

Most Worshipful Prince Hall GRAND LODGE

2025 GRAND MASTER'S ALLOCUTION
JUNE 11, 2025





“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16:

To: RWDGM Jonathan S. White, RWGSW Derwin Canty, RWGJW Reggie Walker, All Past Grand Masters, Visting Grand Masters, Visting Past Grand Masters and Delegations, RW Grand Secretary Antonio E. White, RW Grand Treasurer Earl Perry, all appointed Grand Lodge Officers, and brothers of the craft.

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. I stand before you for the third opportunity of my tenure as your 19th Most Worship Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia. I would like to thank each member again for the opportunity to serve. I will present the

status of Prince Hall Masonry, in Georgia, the state of our nation, and its impacts on our organization as well as my stewardship. God has shown you, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you? “To act justly and to love faithfulness and to walk humbly with your God.”

To the officers, thank you for supporting me as we continue to fulfill my vision for this jurisdiction. Let us not forget those who made a path for us to follow. The remarkable success of this Jurisdiction is, because of trusting in the lord and in his holy name for he has not failed us yet. Over the last two years we have faced many challenges, but through all our ups and downs we made it though, for that I say thank you. Before I continue, let us not take on such an important undertaking, without first invoking the blessings of the deity. I would like to ask Rev. Porter Denson, Jr., to come in his own way and lead us to the throne of grace, mercy, and prayer.

NECROLOGY:

The Grand Architect of the Universe has allowed us to assemble once again at another Grand Session. Unfortunately, there are so many brothers and sisters who were present last year who are no longer with us. Since we last met, in June 2024, lodges have reported eighty brothers who have departed from this earth. Those names were called on Tuesday at the Lodge of Sorrow. Words will never express the emptiness this Jurisdiction has suffered in the loss of our membership.

CONDITION OF THE STATE

The Condition of our beloved state of Georgia is at a critical crossroad where policy, equity and leadership must come together to serve all, not just a privileged few. Far too many of our underserved communities and seniors continue to fall through the cracks of a healthcare system that remains out of reach, either due to cost, access, or policy neglect. Healthcare should not be a privilege base on zip code or income level; it is a human right, and Georgia must do better to expand coverage. In education we face widening achievement gaps, overwork teachers, and underfunded schools, especially in historically Black communities. Our children deserve more than promises; they deserve action that equips every classroom with the tools to prepare the next generation for success in a rapidly changing world. We must champion policies that invest in early childhood education, raise teachers' pay and ensure equal access to quality education, from urban centers to rural districts. We will never advance as a state while ignoring those most in need. Our state continues to have devastating weather in some locations. Governor Kemp signs the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget during a ceremony inside the Georgia State Capitol. Allocated in the budget was a pay increase for K-12 certified teachers, law enforcement and child welfare workers.

STATE OF THE NATION:

This year our Nation witnessed the installation of a new/former President of the United States. This new Commander in Chief not

only changed the course of our daily lives; it has shaped our immediate future. Nationally, we see a nation of promise tested during challenging times, our economy continues to be uncertain, Inflation, affordable housing and access to reasonable employment remain out of reach for many, especially in communities of color. We continue to witness the gap between wealth and poverty, and generational advancement remains a struggle for many. We have witnessed the sudden closure of Federal jobs, also in devastation the horrific removal of human beings shackled in chains and sent back to their previous Country without due process all by the stroke of a pen. This comes from the President of the United States of America, who took an oath with his hand on the bible to uphold the Constitution of the United State of America. He is only concerned with pardoning criminals that he feels the system has failed.

In healthcare we have witnessed families without adequate insurance. Mental health care, especially for our youth, is a crisis we can no longer afford to overlook.

Our public education system, long held the ladder to upward mobility, faces challenges of bias, funding, and students and teachers alike are navigating uncertainty, and our charge is to support them through mentorship, and the building of systems that uplift, not divide. We have seen investment in foundations, yet it has not always reached neighborhoods and counties where it is needed most. Roads, schools, hospitals, broadband, these must be accessible to all Americans, not a privileged few. Our

democracy is strained. Voter suppression and political misinformation threaten the foundation we hold dear. But we as citizens and as Masons, must remain committed by truth, justice, and the sacred power of the vote.

