here and the food was excellently prepared. The Grand Master stated that DDGM Dwayne L. Parker, Sr. #314 and Grand District Deputy Organizer Delia V. Yates did an excellent job in recognizing those who had been doing good works in their respective lodges and chapters.

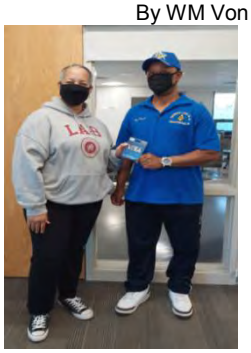
50 Years for Brother Ferguson

By WDDGM Walter H. Davis #295

Danville - On Sunday June 12, 2022 during the St. John's the Baptist Celebration, the Most Worship Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia Free and Accept Masons, Inc. awarded Earnest Ferguson with a 50th year pin.
The Award was presented by the 17th Masonic District Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Walter H Davis. Pictured from left to right Worshipful Past Master Elroy Gwynn, Earnest Ferguson who received the 50th year pin and WDDGM Walter H Davis at Trinity Baptist Church 399 South Main Street Danville, Virginia where Rev. Dr. Terry W. Echols, Sr. is the Pastor.

Gift Card Donation Event

By WM Von Parrish #20



As a part of WM Von Parrish's goals for this year's administration, the Brothers of Jefferson Lodge #20 were able donate a gift card to Albemarle County Public Schools Lab School in the amount of $238 on December 3 to provide clothing for a student. Truly an act of Brotherly Love!

Happy 100th Birthday to Worshipful Past Master Herbert L. Smith

By WPM Chris Curry #132

Norfolk - Herbert L. Smith aka Smitty to those who knew him well was born in Norfolk, Virginia April 5, 1922. In 1922 a person could buy a new car for $440; a movie ticket was $.07, and a gallon of gas was $.21. As a kid, Brother Smith attended Oakwood School and was an active member of Oakwood Chapel Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ.

Brother Smith was happily to married Lucy W. Smith for 65 years at the time of her death.

They were the proud parents of six children who also blessed them with ten grandchildren and eight great-great grandchildren. Brother Smith's hobby is puzzles and his favorite sport is baseball. His favorite city to visit was New York City.

Brother Smith says he joined Blooming Light Lodge #132 around 1941 or 1942. The thing he loves most about Masonry is the fellowship. His most treasured accomplishment is becoming a Christian. His biggest inspiration is Jesus Christ. When asked who he wishes he could have met, his answer is Franklin D. Roosevelt and when asked what his secret is to live for over 100 years, he said Trust God!

Antioch Commandery #7 & Electa Royal Court #2 "Wish List Project"

By WPM William E. Moore, Jr. #92

Norfolk – On Friday March 25, 2022, the culmination of Antioch Commandery #7 and Electa Royal Court #2 "Wish List Project" donation to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Norfolk was achieved.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Norfolk is part of a global network of houses that provided housing for millions of families so they can stay close to their hospitalized child. This charity offers a place to call home at little or no cost to those families in need.

SK Windsor L. Brabson, Sr., 33* Eminent Commander of Antioch Commandery #7 had set a goal for the Commandery and Court to donate twelve (12) 15" x 15" canvases bags filled with individually packaged assorted food items. Because of their outstanding support towards this project, they were able to donate forty-two (42) bags of assorted food items along with additional boxes of personal items to the RMDH Charities Project.

SK Windsor L. Brabson, Sr. thanked those Sir Knights and Electa Royal Court #2.

New York Lodge visits the 12th Masonic District

By WPM John Edwards #7

Petersburg – Loaded with a library of jokes, Past Master Lewis Jones of New York's Xenia Lodge #50 kept everyone laughing at the New York Visitation of the 12 Masonic District.

It was the 43rd visitation of Xenia Lodge #50 of New York with Pocahontas Lodge #7 and the 12th Masonic District. Dating back to 1949, twin brothers WPM Fred Ford #7 and Clarence Ford #7 were members of Pocahontas. When his brother Clarence moved to New York and demitted to Xenia, the brothers soon believed their lodges should fellowship to show Masonic unity.

And, they have for 43 years.

