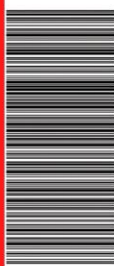


Masonic Digest

COMMITTED
TO
SERVICE



2021 - 2ND EDITION

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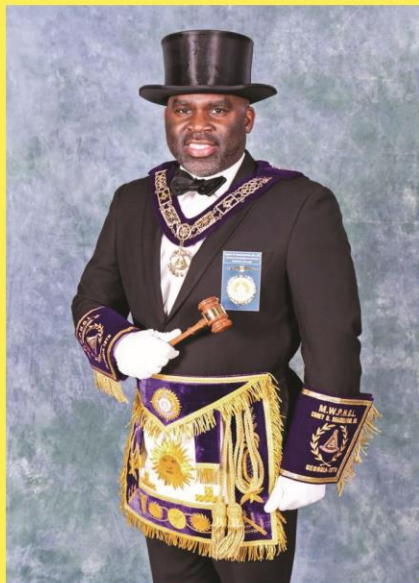
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GRAND EDITOR - PM BERTRAM THOMAS, JR. GRAND DIGITAL EDITOR - WM JAMES Q. LEACH GRAND COMMUNICATIONS EDITOR - WM MICHAEL JOHNSON

18TH MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER'S CORNER



Jurisdiction of Georgia,

I pray that this communication finds you in the best of health and spirits despite it all. Just know that we serve a mighty God whose grace and favor will always keep us covered. It reads in Thessalonians 5:16-18: Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything, give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

As we begin to transition back into some state of normalcy, it is still imperative that those of us who are not vaccinated need to look beyond themselves. This is a time for ALTRUISM to protect yourself, your family, your loved ones, and your masonic family as we begin to fellowship. I hope and pray that the souls we have lost due to COVID-19 and its variants within our membership, or your respective family do not go in vain. You have an opportunity to be a hero and save someone's life but more especially yours.

Effective October 1, 2021, all adopted, affiliated, and concordant bodies within the Jurisdiction of Georgia are hereby permitted to start ritualistic meetings. This includes degree work, anniversaries, banquets, etc., while adhering to the current CDC, State, and Local Covid protocols for safety concerns. Lodges and Chapters will have an option to continue Zoom meetings. You will vote prior to October 1 within your upcoming meetings to decide if you will continue to meet virtually or in-person for the remainder of the year. However, effective January 1, 2022, all lodges and chapters will meet ritualistically according to your By-Laws

Should your lodge or chapter decide to meet in person or virtually for the remainder of the year, the below parameters will apply:

In-Person: This is a one-time exception. If degree work is needed in December, it will be conducted during a meeting before your scheduled election. This proclamation serves as the dispensation to conduct degree work and five or more candidates (lodges). Worshipful Masters notify your DDGM prior to performing degree work in December; Worthy Matrons follow your normal process.

Virtual: Lodge or Chapter can continue business under the prescribed virtual meeting parameters in place. If your lodge or chapter is content with its current elected Officers with no objections from a member. Then no election is required, and the Officers will remain for 2022 with an approved audit. However, if there is an objection, the elections will be conducted in-person to ensure the integrity of the secret ballot. Notify your DDGM and DWM so that they can plan accordingly for either scenario

In closing, as seasons come and go, so should our renewal of love, understanding, and commitment to the greater good for our Jurisdiction, but more importantly, mankind. Again, THANK YOU to each of you that have stayed the course and weathered the storms. I leave you with this, "When you learn to celebrate others, God will elevate you. Seeds of celebration produces harvest of opportunity." So let us rejoice and give thanks to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords for allowing us to be part of the number at this appointed time.

Fraternally submitted,

Corey D. Shackelford, Sr., 33°

18th Most Worshipful Grand Master

The Conservator of Masons for the Jurisdiction of Georgia

18TH MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER'S CORNER



The BUT GOD Initiative



As of 9/1/2021

MWGM Corey D. Shackelford, Sr.

RWDGM Primus T. James

RWGSW Jonathan White

RWGJW Derwin Canty

Corey D. Shackelford, Jr.

Evan Shackelford

Brother L.M. Pierce

Brother Roger L. Smith

Brother Emeritus John Gilliam

Brother Emeritus J.B. King

Brother Michael Brannon

Brother Turvon Casey

Brother Reggie R. Walker

Brother Steve Williams

Atlanta Masonic District #3 West

Brother Anthony Brown

Brother Maurice Butler

Brother Alfred Cook

Brother Cesar A Rodriguez Guisao

Brother Charles George

Brother Demetris Hill

Brother Eric Jackson

Brother Gerald Howell

Brother Gregory Jackson

Brother Anthony Murray

Brother DeAndre Pickett

Brother Aaron L. Prater

Brother Cedric Rhodes

Brother Eric Scott

Brother James Summers

Brother James Swann

Brother Kendall McKnight

Brother Reginald McLane

Brother Kevin McKenzie

Brother Ronald Nealy

Brother Santonio Gleaton, Sr.

Brother Tommie King

Brother Torri Caldwell

Brother William Scurry

Brother Wendell Sims

Brother Joe Ward

Brother Joseph Wiltshire

H.R. Butler Lodge #23

Plymouth Rock Lodge #86

Foundation Lodge #592

Exodus Lodge #593

Truth & Union Lodge #594

Brother Gerald Adams

Brother Charles Bennett

Brother Marcus Cromartie

Brother Albert L. Culler

Brother Enos Garvin

Brother Maurice Gilbert

Brother Byron Jones Jr.

Brother Roderick Jones

Brother Madison Price

Brother Roderick Jones

Brother Charles George

Brother DeAndre Pickett

Brother Kendall McKnight

Brother Byron Jones Jr.

Brother Alfred L. Cook

Brother Chris Jourdan

Brother Lavoniah Sanders

Brother Titus Swint

Sister Vivian Pierce

Sister Ethel Gilliam

Sister Mable Ray

Sister Tina Delgado

Sister Doreatha Dukes

Sister Rosetta Parker Austin

Sister Jennifer Balance

Sister Michelle Banks

Sister Natalie Brown

Sister April Howell

Sister Chiquita Williams

Sister Regina Hill

Sister Ella M. Rhodes

Sister Ikisha Heard

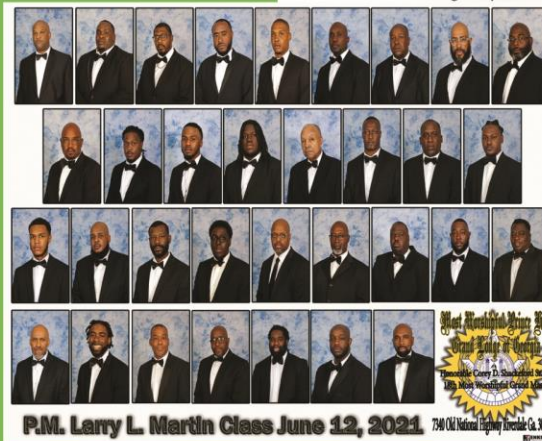
JURISDICTIONAL RAISING

Contributed by
WORSHIPFUL MASTER JAMES RUSSELL
 Truth & Union Lodge #594

On the morning of June 12, 2021, 33 new candidates were introduced to the mystic art of freemasonry under the umbrella of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia, Prince Hall Affiliated, led by our 18th Most Worshipful Grand Master Co, Honorable Corey D. Shackelford Sr., 33°. That Saturday morning was surreal. All the hard work that proceeded that day hinged on the acting Worshipful Master, advising the brothers present to move to dress as Master Masons. It had been months since many of us had put on our regalia along with aprons & gloves. Just putting on our aprons and gloves was something that overwhelmed many of the brothers present.

Keep in mind that a lot of practice went into executing the Master Mason degree that Saturday, as the degree team practiced for many weeks before the raising. This team consisted of various Worshipful Masters & lodges. W. C. Thomas Lodge 112 supplied a group of brothers who would act out an integral portion of the degree. This arduous endeavor would not have occurred had it not been for the efforts of the Grand Senior Warden, Jonathan S. White, who ensured that we understood the importance of safety and the significance of the occasion. Brother Lamar Jackson, Worshipful Master of W.C. Thomas Lodge No. 112 and acting Worshipful Master of the day, called us all to order to raise new Master Masons in due form at 9 am. The opening was book crisp, with every officer executing their part with poise & precision. Everything about the degree work was excellent and made me want to immerse myself in my ritual. To see the full Master Mason degree worked in its complete entirety was a treat. Whenever degree work is done to precision with the proper inflections in the dialogues between the Master & the various officers, a memorable experience is created. This was the case at a particular point of the degree work when Brother Patrick Cook, the Worshipful Master of True Level Lodge No. 595, raised his son to the sublime degree of Master Mason. As Worshipful Master Cook explained to his son the nuances of the degree, all in that room could feel the spirits of our ancestors moving about the room. I have never heard the nuances of the degree delivered with such passion & intensity. I could feel my granddaddy in the room with us. I know Worshipful Master Cook and his son had to feel their forefathers standing with them.