Spearheading the 2022 event, Asst. DDGM Hosza Bagley #17 arranged housing, travel around the city and meals for over 40 of our visiting brothers. Brother Bagley coordinated with Worshipful Master James Abraham of Xenia Lodge #50 in order to make the affair a success.

The days of the event climaxed with the initiation of six new brothers and an evening celebration at the Petersburg Temple.

"50-Year Pin &Certificate" presented to longtime Brother Elliot & WPM Ward

By WPM Emmanuel Hawks, Sr. #89

Suffolk - "This achievement marks a milestone in their Masonic journeys that only comes to those who have shown their dedication and commitment to the Masonic Way of life."

This year we honored four members for their work and dedication to our lodge and to the fraternity.

On 27 July 2021, Brother Billy Elliott (pictured center-left)and P.M. Herman L. Ward (pictured center-right) received their50-year Pin &Certificate together with a Gold Trowel presented by WDDGM Elbert Scott Jr. #46 of 3rdMasonic District of Virginia (Pictured on Left) and WM Christopher L. Blakely Sr. Lily of the Valley Lodge #89 (Pictured on Right). P.M. James L. White, and P.M. Howard L. Copeland (not pictured) where presented their 50-year Pin & Certificates at their respective place of residence.

Thanksgiving Day Basket Donations

By WM Von Parrish

On November 19th as a part of WM Von Parrish's goals for this year's administration, Jefferson Lodge #20 was able to collect donations from Kroger and Harris Teeter groceries and provide Thanksgiving baskets to local schools and six (6) local families in Albemarle County and Charlottesville City School areas.

"25-Year Certificate" presented to longtime Lily of the Valley #89 Brethren

By WPM Emmanuel Hawks, Sr. #89

Suffolk - Brethren, we pause in our deliberations for the purpose of paying a tribute of respect to Brethren who have served in the ranks of our Masonic Fraternity for a period of one score and five years.The brothers of Lily of the Valley Lodge #89 (and The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia) wish that the award will have an everlasting effect on the recipient, his family, the community and our Masonic Membership.

This year we honored seven members for their work and dedication to our lodge and to the fraternity.

On 26 OCT 2021, WPM Emmanuel Hawks Sr.(pictured center-left) Brother Billy Elliott(pictured -Middle)and WPM Herman L. Ward (pictured center-right) received their25-year Certificate presented by WDDGM Elbert Scott Jr. #46 of the 3rd Masonic District of Virginia (Pictured on Left) and WM Christopher L Blakely Sr. Lily of the Valley Lodge #89 (Pictured on Right). WPM James L. White, and WPM. Howard L. Copeland, WPM Douglas L. Jackson, and WPM Luther M. Joyner (Not Pictured) where presented their 25-year Certificates at their respective place of residence.

The 17th MD Celebrate Divine Sunday with the OES

By WDDGM Walter H. Davis #295

Danville - On Sunday, May 29, 2022, Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Walter H Davis of the 17th Masonic District of Danville and the vicinity was joined with the 20th, 21st and 33rd Districts of the Order of Eastern Star for Divine Sunday. The Children of Almagro Chapter #109 also joined with them to celebrate at Trinity Baptist Church 339 South Main Street Danville, Virginia where Pastor Rev. Dr. Terry W. Echols delivered the message.

Brother Maye Youngest African American Judge Sworn In

Caroline – At 30 years old, Brother Derrius Maye #44 has been selected to be sworn in on as the youngest African American judge in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Brother Maye gained his B.S. degree from the University of Texas San Antonio in Criminal Justice. He also received his M.S. and Jurist Doctorial in Law from Texas Southern University where he was the valedictorian in a class of 236 students.

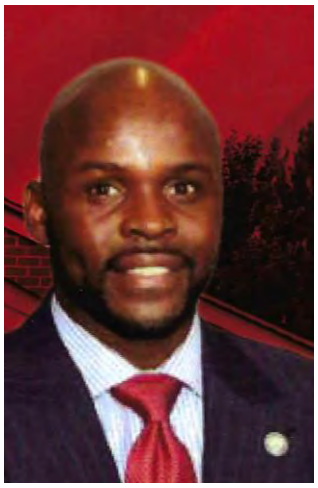
Raised in Trinity Lodge #44 in 2018, the former Bland Funeral Home Director and ordained minister has continued to elevate in his lodge to make it a success.

WDDGM Hill Installation Service

Petersburg – Brother Darrin Lamont Hill believed at an early age he was destined to become a servant of God. Raised in Mt. Nebo Lodge #43, he continued to mature in Masonry as Worshipful Master of his lodge and elevated to Asst. District Deputy Grand Master, then appointed Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master by PGM Richard Townes #235.

Yet, the WDDGM continued to excel. Brother Hill received his undergraduate degree from Virginia State University and his divinity degree from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University.

Today, on May 21, 2022 ministers from Petersburg and the surrounding area participated in his installation service at his home church Tabernacle Baptist Church. Pastor Darrin L. Hill will now be leading Marmora Baptist Church at 2901 Exeter Mill Road in Church Road (Dinwiddie) Virginia.



In addition to his pastoral and Masonic tasks, the Petersburg Councilman of Ward 2 is the sole proprietor of Personal Touch Beauty & Barber Salon. With God and his wife Melissa by his side, Rev. Hill believes "(He) can do all things through Christ which strengthen (him)" Philippians 4:13.

Prince Hall Masons March in the Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade

By Worshipful Grand Photographer William E. Moore #92

Portsmouth - On May 30, 2022, Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67 along with brothers of the craft and the Knights of Pythagoras marched in the longest running Memorial Day Parade in the country. (Portsmouth Virginia)Photos by WGP Moore #92

The 17th MD has St. John the Baptist Day

By WDDGM Walter H. Davis #295

Danville - On Sunday June 12, 2022 The 17th Masonic District Lodges which include Danville Royal, Murdock, Olympia, Judah, Almagro, Shockoe, Brandon Chapel and Golden Rule/Nehemiah along with the Order of Eastern Stars Chapters Almagro, Brandon Chapel, James A Wade, Gladiola, Riceville and Aurora celebrated St. John's the Baptist Day. The program was at Trinity Missionary Baptist Church where Rev. Dr. Terry W. Echols, Sr., Pastor delivered the message.

Jefferson Lodge #20 Clothing Drive Giveaway Events

By WM Von Parrish #20

Charlottesville – On December 3rd, Jefferson Lodge #20 began preparing for the night before the Annual Clothing Drive. Brothers of Jefferson Lodge #20 manage to set up the venue and enjoy some fellowship at Dairy Market.

The following day, WM Parrish and the Brothers of Jefferson Lodge #20 enjoyed delivering the clothes for the Clothing Drive and Giveaway at Burley Middle School in Buckingham, Fluvanna, Louisa, Albemarle, Greene and Goochland counties along with the assistance from the Brothers Mt. Zion Lodge #18.

12th MD St. John the Baptist Day

By WPM L. J. McCoy #33

Petersburg – Soul-stirring music from the Osborne K. Bailey Memorial Choir was a blessing to brothers the 12th Masonic District as well as the sisters of the16th and 18th Districts of the Order of Eastern Star at the 2022 St. John the Baptist celebration.

Worshipful District Deputy Grand Master Darrin Hill #43was joined by over 60 brothers and sisters on June 12th to celebrate the event. While WADDGM Hosza W. Bagley #17 acted as Master of Ceremonies, Brothers WPM Conrad Bradley #16, WPM Willie Lee #7 and WPM Tyquan Taylor #43 added substance to the program with scripture reading, prayer and purpose respectively.

After introduction of Grand Chapter Officers by Grand District Deputy Organizer Angela Sampson-Scott and Grand Lodge Officers by WDDGM Hill, W Grand Chaplain Leroy D. Evans #7 gave us the evening message. Taking his text from Matthew 3:13-17, he guided us through a subject entitled "Are You Within Due Bounds".

In the absence of MWGM Donald S. Wilson, RW Sr. Grand Deacon Antonio R. Pride #43 closed the program with brief, but well chosen words of wisdom.

Brothers Fellowship Event

By WM Von Parrish #20

On November 20, 2021, as a part of WM Von Parrish's goals for this year's administration, he and the Brothers of Jefferson Lodge #20, Omar Lodge #226, and Mt. Zion Lodge #18 met for a Fellowshipping event and tailgating at the James Madison University Football Game.