To coin a phrase from our own 18th Most Worshipful Grand Master..." but God." That was what was in the Grand East on June 12, 2021. Recognition goes to all the officers who participated in the raising. Recognition also goes to the healing team who led the Entered Apprentice & Fellowcraft degrees while the opening took place in an adjacent room. They assisted so that the jurisdiction could welcome three new brothers from non-Prince Hall affiliated bodies to our fold. And in conclusion, kudos go to our Grand Senior Warden for guiding the degree team to excellence and our Grand Master for having the vision to make this phenomenal event happen.



JURISDICTIONAL RAISING

Contributed by
DDGM MARVIN J. NUNNALLY
MWP HGLGA

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JURISDICTIONAL RAISING:

Athens District No. 6's Past District Deputy Grand Master Homer Wilson witnessed his son Hanif Wilson's masonic raising on June 12, 2021, at Grand Lodge in Riverdale. Past District Deputy Grand Master Wilson passed on a third-generation family ring given to him at his raising at Lincoln Lodge No. 62 from his father, Past Master M. C. Wilson. Brother Hanif Wilson is a member of Savannah's Eureka Lodge No. 1.



GRAND WORTHY MATRON'S CORNER



“

“SWEET”

SERVING
WITH
ENTHUSIASM,
ENERGY, &
TALENT



From the 16th Desk of the Grand Worthy Matron
Deidra P. Wilson

WHO ARE WE?



Prince Hall Grand Chapter Foundation Order of the Eastern Star is a Non-Profit service organization. We provide service to communities across the state of Georgia. On Tuesday, August 29, 1899, eighteen representatives from nine of the thirteen original Eastern Star Chapters in Georgia met in Savannah for the purpose of organizing themselves into a Grand Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star for the State of Georgia. We were organized to provide charity, love and kindness, and sisterhood. During our 123 years of service to humanity, the Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star for Georgia and Jurisdiction, through its members, have taken an active part in every worthwhile endeavor that tended to elevate mankind to higher heights.

"Our past has been a long and glorious one and our future promises to be even brighter."

WHAT WE DO?



Through our Foundation, we provide scholarships each year to high school graduates desiring to continue to a higher institute of learning. We follow those same students throughout their college years along with others and provide care packages, gift cards, and guidance. Gift cards are also given as seasonal gifts of appreciation for schools and recreation centers. Our Foundation have created youth development programs that benefit all levels of education. The students that are dedicated to the program have been provided educational trips, mentoring, leadership workshops, network gatherings and community service projects. The young ladies of the program who completes at least three consecutive years have an opportunity to join our adult Prince Hall Organization once they have graduated high school. Many of the young ladies have given back through their knowledge, time, and dedication to the young people of the program.



A GRAND PATRON'S TRIBUTE

Contributed by
GRAND WORTHY PATRON CECIL JAMES, 33°
MAYHELDGA

As we soldier forward in this new post-Pandemic world, which we hope isn't our new normal, we pause to remember those who have left an indelible stamp upon this Fraternity which brings us so much joy. As Grand Worthy Patron, I have been blessed to have been backed by three very honorable gentlemen who have excelled in this position before me. The distressing point about this is having lost all three of them during that same tenure. Brother Aaron Kent passed away during my first year. We have recently been devastated by the loss of both Brother Marvin Knight, 33°, and Brother Sam McDonald within two months of one another. The measure of a man's greatness must include the people he served. Past Grand Worthy Patron, Brother Aaron Kent, "Rabbit" as his friends called him, was admired for being approachable, fair, and quick with a smile and joke. He was well-loved and will truly be missed by our membership.

When a man loved his craft and people so much that he willingly and regularly sacrificed to ensure its well-being, we must think of Past Grand Worthy Patron, Brother Marvin Knight. He and I were more like brothers than colleagues. His quick smile was genuine, and his heart was pure. His knowledge of the Order of the Eastern Star benefitted this Jurisdiction in ways that cannot be measured. It is impressive how he remained humble as Grand Worthy Patron, similar to when he served with me as a Grand Trustee for the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. He was one of my most enthusiastic cheerleaders when I ascended to the Grand Worthy Patron position. There were times when I questioned myself, only to find his reassurance putting me back on the right path. We talked and laughed quite often and shared meals and travel times. He and his wife Pauline became indispensable to my family and me. I don't know of anyone who would travel over a hundred miles after ten o'clock at night to console my family. This loving couple together as a team made it possible for him to give this Jurisdiction and Savannah District No. 1 his very best during his six-year tenure as Grand Worthy Patron. When your life leaves people in awe of your talent, you must think of Past Grand Worthy Patron, Brother Sam McDonald. He was a walking encyclopedia of knowledge and always taught and listened to the brothers and sisters in our Prince Hall family throughout the United States. This knowledge and constant study came from his experience being a Worshipful Master of H.R. Butler Lodge No. 23 and Past Grand Lecturer of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia. Past Grand Worthy Patron McDonald carried himself with an air of humble dignity. I was always impressed with his coolness and easygoing manner that automatically made members congregate around him. A glowing presence whenever he came to the podium, never failing to pass notable words referring to the good of the Order. If anything can be said of Brother McDonald's legacy, it must be noted that he stood for what he believed in with no reservations. If Past Grand Worthy Patron McDonald told you something, he could reference where he read it and put his total weight behind it. He stood his ground when he felt he was in the right. It was one of his many admirable qualities I got to witness firsthand. His desire to teach also extended to his personal time. I have never had a phone conversation or visitation with Brother McDonald that did not include some form of teaching or advice. He had no downtime when it came to his love for Prince Hall Freemasonry and the Order of the Eastern Star.

I want to express prayers of unwavering love to each of these blessed Brothers who brought so much to the Georgia Jurisdiction. The wisdom of our Heavenly Father has brought them all by his throne.



CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

Contributed by
GRAND WORTHY PATRON CECIL JAMES, 33°
MWP HGLGA

On June 19, 2021, Juneteenth, A special day in Black history, was celebrated with parades and festivities across the United States. Recognizing the importance of this occasion, the 18th Most Worshipful Grand Master, Honorable Corey D. Shackelford Sr., 33°, delegated efforts to show our jurisdiction's support for Juneteenth through our participation in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) parade in East Point, Georgia in full regalia and pageantry. Grand Matron Deidra Parks Wilson inspired a small team to assist me in preparing parade floats for the Grand OES team and Grand Youth King and Queen. Those who answered the call were: Sister Rosa Weston, District Matron for Atlanta Masonic District No. 3 West, Brother Bernard Nelson, District Patron for Waycross District, Sister Melanie Edwards, Past Matron of Star of Georgia Chapter No. 378, and Sister Tracy Provitt, also of Star of Georgia Chapter No. 378. They all worked tirelessly to produce three beautiful floats to transport members on the parade route in Atlanta, Georgia. The event was a tremendous success. All the Sisters and Brothers looked amazing in their regaled black and white, walking along the route, waving at the crowd, riding in painstakingly prepared floats, and offering genuine smiles of joy. We did have some rain, but this did not deter our Grand Master, Brothers, and Sisters from walking the parade route alongside the many floats. Grand Master Corey D. Shackelford Sr. led the processional while in the rain with the rest of the participants. Our Grand Matron was the picture of beauty as she dazzled the crowd with her smile and waved as she rode in her specially prepared Porsche automobile. While looking back at the membership along the route, it was easy to see how much they enjoyed themselves.