Trinity #44 Cleans Up for Past Grand Lecturer Williams

By WM Demond Middleton #44

Richmond - On Saturday March 19, 2022, the men of Trinity Lodge #44 dedicated a day to spend with a pillar of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia - RWPGLE James Williams. This year Trinity chose to help our own brother! This opportunity allowed us to show our love and respect to Bro. Williams and thank him for his many years of dedication to the craft. Under his guidance we were able to till and plant a garden, rake and dispose of leaves and provide general clean up at his residence.

After the work was complete, the members of Trinity were able to eat and fellowship with the entire Williams family. We will continue to show RWPGLE James Williams how much we appreciate him and all that he has done, not only for Trinity #44, but for the jurisdiction of Virginia.

Cleaning Supply Donation

By WM Von Parrish #20

During the holiday season November 17, 2021, when our community needs it most, WM Von Parrish #20 and the Brothers of Jefferson Lodge #20 were able to donate cleaning supplies to the Zion Hill Baptist Church. The Brothers of the Craft, in partnership, with African American Pastor's Council (AAPC) were able to provide cleaning supplies to one hundred (100) local families.

The Masonic Districts of the 21st & 22nd Lodges #20, #18 and #226 - Grow

From July 2021-December 2021, due to the increased activity in the community on multiple fronts, Jefferson Lodge #20 grew in membership. Under Worshipful Master Von Parrish and the continued support from Mt. Zion #18 and Omar Lodge #226, Jefferson Lodge #20 has brought in four (4) new Brothers and reinstated five (5)Brothers

Randolph Lodge #30 Welcomes Grand Master Wilson

By ADDGM Michael Frame #0

Farmville - On April 12, 2022, the Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson Campbell Lodge #67 and members of his Cabinet traveled to Farmville, Virginia to bestow the Warrant, Collar and Apron upon the newly appointed Assistant District Deputy of the 15th Masonic District PM Michael W. Frame #30.

During his visit the Grand Master spoke to the Craft about Prince Hall "Masons Making a Difference" in our communities and the world. He also spoke on the future of Masonry and the events plan for the rest of the year to include the Grand Communication and the Grand Lodge Cookout on April 12, 2022. Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson Campbell Lodge #67 also congratulated the newly appointed Assistant District Deputy of the 15th Masonic District PM Michael W. Frame of Randolph Lodge #30. During his visit, the Grand Master spoke to the Craft about Prince Hall Masons making a difference in our communities and the world.

MWGM Donald S. Wilson Visits the 31st MD and Triangle Lodge #293

By WPM Steven E. Goodson #298

On Tuesday, May 24, 2022, our MWGM, the Honorable Donald S. Wilson #67, visited WM Allen L. Jones Jr. and Brothers of Triangle Lodge #293 with many Brothers visiting from all corners of the 31st Masonic District.

A great night of instruction, fellowship and laughter were enjoyed by all. MWGM Wilson was accompanied by RWDGM Beverly W. Morgan, Jr. #298, RWGL-East Jose R. Ortiz #34 and RWPGL-E Curtis B. James, Sr. #67. Also, in attendance was our very own WDDGM Charles James #11 and WADDGM A. Marques Pitre #298. MWGM Wilson discussed several topics; from the upcoming St. John the Baptist Day Celebrations, the Annual Communication Session, and what is expected from the craft when visiting A.F. & A.M Lodges. After the meeting, the Brothers gathered around for the traditional photo opportunity. The Brothers assembled downstairs for a repast that consisted of crawfish, ribs, chicken, and sides. This was indeed and great night of Brotherly Love.

2nd MD Visitation

Va. Beach - Joshua Lodge #66 of the 2nd Masonic District under the leadership and guidance of Worshipful Master Benjamin Frazier accepted an invitation by Ocean View Lodge #335 (AF & AM) to visit them at their annual stated communication on December 2021.

Little did WM Frazier know that he and his Prince Hall brethren would be participating in a historic event.

Joshua Lodge #66 would be the very first Prince Hall Masonic Lodge to visit OceanView 335(AF&AM) in their entire 100 year history. Those present would be WM Benjamin Frazier, SW Pennington, SD James Brown. Worshipful Master Frazier would be honored and presented with what they call their traveling gavel (pictured). The only way to get that gavel back, was to travel to the receiving lodge and retrieve it.

Stonewall Jackson Middle School Renamed Unity Braxton Middle School

By WPM Eric Lawson #292 & edited by WPM Steven E. Goodson #293

After WPM Carroll Braxton #292 recognized at a time when racism was at its boldest moment, WPM Carroll Braxton #292 decided to join the United States Marine Corp. He and countless others were in one of the first classes of black marines. African American men were treated with the utmost disrespect and atrocities that in today's time, would have a service member dishonorably discharged. WPM Braxton stayed the course, refused to quit, and upon completing boot camp at Camp Montford Point, he and 32 other Marines became assistant Drill Instructors. They soon DI's themselves at Montford Point.

When he retired from the Marine Corp in 1980, Master Gunnery Sergeant Braxton held the highest enlisted rank possible. In 2012, MGySgt Braxton received the Congressional Medal of Honor from then President Barack Obama. Not done yet, WPM Braxton was inducted into the National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc. Hall Fame in 2021, for his accomplishments as MGySgt Braxton. Finally, on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, history was made as Stonewall Jackson Middle School in Manassas, VA was renamed Unity Braxton Middle School in honor of WPM Braxton and his wife, Celestine Braxton, as an educator and activist for over 33 years. Our Brother, WPM Carroll Braxton, who is 93 years young, is a true history maker in our fraternity! CONGRATULATIONS BROTHER BRAXTON and MRS. BRAXTON!

Mt. Zion Lodge Dedicates their New Building

Staunton - On Saturday April 9, 2022 our Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Butch Morgan Jr. #298, Worshipul Grand Historion McAuthur Myers #1 among other member of MWPHGL and Grand OES Chapter members participated in a Ribbon cutting and Dedication ceremony at Mt. Zion Lodge #18 in Staunton Virginia.

Photos by Worshipful Asst. Grand Photographer Ricky R. McKnight Sr. #28.

The Pride of Fairfax Lodge #298 Historical site

Story by Mike Salmon of the Mt. Vernon Gazette

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Fairfax - A cornerstone building in historic Gum Springs was recently added to the Virginia Landmarks Register for its role in bringing the sense of community to the county's oldest African American community. The Pride of Fairfax Lodge #298 building played a significant role, housing the activities of two organizations. One was the Mount Vernon Enterprise Lodge No. 3488, a fraternal order of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows; and the other, Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298, a chapter of the Prince Hall Masons in Virginia, according to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

In a 40-year period from the 1940s to the 1980s, community and fraternity members and their families supported education and mentoring programs at the lodge hall, and it was the first headquarters of the Saunders B. Moon Community Action Association, starting in 1965. This was part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society program.

In the midst of the mid-1960s civil rights movement, Gum Springs residents formed the Saunders B. Moon Community Action Association, named after the late principal of Gum Springs' Drew-Smith School. The Saunders B. Moon Community Action Association changed its name to the Gum Springs Community Development Corporation (GSCDC) in the mid-1980s.

In the 1990s, the building's ownership was transferred to the Pride of Fairfax County Lodge #298, which continues to use the building as a fraternal hall and community center.

The Gum Spring's building was among 13 sites named by the commonwealth's Board of Historic Resources, approved the Virginia Landmarks Register listings during its quarterly public meeting on Dec. 9, 2021. The Virginia Landmarks Register is the commonwealth's official list of places of historic, architectural, archeological and cultural significance. Others on the list include the Upperville Colt & Horse Show Grounds in Fauquier County and the Clovelly mansion In Richmond.

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources will forward the documentation for these newly listed Virginia Landmarks sites to the National Park Service for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. This historical designation marks the entity as an authentic and significant place in Virginia's history.

The historical designation also provides an owner the opportunity to pursue historic rehabilitation tax credit improvements to the building.