A special thank you goes to Grand Senior Warden, Brother Jonathan White. He spearheaded the event for our team, provided helpful advice and guidance, and ensured everything went off without a hitch. We cannot thank him enough. Our Grand OES Queen, Sister Takevia Sawyer, was exceptionally beautiful. She had her float and accompanied the OES Grand Youth Queen, Kennedy Sanders, and Grand Youth King, Jason Pham. Much appreciation to Brother Aldric Little, Director of the Knights of Pythagoras, for lending his trailer and towing the Grand OES Queen and her entourage in the Parade. We also give thanks to Brother Charles Starke, Worthy Patron of Star of Georgia Chapter No. 378, and another Brother for towing the floats that were adorned by our beautiful OES Grand Team, Grand Associate Matron, Sister Sandra Parks, Grand Associate Conductress, Sister Sally Mills, Grand Treasurer, Sister Kathi Henson, Grand Secretary, Sister Theresa Hill, Grand Chairman of Trustees, Sister Yvette Love Lee, and our wonderful Grand Chaplain, Sister Darylene Rood-Allen. All had an enriching time. The smiles were everywhere as we commemorated the observance of an event that history has pushed to the side until wiser heads brought it to the forefront. We must also applaud the local NAACP chapter for their invitation to participate in such a historic experience.



TRENDS OF LEADERSHIP

Contributed by
PAST MASTER DAVE GILLARM
 Office of the Grand Historian, MWPGLGA

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of researching our Grand Lodge history. While researching numerous items, I found several "trends" regarding our early Grand Lodge leadership. From 1866 when the first lodge appeared in Georgia, until around the early 1900s, it seems that our leadership was heavily dominated by men who were also prominent figures in their respective churches. After this "phase" ended, it seems to have been replaced with the "Rise of the Professionals" era after the election of Past Grand Master Henry Rutherford Butler Sr. While noticing that this shift was significant to our Grand Lodge history, I reached out to Past Master Sean Daniels of New Era Lodge No. 107 to as if he would like to collaborate with me on an article highlighting this period of our history. Just as Past Grand Master Butler was a medical doctor, we will highlight the lives of two very prominent medical professionals from the early 1900s.

Dr. George N. Stoney was born to Edward P. and Mary Ellen Stoney in Aiken, South Carolina, on October 18, 1865. Edward Stoney was born to a white Charleston slave-owner and slave mother. He was granted his freedom in 1845 at the age of five and apprenticed as a tailor. He moved to Aiken just before the Civil War, and when Aiken County was formed in 1871, he served as the first chief of the Aiken County Commission. For his early educational years, George N. Stoney attended public schools in Charleston, South Carolina, and graduated in 1884 from Avery Normal Institute, focusing on normal and classical courses. He attended Howard University Medical College, sessions 17 to 19, 1884-7, and graduated with an M.D. in 1887. In the Autumn of that year, Dr. Stoney began practicing medicine in Augusta, Georgia and was the only man of color to do so at that time. His other accomplishments include: First Lieutenant in The Spanish American War; collaborated with Dr. Walter Reed on Medical Journals; helped organize Lamar Hospital, the hospital for blacks in Augusta, Georgia; A Building named in his honor that housed Lamar School of Nursing for Black Nurses; served on the Board of Directors for Penny Savings Bank, a Black-owned Bank in Augusta; part-owner of the Lenox Theater in Augusta, Georgia, the finest theater for Blacks in Augusta; elected President of the State Convention of Colored Physicians in 1909; and Worshipful Master of New Era Lodge No 107 from 1919-1920. During his tenure as Worshipful Master, he was responsible for New Era Lodge being highlighted as a lodge of prosperity in the early 1900s due to his diligent work throughout the jurisdiction. He was one of the most influential members of his lodge and was known as one of the ablest Masons in the jurisdiction while his lodge rose to lofty heights of usefulness in the city and state. After his tenure as Worshipful Master, he served as a District Grand Master. Dr. Stoney died in 1926 and left traceable footsteps of his legacy. The soldier, scholar, physician, and activist shall not be forgotten or neglected, and we as men should demean ourselves before we can achieve the status of being a mason like Dr. Stoney. Question: Would you follow a man like Dr. George N. Stoney, M.D.?

Brother and Dr. Edwin Jesse Turner Sr. was born on July 25, 1876, in Meridian, Mississippi. A vast portion of his early childhood is unknown, but his grandchildren stated that they believed that he grew up impoverished in an interview. Dr. Turner was inspired to become a doctor at a very young age. According to his son, Dr. Benner Creswell Turner, one day, a young Edwin Turner met a group of doctors on their way to a convention, and the doctors were immediately impressed with him. They told him that they would take him to the city as a joke, but Edwin took them very seriously. After the convention, he met with them with a pressed shirt in one hand and a watermelon in the other. The doctors agreed to assist him with his journey to become one of Georgia's most respected medical doctors during his lifetime.

Brother Turner attended Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia, where he studied pharmacy. He was so poor that he used his classmates' books to study while they were sleeping. After graduating from Clark College, he attended medical school in New Orleans, graduating with an M.D. in 1912. Dr. Turner would later move to Columbus, Georgia, where he would spend the remainder of his life.

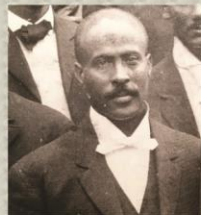
Dr. E.J. Turner was instrumental in establishing the "Colored Department" of the City Hospital with Dr. Manly L. Taylor, who would later go on to become the Acting Grand Master in December 1931 after the death of Grand Master H.R. Butler Sr. He also helped to form the Columbus Medical Association of Colored Physicians and Surgeons on June 9, 1922 and became its first President. Dr. Turner believed in helping his race in any way possible. His son stated that he refused to turn a person away who could not afford his services, and on many occasions, he would give free medicine to those who could not afford it.

In addition to Brother Turner was a member of Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 53 in Columbus, Georgia, he also served as Grand Medical Register of the Knights of Pythias and Grand Chief Mentor (equivalent to the office of Grand Master) of the International Order of Twelve, Knights and Daughters of Tabor. He was also heavily involved in politics and was elected delegate to the National Republican Convention on several occasions.

Dr. Turner possessed a vast amount of integrity and personal courage. His courage was tested during the summer of 1912 when a young black male named T.Z. McElhenny was lynched. T.Z. was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter instead of murder, which the crowd anticipated. As he was exiting the court, a group under the "protection" of 25 men under the protection of the local police abducted him and took him to the Wynton area to lynch him. Dr. Turner happened to be standing outside when the trolley car passed by his residence and saw T.Z. being stabbed and heard him crying out for his mother. Brother Turner immediately grabbed his son Benner C. Turner and a couple of other friends to chase down the trolley car to save T.Z. Unfortunately, by the time Brother Turner arrived, T.Z. had already been killed. Brother Turner knew that he would be putting his own life at risk trying to save this young man, but he still made a valiant effort to save his life.

On July 16, 1932, Brother Turner passed away and was buried next to his wife Leila in Porterdale Cemetery, Columbus, GA.

In conclusion, these are just two stories involving two brothers who were medical doctors and leaders in their communities and fraternal organizations. There are numerous instances of brothers all over the state, during the tenure of Grand Master H.R. Butler, who were medical professionals and leaders in their lodge and our Grand Lodge. Brother George Stoney and Brother Edwin Turner are just two examples of Georgia Prince Hall Masons' accomplishing outstanding feats throughout the years.



Dr. Edwin J. Turner

MORRIS BROWN - CONTRACT EXTENSION

Contributed by
KEVIN JAMES, PRESIDENT
Morris Brown College



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KEVIN JAMES RECEIVES CONTRACT EXTENSION AS PRESIDENT OF MORRIS BROWN COLLEGE

ATLANTA (July, 2021) – Dr. Kevin James, the 19th president of Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia has had his contract extended through June 2025. Dr. James has led Morris Brown since March 2019.

Reginald Jackson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Bishop of the 6th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church said, "We've made tremendous progress within the past two years under Dr. Kevin James' leadership. We are elated about accreditation candidacy and making history. Dr. James led Morris Brown College to become the first HBCU to accreditation candidacy status after a 20-year hiatus. Moreover, Dr. James has hosted some of the most successful fundraising events in the past 20 years. Overall, giving is up and the momentum under this administration is like none we have seen in recent history. The revitalization of the institution's academic programs and student services, including new programs in Global Management & Applied Leadership, E-Sports Performance, and Hospitality Management, will place the next generation of students as global competitors. The accreditation candidacy comes on the heels of a rewarding partnership led by Dr. James between CGI Merchant Group, LLC, and Hilton Hotel. It will make a \$30 million investment in MBC to convert existing facilities into a 150-key upscale Hilton hotel and hospitality management training complex. Moreover, Dr. James led an outstanding partnership agreement with Chick-fil-A, which will place our hospitality program in position to lead."