Trinity #44 Helps the Homeless

By WM Demond Middleton #44

"If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?" First John 3:17 NIV

Richmond - On Saturday May, 28th the members of Trinity Lodge #44 came together to help the Caritas Men's Shelter located at 700 Dinwiddie Ave, Richmond, VA. Trinity served these brothers lunch to include pizza, chips, cake and drinks. The meal was well received and approximately 40 men who had the opportunity to fellowship with the brothers of Trinity #44.

We explained what Prince Hall Masonry stands for and was able to listen to the stories of these men. Many people took for granted that homelessness can happen to any of us. We were blessed to say, that just for a little while we put a smile on these men's faces and eased their minds. We look forward to working with this shelter in the future and assisting men suffering through hard times and showing there are still positive Black men in the world.

Mt. Vernon Lodge #48

This year under the leadership of Worshipful Master Isaac Dozier, Mount Vernon Lodge #48 of the 8th/10th Masonic District adopted the local ForKids Inc.

(Continued on next page)

organization to donate to during the holiday season. The funds donated to Forkids Inc. goes to the children in need in our local community. Children who are homeless and/or living in under privileged circumstances.
Brothers pictured here are; L to R: PM Clarence Grant, WM Isaac Dozier, newly raised brother Andres Gomes, SW David Blount, PM Kalomo Imo. ***Prince Hall Masons making a difference***.

Maceo Consolidated Lodge #124

By WPM Dr. William Breckenridge #124

Pictured from left to right: Ruth Allison, Alice Billings, Billy Johnson, Beverly Christian, Alfred Simmons, Harold Brown Jr, Willie Matthews, Opelene Davis, Dr. William Breckenridge, Brenda Fields, and Willie Parker

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver". (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Williamsburg - On 23 March 2022, as a part of our charity program at Maceo Consolidated Lodge #124, our dedicated Brethren presented three bags of various clothing, and a significant monetary donation to FISH, Inc. of Williamsburg, Virginia. Fish is an all-volunteer not-for-profit agency providing help to residents of the greater Williamsburg area. Depending entirely upon a caring community for food, clothing, volunteers and financial donations, FISH serves our neighbors in need. Assisting the community is paramount at Maceo Consolidated Lodge #124.

Oldest 3rd MD Master Mason Birthday Celebrated

By C. L. Gunn, DDGM-E

Previously, the oldest continuously serving and dedicated Master Mason in the Third Masonic District, according to available records was Brother Elwood Norman of Brighton Rock #79 born in 1916 who held this honorable and revered title. At 99 years old Past is renowned professional baseball player Jackie Roosevelt Robinson was born in Cairo, Georgia. Six days earlier, on January 25, 1919 and some 172 miles away in Tuskegee, Alabama was born, James Andrews, who, for Morning Star Lodge, would add to the legacy of those Master Masons who ascended to the oriental chair in the East as Worshipful Master and the title of Past Master. Following its regular communication the members present recently celebrated with Past Master Andrews upon reaching 103 years.

Upon reaching an age when he was allowed to move from his home in Tuskegee, he began work as a migratory worker in the south beginning with harvesting and working in the sugar cane fields of Florida and moving, as the growing seasons required, up the East Coast working in the various crop fields for several years. He then worked his way into becoming a Pullman porter. These were men hired to work on the railroads as porters on sleeping cars. After the American Civil War, George Pullman sought out former slaves to work on his sleeper cars. Andrews' job was to carry passengers' baggage, shine shoes, set up and maintain the sleeping berths. He worked as such for a while until the railroads and the Pullman Company met the high demands for troop movements during World War II and the Korean War. PM Andrews was transferred to working as porter on these troop trains in the variety of coaches and Pullman cars that were available where the soldiers slept. He was able to travel extensively from the East Coast across the country to the West Coast.

He later arrived in the Hampton Roads area and settled in Portsmouth. He joined and was raised as a Master Mason via Morning Star Lodge #3 on April 9, 1962. he continues to serve faithfully to this day and for the past several years as the Lodge's Tiler. While he no longer drives, he's dressed and ready every 2nd Monday to be picked up to attend the Lodge's regular communication. Anyone who lives in his community of the Cavalier Manor section of Portsmouth and happen to travel along the main thoroughfare are very familiar with seeing PM Andrews in his daily walks from his home up and down the Greenwood Drive as they blow their horn, wave and greet him. He still walks but as limited his distance.