Additionally, Chairman Jackson stated, with the extension of Dr. James employment contract as president, we are conveying our belief in his outstanding leadership through what he calls, The Hard Reset. It is our desire to promote the long-term stability of Morris Brown College by extending this contract. We believe that by stabilizing our leader, it will lead to full accreditation, recruit other senior leaders and faculty, continue a phenomenal relationship with the alumni, the business community, the philanthropic community, along with building relationships with elected officials and policymakers at both the state and federal level.

This MBC Board of Trustees realizes it is making a valuable investment by stabilizing our CEO. Dr. Kevin James was named College President of the Year by the Georgia Greater Black Chamber of Commerce and one of Atlanta's Most Powerful Leaders by Atlanta Magazine in 2021. Additionally, he received the 4 Brighter Futures Foundation, Inc. Chairman Award, and Morris Brown College was named Top 10 Smaller HBCU that is Rising #4 by the HBCU Campaign Fund. Moreover, he was selected and completed the Higher Education Leadership Foundation/United Negro College Fund Presidential Leadership Institute in 2021.

A native of Columbia, S.C., Dr. James attended South Carolina State University and earned his bachelor's degree in Communication Disorders and Social Sciences from Winthrop University; a master's degree in Business Management, Leadership, and Organizational Effectiveness from Troy State University; and a

Doctor of Education degree in Higher Education Leadership from Nova Southeastern University. He is also a graduate of the Higher Education Institute at Harvard University.

To learn more about Morris Brown College, visit morrisbrown.edu.

ABOUT MORRIS BROWN COLLEGE:

Morris Brown College was founded in 1881 by the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is a private, coeducational liberal arts college engaged in teaching and public service with a special focus on leadership, management, entrepreneurship, and technology. The institution is the only college in Georgia founded solely by African American patronage.

MORRIS BROWN COLLEGE

EXCELLENCE WITHOUT EXCUSES

Contributed by
DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER MARVIN J. NUNNALLY
Athens, District #6

The Athens Masonic District No. 6 has been on the offensive with community service, voter registration, and leadership training since the beginning of COVID-19. Our theme is "Excellence Without Excuses." We set up a mechanism introducing food bank distributions, Voter Education-Participation, community prayer conference calls, COVID-19 testing, and vaccination.

Food Bank Distributions - "Since early 2020, District 6 has fed over 125,000 individuals with food drives in our 19-county service area and the Riverdale-South Fulton community," District Deputy Grand Master Marvin J. Nunnally said. "Our initial goal was to feed 5,000 as a spinoff of the parable of Jesus feeding 5,000 with five loaves of bread and two fish. The need was so great, and community partners gladly joined our efforts." Some of our partners include the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, Athens Alumni National Pan-Hellenic Council, the In Touch Management Group Youth Academy, Bethel Baptist Church, Rock Hill Baptist Church, Oconee County Sheriff Department, the Gainesville Food Bank, the Gainesville St. Johns Baptist Church, Oconee County Board of Commissioner, the City of Watkinsville, the Madison-Morgan County Food Pantry, the Athens Area Human Relations Council, the Oconee Rotary Club, the Oconee County Board of Education, the Unity in the Community Committee, the Barrow County Cooperative Benevolence Ministry, the Gainesville Sunshine Seniors Club, Royston Grove Baptist Church, Brown Chapel Baptist Church, East Athens Development Council, Clarke County School District, the 100 Percenters Men's Club, Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Al-Karim Shrine No. 242, Georgia Farm Bureau, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., University of Georgia, Mission Acts of Kindness, Oglethorpe County St. Johns Church, Crown Victoria Car Club, and others.

Voter Education, Registration, and Participation - Before the most recent elections, District 6 held Voter Registration Drives at each food distribution, community zoom calls, and area rallies. We registered over 500 individuals in our 19-county service area. We had several public "Get-Out-the-Vote" demonstrations. We worked with absentee balloting, early voting and provided rides on the day of each election.

COVID-19 Education, Testing, and Vaccinations - While COVID-19 may have slowed down life for most, Athens District No. 6 seized this as an opportunity to educate the community on the severity of the disease. Initially, we hosted a zoom town hall, "Dispelling Myths Surrounding the COVID-19 Vaccination," on Wednesday, March 10, 2020. Our panel included Dr. Cynthia Sheppard with the Athens University Cancer and Blood Center, Brother Dr. Maurice Gilbert with A&M Anesthesia Services, LLC, Rev. Kevin J. Daniel of Bethel Baptist Church, and Prince Hall Grand Lodge Most Worshipful Grand Master Corey D. Shackelford. DDGM Marvin J. Nunnally moderated the forum with over 2,500 viewers. On Saturday, March 13, and April 3, we vaccinated 325 people at the Bethel Baptist Church. On April 17 and May 8, District 6 and the University Center vaccinated 750 people at a second vaccination with the City of Watkinsville and Oconee County government. We had over 100 volunteers at each of the vaccinations. "We appreciated the organization and energy that Marvin and the Masonic Order displayed in servicing our community," said University Cancer and Blood Center's Dr. Sheppard.

Community Prayer Zoom Conference Call - District No. 6 started its Community Prayer Conference Call in April 2020, and it continues a bi-weekly basis with an average of 60-75 participants per week. This platform is open to the community while leading by District No. 6. This allows us to host bi-weekly community leaders, soloists, Prince Hall leadership from Georgia, California, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Nevada, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Ohio, etc. COVID-19 ran rampant throughout the district, and we offer prayer for those touched by it and devotion for life's challenges.

Continued Leadership Development - Our District has participated in all Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter training. On June 26, 2021, we held a Strategic Planning Retreat for District officers, Worshipful Masters, Worthy Matrons, and Worthy Patrons at Lake Sinclair hosted by Augusta District Deputy Grand Master Rick Taylor. We now have begun Phase two of the Strategic Retreat with individual lodges and chapters lead by Grand Worthy Matron Deidra Wilson, Associate Grand Worthy Matron Saundra Parks, Grand Lecturer Kisha West, Grand Master Corey D. Shackelford, Sr., Grand Senior Warden Jonathan White, and District Deputy Grand Master Marvin J. Nunnally. All ten lodges and eight chapters should be certified by September 1, 2021. We look forward to the Prince Hall Weekend in October 2021 and Mid-Year in February 2022.

Athens District No. 6 is led by Marvin J. Nunnally, District Deputy Grand Master, Lynn E. Hill, Assistant District Deputy Grand Master, Emma Johnson, District Worthy Matron, and Michael Middlebrooks, District Worthy Patron. Our lodges include Watkinsville No. 21, Tuscan No. 38, Lincoln No. 62, Shiloh No. 63, Widow's Son No. 66, Greensboro No. 223, Madison Son No. 209, Buckhead No. 213, Bowman No. 261, and Star of Mt. Zion No. 370. Our Order of Eastern Star Chapters are Athens No. 9, Star of Amaranth No. 15, Shiloh Academy No. 50, Zenith No. 92, Madison No. 165, Zebulon No. 166, Mt. Zion No. 207, and Greensboro No. 325.



BLOOD DRIVE SPONSORSHIP

Contributed by
WORSHIPFUL MASTER CHRISTIAN BROWN
 Pride of Lumpkin Lodge #50

With February being the month of LOVE, the brother of the MIGHTY 50, Pride of Lumpkin Lodge No. 50, partnered with Life South, along with other community workers, and sponsored a Blood Drive on February 13, 2021. The lodge hosted the event at a central location in the heart of Lumpkin, Georgia. The men solicited volunteers to give blood and fed every individual who passed by within the community. Although the weather was cloudy, the rain held off, and the participation was terrific. The (MIGHTY 50), Pride of Lumpkin Lodge #50, is truly making its mark in this rural Georgia community.

The Worshipful Master Christian Brown has created a Trestle board of meaningful events to take place in this very much needed community. The lodge is currently soliciting donations to prepare to award scholarships to deserving area graduating high school students. The MIGHTY 50 is creating space to impact the youth of this community by donating mentoring hours in the local school system under its current superintendent. "Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul full of love." Dr. Martin L. King Jr., The Pride of Lumpkin #50, loves their community.



Men of the Pride of Lumpkin #50 (from left to right in royal blue sweatshirts) SW Kelvin Nolen, WM Christian Brown Sec Charles Williams, JW Joseph Ladner, IV and JD Jake Golden, IV



ENGAGED IN THE COMMUNITY

Contributed by
JUNIOR WARDEN JAMAHL CARMACK SR.
Plymouth Rock Lodge #86

Juneteenth Celebration of Freedom Parade

Plymouth Rock Lodge No. 86 kicked off their 3rd quarter community service and events by participating in the East Point Juneteenth Parade and Celebration of Freedom. This event was held on Saturday, June 19, 2021, in East Point, GA. The parade was hosted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). We assembled at First Mallalieu United Methodist Church in East Point, Georgia. In attendance were Worshipful Master Porter Denson, Senior Warden Wendell Sims, Junior Warden Jamahl Carmack Sr., Treasurer Past Master John Hanson, Secretary Past Master John Hearn, Past Master Curtis Jenkins, and several brothers of our lodge. Plymouth Rock Lodge No. 86 donated two floats for the parade: one float to the Atlanta Masonic District No. 3 West and one float to Arena Chapter No. 29, which provided seating for our elderly sisters unable to walk in the parade. Our floats were driven by our very own PM John Hearn and Brother Schley Devereux Sr. of Plymouth Rock No. 86. Plymouth Rock Lodge No. 86 also hosted a giveaway at the parade, spearheaded by Senior Warden Brother Wendell Sims, supporting our annual scholarship fund. This scholarship is awarded annually to graduating high school seniors that have been accepted to a college or university.

Plymouth Rock Lodge No. 86 Community Engagement

With more work to be done this quarter, our Worshipful Master Porter Denson said, "I want to do something in the community to help regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic". This task was assigned to our Junior Warden, Jamahl Carmack Sr., who organized a COVID-19 vaccination drive held on Saturday, July 10, 2021, from 9 am - 5 pm at The Berkley Building in Riverdale, Georgia. Brother Carmack partnered with Melissa Pauline, Owner/CEO of Rejuvenate U Wellness Clinic, and Rhonda Haynes, owner of The Berkley Building & Owner/CEO of City Limits Reality in Riverdale, Georgia. Plymouth Rock Lodge #86 barbecued during the vaccination drive and provided free lunch and drinks to people who received the COVID-19 vaccination. Plymouth Rock #86, in conjunction with Rejuvenate U Wellness Clinic and City Limits Reality, plan to hold its second vaccination drive at the Berkley Building on August 21, 2021, from 9 am - 5 pm. This drive is to provide the second dose of the vaccination and the first dose to some attendees. Melissa Pauline and staff attended this event, Rhonda Haynes, Worshipful Master Porter Denson, Senior Warden Wendell Sims, Junior Warden Jamahl Carmack Sr., Treasurer John Hanson, Secretary John Hearn, and Past Master Curtis Jenkins.

Giving back to our Brave Soldiers -

Our efforts in serving our community continued when Senior Warden Wendell Sims of Plymouth Rock Lodge #86 put together an event to feed our soldiers at the USO. This event was held at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport on July 24, 2021, from 9 am - 6 pm. Plymouth Rock Lodge No. 86 and the sisters of Arena Chapter No. 29 greeted the soldiers as they arrived in Atlanta and directed them to the USO area, where we served approximately 80 soldiers' food and beverages. In attendance at this event were Worshipful Master Porter Denson, Senior Warden Wendell Sims, Junior Warden Jamahl Carmack Sr., Brother Schley Devereux Sr., and the sisters of Arena Chapter No. 29.

Drive-through Back2School

Worshipful Master Porter Denson of Plymouth Rock Lodge No. 86 partnered with The Scream Foundation and Radio Station 105.3 FM "The Beat" to provide a drive-through back-to-school supply drive. Plymouth Rock Lodge #86 donated \$300 to the Scream Foundation to assist children with needed school supplies for the 2021-2022 school year. In attendance were Worshipful Master Porter Denson, Senior Warden Wendell Sims, Past Master Curtis Jenkins, Past Master Gerald Adams, and Past Master John Hanson.



THE TRUTH & UNION TRAIN

Contributed by
WORSHIPFUL MASTER JASON RUSSELL
 Truth & Union Lodge #594

Action News is reporting on Gwinnett County activities on July 24, 2021. There is always something going on across the creek. Several days ago, we found the Truth and Union family moving around Gwinnett County. They stopped first to participate in a local NAACP function with other predominantly black organizations to discuss unifying our agendas to make a more significant impact within our community across the creek.

Then we followed the Truth and Union train to Homewood Suites off Highway 78 in Snellville. There we saw Truth and Union Chapter No. 590 and Truth and Union Lodge No. 594 passing book bags with school supplies along with food to those in need. As always, the family brought love and smiles to those who needed it. The best part of the experience occurred when one young man told his mother, "Look what they gave me."

Great job by the Truth and Union family as always for doing what they do best: showing love because love is everything. The family has more in store, and if you don't hear from us, it's not because nothing is happening; it's because we are busy showing love to the community.

Action news, signing off!



REMAINING THAT BEACON THAT SHINES

Contributed by
BROTHER TYRONE BLACWELL
Gate City Lodge #42

"Inaction breeds doubt and fear. Action breeds confidence and courage. If you want to conquer fear, do not sit home and think about it. Go out and get busy." – Dale Carnegie

Amid current events, one can stay hidden in hopes that the world around them will return to normal or become a catalyst of change and inspire others to step out of the comforts of their lives and become a part of a vision to make things better. You can either accept or ignore the call resounding throughout the world. The Brothers of Gate City Lodge No. 42 heed such a summons, and as a unified front, we confront the challenges that come forth to assist in improving the community.

Despite the issues surrounding us, Gate City Lodge No. 42 continues to be that beacon that shines through the storm. With proper planning and thought-out execution, Brothers continue to hold that Standard high. From cleaning up the neighboring streets of downtown Atlanta to assisting in delivering much-needed food to those affected by the world shutting down, Gate City Lodge No. 42 goes forth to be that shining example.

It has been said that the chain is only as strong as its weakest link. In efforts to uplift one another as a Lodge, we constantly communicate with our members to check-in and offer aid when needed. We provide virtual discussions to provide more resources to strengthen the brotherhood. The Brothers of Gate City Lodge No. 42 stand with the mindset of accomplishing our goals and enjoy the fruits of our labors.

When the world around us crumbles, it is only natural to find shelter; but courage is the ability to persevere in the face of fear. If we consider ourselves the examples of the best in men, we must continue to be that helping hand. Even as the darkness slowly encompassing us, the Brothers of Gate City Lodge No. 42 hold fast to our purpose and remain that beacon that shines brightly through the storm.



Brotherly and Neighborly Love! Delivering food with Big Bethel A.M.E. Church



Brother and Sisters enjoying the Joint Cookout in Rex, Georgia



"WE ARE THE STANDARD"



For the City! Brothers of Gate City Lodge #42 and the Sisters of Gate City Chapter #48 attending the homegoing services of Brother C.T. Martin



Brothers and Members of the Ralph Kemp, Sr K.O.P at the 2021 Juneteenth Parade in Downtown Atlanta.

THE HILTONIA COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Contributed by
PAST MASTER EZRA LADLER, SR.
Light of Hiltonia Lodge #433

The Book of Isaiah 58:10-12 reminds us to feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Upon doing so, then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the night around you will be as bright as Noon. The 11th Chapter of Isaiah reminds us that the LORD will continually guide you by giving water when you are thirsty and restoring your strength in the end. Observing that times have been hard for our community throughout this horrible covid-19 pandemic, the brothers of Light of Hiltonia #433 have maintained the Hiltonia Community Food Bank in the town of Hiltonia, Georgia, for the last 18 months. The Lodge held fundraisers and received donations from local churches, community members, and the craft to keep the shelves of the food pantry full of food essentials items for the town and surrounding areas. The Lodge recently received an honorable mention for their entry in the "Cardboard Box Tractor" canned good Food Drive. For our efforts, we received more than 500 canned goods to add to our pantry for future food drive initiatives. The Brothers of Light of Hiltonia No. 433 honored Mrs. Belinda Waters of the Screven County Library for overseeing the efforts and worthiness of such a magnificent, canned food drive. Donations were done in conjunction with "The Cardboard Box Tractor Canned Good Drive community project." With full support coming

from the craft of Light of Hiltonia #433 brothers, the Town of Hiltonia expressed its thanks and gratitude to all who gave their time, money, and food to help support this vital program. For their commitment to this much-needed community initiative, the Light of Hiltonia Lodge #433 rendered a special thanks to Mayor Bobby Mobley, Councilwoman Shirley Walker, and City Clerk Shannon Moore, who represented the Hiltonia Community for all their support for the needy citizens in the community. The following Light of Hiltonia No. 433 brothers was instrumental in maintaining the Food Pantry: Worshipful Master Michael Little, Senior Warden Ray Givens, Junior Warden Curtis Stewart, Past Master Robert F. Johnson, ADDGM Robert Hale, Jr., and Past Master Ezra Ladler, Sr. Their efforts and activism will not go unnoticed. Soon, be on the watch for more community initiatives and volunteer services from the "Bright" Lights representing the incredible men from the Light of Hiltonia No. 43.