He's famous for asking everyone "how's the family?" PM Andrews, at the present age of 103, is a testament to the goodness of God and the dedication of this longstanding member of the Prince Hall Family.

WPM James (Jimmy) Taylor #107 Celebrates 50 Years

by PM Glen Hence #107

Richmond - WPM James (Jimmy) Taylor was recently recognized by the Grand Lodge for over 50 years of service to Prince Hall Masonry. WPM Taylor stated that he was inspired to join by a deacon in his church. He observed a Lodge laying a cornerstone at his church, and he became thoroughly impressed by the men in black suits. WPM Taylor stated he began to ask questions and discovered there were several other men in his church who held in high esteem, and of great character. At this point, WPM Taylor stated he talked to his wife, and received her blessings to pursue his Masonic journey. PM Taylor was raised in Capital City Lodge #107 in 1967. He successfully moved through the ranks to become the WGrand Tiler under the leadership of both MWPGM Robert Harris, and MWPGM Pitman C. Rock. PM Taylor stated his most memorable moments were traveling to other Lodges and fellowshipping with some outstanding Brothers.

Today, if you were to visit WPM Taylor at the Sutter Home for Veterans, on the McGuire Hospital complex, you may find him to studying his work manual, and reciting from memory different parts of the manual. He is proud to say he can still recite the burial ceremony. WPM Taylor was presented with his certificate and pin by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67, with the assistance of WM Anthony Streeter, and the brothers of Capital City Lodge #107.

The 2021-22 Grand Lodge Scholarship Car Raffle

By RWJGD Alton L. Miles #196

At the drawing

At the car dealer

Diving single-handed into a sea of canary colored raffle tickets, MWPGM Larry D. Christian #253 retrieved a single winning stub. The drawing which occurred on Saturday March 13, 2022 recognized Brother Larry Matthew of Sheba Lodge #7 as the winner.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald S. Wilson #67 had appointed RW Jr. Grand Deacon Alton Miles #196 to chair the 2021-22 GL Scholarship Raffle. Partnering with Beach Ford in Virginia Beach, Brother Miles selected a 2022 Ford EcoSports as the winning prize. The RWJGD arranged with the dealership to either award the vehicle or resale it back to the dealer for a cash prize. Brother Matthew had not decided which option he would take at the time of the drawing.

MWGM Wilson together with President Tom Barton III and VP Bob Barton of Beach Ford presented Larry and Sandra Matthews the keys to their new 2021 Ford EcoSport. Mr. and Mrs. Matthews were the winners of the car raffle sponsored by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia.

The Grand Lodge Scholarship Car Raffle was designed specifically to enhance the GL Scholarship Funds. Selling 3,900 tickets (less the expenses of the vehicle purchase and administration costs), the Grand Lodge yielded over $10,000 to add to the scholarship fund.

After the drawing, MWGM Wilson encouraged the brothers present and throughout the jurisdiction to support our children by applying for these scholarships and to continue financially contributing to these programs.

We continue Our On-going Series of

Working for Perfection

As one of those active Moddis Phi Moddis' at Norfolk State College (now University), WPM **Wilbert "Grim" Shearin** (71) was raised in #102, but merged with what is now Alpha & Omega Lodge #46. Hearing about Masonry from his uncle in Baltimore and the men of his church, Brother Shearin became a Mason. As a retired school teacher, he now does substitute teaching in the Tidewater area.

WPM **Ernesto Youngs** (65) was told about Masonry by his mother and lodge members of Providence Lodge #189 where he was raised. He was raised in Providence 1991 where he continues to work. Brother Youngs served the Grand Lodge as Worshipful Assistant Grand Marshal under MWPGM Shelton Riddick #323. Retiring from Skanskan Construction after 35 years of service. WPM Youngs now enjoys life with his family and lodge.

Testifying on his second heart attack operation at the 2022 Tidewater School, WPM **Calvin Ruff** (72) was in a West Coast hospital when he put his trust in GOD to bring him through. Brother Ruff was raised in Washington Lodge #323 in 1987. Retiring from the Civil Service Department of Defense after 30 years in 2004, he served the Grand Lodge as Worshipful Grand Pursuivant under MWPGM Shelton Riddick #323.