PM Ladler & JW Curtis Stewart



SHARING THE LEGACY

Contributed by
BROTHER DR. CHARLES J. SMITH, SR.
Gough Lodge #419

Historically, Gough Lodge No. 419 has served as a beacon of hope for the craft in Millen District No. 16. Over the years, Gough Lodge No. 419, located in rural Burke County, has had the privilege of having one of their own, Past District Deputy Grand Master Leroy Daniels, to serve as the Millen District No. 16 District Deputy Grand Master. Past District Deputy Grand Master Daniels has held numerous positions, including Secretary and Worshipful Master of Gough Lodge No. 419. Other notable District Deputy Grand Masters from Gough Lodge include Brother Elbert Reed. Due to Covid-19 and other illnesses, Gough Lodge suffered the loss of Past Master Rev. Dr. Jerry J. Smith and Brother Sam Holloway. Their contributions and service to the Millen District and Gough Lodge have been impeccable.

During the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic crisis, the brothers of Gough Lodge No. 419 were pleased to congratulate their 2020 Honorees. Recently honored were three of the lodge's most dedicated and outstanding members: Past Master Willis Walker, Gold Card and Treasurer Brother Obediah "Big O" Lewis; and the Secretary Brother Dr. Charles J. Smith, Sr. In his capacity as the lodge Secretary, Bro. Smith was credited with improving the quality of the Grand Lodge reports and records. Moreover, he chaired a major fundraiser, which generated a substantial increase in revenue for the lodge. For their "outstanding dedication" and work in Gough Lodge No. 419 and Freemasonry, these brothers exhibited high ideals and principles of being outstanding Prince Hall Master Masons. While lodges across the jurisdiction were having trouble maintaining stability and dealing with pandemic crisis issues, Gough Lodge leadership devised an action plan to help the lodge function more efficiently. Through it all, these dedicated officers at Gough carried out their elected duties in grand style.

With Gough Lodge No. 419 being founded over 105 years ago, there is a rich history behind its dedicated members' legacy. Per interviews held with several Past Masters and members of the lodge, one of its former Worshipful Masters and Past Master, Brother Edward Gardner, shared his experience and contributions to the craft of Gough Lodge No. 419. Past Master Edward Gardner served as Worshipful Master of Gough Lodge No. 419 from 2017-2019. Under his leadership, he was honored as the 2018 Millen District No. 16 "Worshipful Master of the Year," with Gough Lodge No. 419 being honored with the Millen District No. 16 "Lodge of the Year" and its Secretary Dr. Charles J. Smith, Sr. honored as the "Millen District No. 16 "Secretary of the Year," and Gough No. 419 "Master Mason of the Year." He led the generous contributions from the lodge by requesting the lodge to donate \$400.00 to the Burke County Public School System, which presented the funds to the Town of Keyville Outreach Tutorial Programs. That program was led by Burke County District #1 Commissioner Dr. Ruby Saxon-Myles. Gough Lodge Brother, the late Rev. Dr. Jerry J. Smith, also assisted with the after-school evening program.

Past Master Gardner made significant contributions in making substantial renovations to the downstairs section of the lodge by donating his time and labor pro-bono to the craft. Some upgrades included restoring and updating the women's and men's restrooms, installing new dry walls, installing new fluorescent lighting, adding new vinyl ceiling tiles, and adjusting the outdated electrical wiring and kitchen area. It is estimated that beyond the contributions and donations from the lodge brothers, Past Master Gardner stated that over \$6,000 in recaptured repairs were completed to renovate the building. Most of the building renovations were done by lodge members Past Master Gardner, Past District Deputy Grand Master Leroy Daniels, Bro. Obediah Lewis and Dudley Construction Company. This company also installed a new metal roof and aluminum siding with trimming. Future updates to the building include completing the renovations in the upstairs meeting room, improving the heating and air-conditioning system, replacing the windows and doors, and painting the exterior of the building.

During the interview of other notable members, Past Master Freddie Walker is the oldest member of the lodge, having served Gough and masonry for more than 58 years. Having devoted most of his life to the Masonic Order, he shared that it is a beautiful feeling to help the lodge still and encourage others to join masonry is by far one of his most significant contributions. When asked what their experience was of working with the Millen District and the current District Deputy Grand Master Sheldon Roberts, both Past Master Freddie Walker and Past Master Edward Gardner stated that through the years, being a member of the Millen District is by far one of their best masonic experiences. They have seen lots of growth and activism to improve the way of life in the district and communities. One of his most historical events was Worshipful Master was the Gough Lodge No. 419 Anniversary Program held in Louisville, Georgia.

Brother Kelvin Jermaine Johnson is the current Worshipful Master of Gough Lodge and assumed leadership in December 2019. During his tenure, Worshipful Master Johnson stated that upon becoming a Gough Lodge No. 419, this journey allowed him to grow and mature as a young man, a leader, and a father. During his tenure, Worshipful Master Johnson was influential in providing the lodge with visitations to the Keyville Nursing Home to check on elderly senior citizens. His vision of partnering with our Burke County Millen District No. 16 Aurora Lodge No. 54 in Waynesboro is by far one of his main objectives. In conjunction with Aurora Lodge No. 54, Gough Lodge drove around the community of Keyville and Waynesboro and gave away turkey dinners during the Thanksgiving holiday. Worshipful Master Johnson firmly believes that working together in the district establishes a unique bond of brotherhood. Other activism included hosting monthly masonic educational study sessions and an Annual Boat-Ride Fundraiser on the Savannah River. On Saturday, July 31, 2021, the brothers of Gough Lodge held their Annual Back-To-School Book Bag Give-A-Way. The event was held at the lodge hall. This initiative provided free book bags, hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, snacks, and water for the participating students in the Burke County Community of Gough, Georgia. The Gough Lodge Study Hall training sessions were held online via zoom. The instruction was orchestrated and led by 2019 "Master Mason of the Year" Senior Deacon James A. Dobbs, Jr., Past Master Bernard Bemby, Past Master Freddie Walker, and Past Master Willis Walker. The primary purpose of the study hall was to educate the craft on ritualistic procedures and to keep the members of the lodge actively involved in the basic foundations of their masonic journey. The lodge is supported by numerous Past Masters and officers who strive to make Gough Lodge No. 419 one of the premier lodges in the Millen District No. 16 and among the very best in the Prince Hall Family. We are proud to introduce to the Masonic Digest Prince Hall Masonic Family the following 2021 Elected and Appointed Officers and Past Masters of Gough Lodge No. 419.



HONORING COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Contributed by
WORSHIPFUL MASTER XAVIER WIMBERLY
 Aurora Lodge #54

During the July 13, 2021, monthly meeting, Worshipful Master Xavier Wimberly presented Burke County Commission Chairwoman Terri Lodge Kelly and Sergeant Derwin Butler of the Burke County Sheriff's Department with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Aurora Masonic Lodge No. 54. The awards were presented at the Burke County Courthouse for supporting the programs and initiatives Aurora Lodge No. 54 brings to the community. To illustrate how important it is to nurture, guide, and direct our youth leaders, members of Aurora Lodge worked with the Hattie S. Bessent Youth Chapter No.118 on July 10, 2021, at O'Reilly's Auto Parts to host a car wash.



Masonic Lodge

Xavier Wimberly (left) and Fred Hughes (right) presented Commission Chairwoman Terri Lodge Kelly with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Masonic Aurora Lodge #54 during the July 13 monthly meeting. They also presented the board with a certificate of appreciation to Sergeant Derwin Butler of the Burke County Sheriff's Office. Butler and Kelly participated in food drives the Masonic Lodge hosted.

On July 17, the lodge brothers participated in a "My Brother's Keeper" program supporting Pastor Bill Johnson of Waynesboro. The purpose of the lodge's involvement with this program was to reach out to the young men of the community needing guidance and bonding. During this visit, the brothers were treated to breakfast. In addition, the young men fellowshiped with the brothers of Aurora Lodge, Light of Hiltonia, Spring Fountain, Western Star, and the sisters of Spring Fountain.



REFLECTIONS

Contributed by
WORTHY MATRON TIFFANY ABRAMS
Truth & Union Chapter #590

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

Being a passive actor in God's story is not an option for members of Truth and Union Chapter 590. Each of us was placed on this earth for a grander purpose and it is this drive that guides us to be active members of our community. Truth and Union worked tirelessly for the two years that we were a UD chapter to help build our community, and the work did not stop once we received our charter on February 13, 2021. This huge milestone for the chapter was achieved by the grace of God and the unrelenting efforts and support of Truth and Union Lodge No. 594. Thank you to Grand Worthy Matron Sister Deaidra P. Wilson, District Worthy Matron Rosa Weston, and our Zone Coordinator Sister Sallie Mills for their unwavering support. We also owe a debt of gratitude to our trusted advisors, Past Matron Natarsha Miller and Past Matron Jackie McCoy, who played an integral role in guiding us along our two-year journey. To our Past Matron Kendra Stewart and Past Patron Darryl Steward, we pay homage to you for laying a solid foundation for our chapter. Worthy Matron Tiffany Abrams and Worthy Patron Jason Dewberry, along with the officers and members of Truth and Union Chapter No. 590, are dedicated to building upon that foundation and making sure our light continues to shine brightly in all that we do.

As we reflect over the last two quarters of 2021, the scripture from 1 Peter 4:10 comes to mind - "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." Truth and Union Chapter No. 590 is our gift. It affords us an avenue to do good for those around us as we have done in the past and will continue to do. From donating gift baskets to rehabilitation centers on Father's Day, to providing much need supplies to battered women's shelters, and to organizing one of the largest back to school events for the residents of Home Stay Suites, we will continue to be an example of God's grace, good works, charity, and loving-kindness.

Did you know? The increase in job loss, inflation rates, and substance abuse, are just some of the factors which forced many out of their homes and into temporary housing or even homelessness during the pandemic.



Truth & Union Chapter, No. 590 held a Pack the Sack event at Home Stay Suites in support of the many families living there. School age students received a backpack full of supplies and other items. Lunch was also provided.

Did you know? While lock down orders were implemented to decrease the spread of COVID, domestic violence cases against women and girls increased exponentially.



Truth & Union Chapter, No. 590 donated baskets to Partners Against Domestic Violence. Baskets included multiple personal care items for mother and children.

Did you know? 40% of men who enter a rehabilitation center face depression. Many of whom do not openly express it.



To brighten the day for the fathers at Parkside Post-Acute Rehabilitation Center, Truth & Union Chapter, No. 590 dropped off baskets containing personal care items, a gift card and a hand crafted card from students at a local pre-school.



On February 13, 2021, Truth and Union Chapter UD received their charter! They are now proudly known as **Truth and Union Chapter No. 590.**

THE GATEKEEPERS

Contributed by
WORTHY MATRON SHANELLE CLARKE
 Gate City Chapter #46

"Things work out best for those who make the best of how things work out"-John Wooden

The Gatekeepers of Gate City Chapter No. 48 has a long history of responding to the needs of their community, and the pandemic hasn't stopped us! We have bonded in sisterhood to make the best out of the current state of affairs.

In June 2021, we celebrated freedom by participating in the jurisdictional Juneteenth Parade. Although it rained on parade, we walked with our heads held high and smiles on our faces.

July 2021, we donated cupcakes to Legacy Nursing Home to celebrate the birthdays of the residents. We also joined forces with the Austin Tyler Foundation to collect school supplies for two schools in the metro area. We were also able to celebrate the 75th birthday of Life Member Past Matron Lillie Garnett. Past Matron Garnett was delighted that we took the time to fellowship with and show her love on her special day. It was an afternoon of laughter that we will cherish for years to come.

As the pandemic continues to linger on, the Gatekeepers continue to move forward safely, making sure the community's gates are protected.



VISITING THE HOPE HOUSE

Contributed by
WORTHY MATRON ANNIE FRAZIER
New Marion Chapter #381

Since the 18th Century, the Order of Eastern Star has been dedicated to truth, charity, and loving-kindness by uplifting each other through devoted services in our communities. On Saturday, June 6, 2021, New Marion Chapter No. 381 Order of Eastern Star visited the Hope House in Augusta, Georgia, bearing clothes, diapers, children's books, food, and nursery water to assist the center's families. The mission of Hope House is to instill self-sufficiency in individuals and families through comprehensive treatment to end the cycle of substance misuse, untreated mental illness, and poverty by helping individuals become contributing members of society through providing sober living units 24 hours a day. This integral center provides assistance that include the following interventions: Individual and group substance use counseling; parenting support and education; employment assistance; family support and education; certified peer-to-peer support; and relapse prevention education and intensive case management.

New Marion Chapter No. 381 sought this community service project to assist with benevolence and support Hope House's efforts to empower individuals through prevention education, clinical treatment, and recovery support to create sustainable change. The Order of Eastern Star sisters representing Marion Chapter No. 381 and the Millen District No. 16, will always maintain loving kindness and generosity by giving back to those in need in the communities they serve.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Contributed by
SISTER ROSE BELL
New Aurora Chapter #60

The New Aurora Chapter No. 60 O.E.S. representing the Millen District No. 16 in Waynesboro, Georgia, participated in Back-To-School Supply Give-A-Way. School supplies were donated to the Burke County Board of Education. Board Member Jackie Payton attended the event on Saturday, July 31, 2021. Members who participated were sisters Mary Carter, Worthy Matron Shirley Carlyle, and Doris Smith.

Sister Cynthia Mobley (not pictured) gave a monetary donation towards school supplies for the event. Activities during the day included games, activities, music, and food. Numerous prizes were given away to students in attendance. Board of Education member Jackie Payton thanked everyone for their support and for making the event a huge success. Other sisters who participated in the Back-To-School event sponsored by Brothers of Aurora Lodge No. 54 of Waynesboro, Ga. held on July 24, 2021, included Rose Bell and Kim Flounory. Also, they participated in the Community Food Give-A-Way held at Old Blakeney Elementary School in Waynesboro, Georgia.

We are so very proud of our members for working tirelessly in the community. In closing, let us "Keep trying to build a greater partnership with our schools and the community."

It's only from the valley that the mountain seems high.

"When we give it our all, we can live with ourselves - regardless of the results."



GIVING BACK & FOCUSING ON SISTERHOOD

Contributed by
WORTHY MATRON TAMIKA BRYANT
 Foundation Chapter #587

Foundation Chapter No. 587 kicked off May by honoring the Teachers within our Chapter: Sister Mikelle Holmes, Sister Shaughna Robinson, and Sister Cynthia Bennett. We also celebrated the Nurses within our Chapter: Sis. Catherine Howard, Sis. Eboni Lowery and Sis. Nekole Williams. On May 15, 2021, we were thrilled to learn during Atlanta Masonic District No. 3 West's District Meeting & Anniversary that

Foundation Chapter No. 587 was selected as "2019 Chapter of the Year!" During June, Foundation Chapter No. 587 stayed very busy. On June 10, 2021, Foundation Chapter No. 587 celebrated ten years of being chartered in the Jurisdiction of Georgia. It was a joyous occasion celebrating with our Foundation PHamily. On June 19, 2021, WM Tamika Bryant and several chapter members participated in the Jurisdiction's Juneteenth parade, and our members were excited to pass out candy to the parade attendees. On June 26, 2021, Foundation Chapter No. 587 hosted a relaxing social event for our members. Also, in June, we partnered with United Way on their Online Storytime project. The program benefits United Way's "Learning Spaces," which serves Pre-K children in Atlanta's red zones.

On July 10, 2021, WM Tamika Bryant and the sisters of Foundation Chapter No. 587 participated in the Reflections of Trinity Food Distribution program, which benefits Cobb county. We helped to organize food and placed items in the trunks of cars based on the family size. As a Chapter, we enjoy giving back to the Cobb County community and plan to continue partnering with Reflections of Trinity in the future. In addition, we had two events on July 24, 2021. In the morning, Worthy Patron Micheal Gaither and several sisters of Foundation Chapter No. 587 participated in our Joint Quarterly Adopt-A-Mile clean-up with the brothers of Foundation Lodge No. 592.