WPM **Robert N. Gywnn** (78) of Tidewater Lodge #106 was raised in the lodge in 1976. Brother Gywnn's uncle WPM Thomas Eure #106 influenced him to join. As Worshipful Master in 1981, he served in the US Army for 20 years. He then took a job at the Yorktown Naval Weapons Station, but left there to take care of his elderly parents. You can now find WPM Gywnn selling Masonic items at Masonic events, when he is not fishing.

WPM **Arthur Smith** (70) is a member of King David Lodge #28. Brother Smith was raised in the lodge in 1994. After hearing about Masons from his foster father – Elisha Jones from Sheba Lodge #17 – he joined. Working for Allied Chemical for nine years, he started finishing concert at Reynolds Metal where he took a full time job and retired in 2000 on disability. He now stays busy with his lodge and the community.

Attending the proceeding at the 2022 Northern Virginia School of Instruction, WPM **Carroll Braxton** (98 on 7/14/22) was raised in King Tyre Lodge #292 in 1953. Brother Braxton was enlisted in the Marines for 28 years after which he then served in Defense Logistics for 20 years and retired in 1980. In 2012, he was presented with the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Barak Obama. He has also been inducted in the Marine Corp Hall of Fame.

Grand Lodge Session for 2022 Agenda of Events

Monday, September 12, 2022
- 10:00 am Grand Lodge Office Set-Up
- 4:00 pm Prepare kits

Tuesday, September 13, 2022
- 8:00 am Prepare for Registration of the 146th Session

Wednesday, September 14, 2022
- 3:00 pm Registration & Credentials, close at 10 p.m.
- 7:00 pm **Prince Hall Day & Lodge of Sorrow**

Thursday, September 15, 2022
- 7:00 am Registration & Credentials, close at 5:00 p.m.
- 7:30 am Devotionals
- 8:30 am Ceremony of Opening
- 10:00 am Official Opening of Grand Lodge
- 11:30 am Presentation of MWGM Wilson
- 12:30 pm Grand Lodge called Off
- 1:30 pm Grand Lodge Called On
- 4:00 pm Grand Lodge Called Off
- 4:15 – 6:30 pm Committee meetings

Friday, September 16, 2022
- 7:00 am Registration & Credentials close at 8:30 a.m.
- 7:30 am Devotionals
- 8:30 am Grand Lodge Called On
- 8:30 am Final Credentials Report
- 9:25 am Grand Lodge called Off
- 9:30 am – 12:30 a.m. Voting & Lunch
- 12:30 pm Grand Lodge Called On
- 12:45 pm Reports
- 4:00 pm Grand Lodge Called Off
- 7:00 pm **Grand Lodge Annual Banquet**

Saturday, September 17, 2022
- 7:30 am Devotionals
- 8:30 am Grand Lodge Called On
- 9:00 am Results of Voting
- 9:15 am Unfinished Business
- 9:45 am Reception of Visitors from Sister Jurisdictions
- 10:00 am Reception of Appendant Bodies
- 12:00 pm Reception of the Knights of Pythagoras
- 1:00 pm Grand Lodge Called Off
- 1:45 pm Grand Chapter OES
- 3:45 pm Grand Lodge Called On & Installation of Officers
- 4:30 pm **Ceremony of Closing Grand Lodge**
- 7:00 pm **Grand Master Post Board Dinner Meeting**

Pictured left then Committee on Work members (now MWGM Donald S. Wilson & now RWDGM Beverly "Butch" Morgan) share words at the 2003 Richmond SOI and pictured right COW member (now MWGM) Donald S. Wilson receive questions at the 2003 Lawrenceville SOI.

The Annual Grand Master's Golf Tournament

Saturday, October 8, 2022 at The KISKIACK Golf Club, 8104 Club Dr., Williamsburg, Virginia 23188
$400 per team or $110 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 $20.
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

Pre-Registration Deadline October 4, 2022

A Tribute to Our Sisters of the Order of Eastern Star

"Of all forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhumane." – **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

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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