We take great pride in our partnership with "Keep Smyrna Beautiful," which keeps the community of Smyrna clean and free of litter on Atlanta Road. Later that afternoon, Foundation Chapter No. 587 hosted its first virtual Prayer Brunch event. The theme was "Fulfilling Your Destiny with Prayer" and had over 50 attendees. It was a beautiful program that featured a dynamic speaker. We look forward to our upcoming 2021 virtual events.

Bonding Together to Reach our DESTINY!



A TIMELINE OF GOOD DEEDS

Contributed by
WORTHY MATRON DEBBIE SIMMONS
 Beulah Chapter #116

May 15, 2021: Past Matron Joy Roberts, Crowned District Queen Millen District Number 16 held its virtual Queen's contest on Saturday, May 15. Congratulations to Beulah Chapter Past Matron Joy Roberts, who was crowned District Queen. The program consisted of participants from each of the district's OES Chapters and Youth Chapters. The speaker for the occasion was Past District Matron Sister Shirley Carlyle.

May 28, 2021: Congratulations to Miss Mariah Rhodes. Miss Mariah Rhodes graduated from Screven County High School on Friday, May 28, 2021. Mariah is a member of Beulah's youth chapter, Minnie M. Ponder Youth Chapter, and Prince Hall Grand Youth Chapter president. She received her Georgia Future Educators award from Georgia Southern University on May 4, 2021, recognizing working towards "Educating Georgia's Future." She will attend Georgia Southern University in the fall, where she will major in Education. Congratulations, Sister Mariah Rhodes.

July 18, 2021: Beulah Chapter – Volunteer Screven County Soup Kitchen. Beulah chapter, along with Western Star Lodge Number 65, prepared and delivered 161 meals in the community. Thanks to everyone who gave up a little time on Saturday morning to feed the community.

July 24, 2021: New Members Meet and Greet Workshop. Members of the Beulah Chapter participated in the new member training held by the district. This training was designed to train new members on the opening and closing ceremonies, meeting agendas, and various articles from the Grand Chapter By-Laws before the jurisdiction opening in October.



COMMUNITY SERVICE EFFORTS

Contributed by
WORTHY MATRON DEBRA BACON
Limerick Chapter #336

The Members of Limerick Chapter No. 336 participated in a Community Service Project. During May, several members got together and took some items to the Magnolia Manor Nursing Health and Rehabilitation Center in Midway, Georgia. This is A Facility where adults are being taken care of that can't take care of themselves. The facility also has rehabilitation services along with physical therapy. They are now under construction to make it a better and cleaner place for the patients to reside. Mr. Guzman, the manager on duty that day, was very grateful for our contribution and welcomed us into the facility with open arms. The staff and clients were very appreciative to receive our assistance. The Items donated were masks, toothpaste, soap, and other Personal Hygiene Items.

In June, Limerick Chapter participated in the District Community Service project at the Ronald McDonald House in Savannah, Georgia. Several members of the Limerick Chapter were present. The staff at the Ronald McDonald House greeted the members of Limerick Chapter and were very appreciative of the items collected and donated, including perishable food items, coloring books, crayons, toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap), books, and PPE. The contribution of the items was a success for the Ronald McDonald House. Although we could not visit the children while visiting the Ronald McDonald House, all the Limerick Chapter members present were fulfilled and considered the community service project a day to remember.

In July, Limerick Chapter chose the Battered Women Shelter to visit. The shelter is a facility that provides relief for women and their children. While visiting the shelter, we were able to meet with the shelter manager, and because of our meeting, we were able to identify items to donate to the shelter. In the coming weeks, Limerick Chapter will be collecting the following items to contribute to the Battered Women Shelter: toilet tissue, paper towels, antibacterial soap and wipes, washcloths, blankets, lotion, and PPE. As the Chapter President, I am requesting that each member identify items they would like to donate to the shelter for their use.



CELEBRATING YOUTH GRADUATES

Contributed by
PAST MATRON T. JOY ROBERTS
Minnie M. Ponder Youth Chapter #112

Under the leadership, guidance, and encouragement of Beulah Chapter No. 116, the Youth of Minnie M. Ponder No. 112 had the opportunity to participate in the Prince Hall Grand Youth Chapter 2021 High School Graduates Celebration. The event was held via zoom as a virtual event.

The youth chapter was chosen to sing two selections on the program to honor the graduates. This celebration was an extraordinary and bittersweet occasion. Grand Youth President Mariah Rhodes was one of the twenty-one graduates being honored. Ms. Rhodes is also the president of Minnie M. Ponder Youth Chapter No. 112. She will be attending Georgia Southern University pursuing a degree in Education. We pray for her success as she embarks on a new chapter in her life.

Also, there is a cause for a celebration honoring three other members of Minnie M. Ponder No. 112. Each year, Prince Hall Grand Youth Chapter accepts applications for Grand Youth Officers. This year, three members have been selected to serve as Grand Youth Officers. Christopher "CJ" Roberts was chosen as Grand Youth Assistant Chaplain, Kassidy Roberts as Grand Youth Marshal, and Jazzlyn Roberts as Grand Youth Marshal. Jazzlyn will also be serving as President of Minnie M. Ponder No. 112. We commend our youth for these significant accomplishments and assured them that they would represent the youth chapter in an exemplary style. The Minnie M. Ponder Chapter No. 112 appreciates the Youth Chapter Director Past Matron T. Joy Roberts and Assistant Director, District Worthy Matron Ella M. Rhodes, for their untiring leadership and support of this vital youth chapter initiative.



Editor's Page: Our Cause to Provide Charity and Strengthen Brotherhood Marches on During the Pandemic

To the brothers and Sisters of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge and Chapter of Georgia and all our Prince Hall Brothers and Sisters worldwide:

This second issue of the Masonic Digest highlights our brothers and sisters' continued efforts throughout the jurisdiction to continue our charitable mission while safely fellowshipping. This pandemic has tried all of us, and we are weathering the storm. We had a jurisdictional raising that brought brothers from throughout Georgia to assist in raising 33 brothers to the sublime degree of Master Mason as members of the Past Master Larry Martin Class of 2021. Several articles highlight the experiences of the brothers that attended this historical and unique event. We encourage all brothers and sisters to attend and support their respective grand lodge and grand chapter events and assist in bringing "good timber" into our organizations. Our organization's membership must stay dedicated to creating new and innovative community service opportunities while developing the leadership qualities of our newer members regardless of their age. Let us continue to remember and never forget the powerful brothers and sisters that we lost during the pandemic, younger and older. Icons that toiled and strove for our organization to exist and achieve through racism and adversity through the years. Grand Worthy Patron Cecil James submitted an article that truly embodied his personal experiences with Past Grand Worthy Patron Aaron Kent, Past Grand Worthy Patron Marvin Knight, and Past Grand Worthy Patron Sam McDonald. These phenomenal leaders sacrificed their time to impart wisdom and knowledge to the masonic brothers and sisters of the Eastern Star Order. Their smiles and undying dedication will shine eternally in the heavens. Please continue to have the faith of a mustard seed as we move towards fully reopening our jurisdiction safely and effectively. The But God Initiative is going strong, and we would like to thank all the brothers and sisters that have accepted the challenge to pave the way with their immediate support. We, as your editors, request that you continue to chronicle your community service and social events and submit them to us in a timely manner. The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge and Chapter have a rich history of supporting the underserved communities and creating mentoring opportunities through the Youth Chapters and the Knights of Pythagoras. Please highlight these integral activities your energetic members are participating in. We strive to include all articles and will publish all according to our layout space. Your articles will be published in a subsequent issue for any articles that did not make it into this issue. The Masonic Digest will keep the membership in touch with each other and is available through the link on the grand lodge website. Thank you for your continued support of your Masonic Digest and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter of Georgia.

Fraternally,

Worshipful Bertram Thomas Jr. (57), Grand Editor

Worshipful James Q. Leach (107), Grand Digital Editor

Worshipful Michael Johnson (8), Grand Communications Editor



SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION

JANUARY 1st, 2022

Fraternally,

Worshipful Bertram Thomas Jr. (57), Grand Editor

Worshipful James Q. Leach (107), Grand Digital Editor

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