STATE OF THE CRAFT:

Thanks to each of you, I am pleased with the condition of the craft. Yes, we still have those who are selfish and negative and continue to cause confusion among the craft. Some of us are misusing the ballot box and turning our heads for our friends. Just because someone is your good friend, does not make him a good mason. There is no way to do wrong right, but it is always the right time to do the right thing.

Each year I stand before you and tell you the Jurisdiction is in order; this year is no difference. It is one of my duties as Grand Master to make sure that all Masonic Houses in this jurisdiction that are part of the Prince Hall family achieve status and recognition as we travel through the world. Brothers, at some point we must stop complaining and support the plans we have in place. We must do a better job in taking care of our gold cards and life members.

We must continue to increase our membership and accept changes if we want this organization to live on. As Prince Hall Masons it is our time to bat, we must step to the plate and take a more active roll in our community, the economy, and the

welfare of does who need our help because no man is in island, no man stands alone. However, peace and harmony shall and will prevail in the jurisdiction of Georgia.

KOP:

I would like to thank Brother Aldric Little and all the committee members for the growth and the development of our young men. Once again, this Grand Lodge supports your summer camps and all your state obligations. The Knights of Pythagoras have completed a successful year of meeting their goals. They have set the standards high in ensuring that every young man in the group gets the much-needed attention and focus on making sure they stay focused on their education, moral standings, and goals they have set for their lives. We now have nine active councils in our Jurisdiction and looking forward to increasing that number by at least three more by reactivating councils in the year 2025. Brother Little has instituted quarterly meetings and training with directors and brothers who work with our program to ensure that we are meeting the standards, of the national outlined program consistent throughout the State. Recently, I was appointed Chairperson of the COGM Membership Committee and to the KOP COGM mentoring Committee.

SOUTHERN REGION CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTER:

I attended the Southeastern Region Conference of Grand Masters, which was held in Birmingham, Alabama at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The Honorable Corey, Hawkins, Sr, was the host Grand Master. It was a good meeting, where peace and harmony prevailed. There were 10 Jurisdictions present, totally 73

brothers from the following Jurisdictions: Alabama, Arkansas, Bahamas, Caribbean, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas. PGM Lester Arnold of the Caribbean who was among us has since passed away.

Each Grand Master introduced members present from their jurisdiction. There were some visiting guests to include the Conference of Grand Masters President, MWPGM Eugene Anderson of Indiana, and the Conference of Grand Masters Executive Secretary, Emmanuel Stanley of Maryland. The annual election was held, and all officers remained the same.

CONFERENCE OF GRANDMASTER (COGM):

I attended the Conference of Grand Masters, which was held in Omaha, Nebraska May 15th – 17th, 2025. Georgia had great representation. It would be nice to see how some of the Grand Master's deal with some of the same issues we have in our jurisdiction.

We are all Prince Hall Masons. As I travel things are done differently jurisdiction to jurisdiction. This is an opportunity for jurisdictions to come together to discuss issues they may have and share information within their jurisdiction. There seems to be some communication issues with the Prince Hall Shriners. The Ad/Hoc committee made a mission statement that we must establish a meaningful commitment to having some honest dialogue on both the Prince Hall Shriners side and the COGM side.

An election was held, and all officers remained the same. The 2025 Conference of Grand Masters will be in Schaumburg,

Illinois. I would like to thank President PGM Eugene Anderson and his elected officers, and MWPHGM HON Percy Newton Jurisdiction of Nebraska for being an outstanding host.

OFFICE STAFF:

Thanks to the office and building staff of the Grand Lodge, Mrs. Julia (JC) Jefferson, Ms. Patricia Bostic, (Pat) Brothers Curtis Jenkins, Ed Driver, James A. Gantt, Michael Swint, Marcus Cromartie, Johns Hanson, Joe Dowdell, Rod Jones, and Attorney Ed Bowen, for their work to maintain the operation and upkeep of the Grand Lodge. Special thanks to all brothers and sisters who donated their time and money for special projects, cleaning up, beautification or any help you have given to maintain the existence of the Grand Lodge.

TRAVEL:

My travel for 2024 – 2025 includes the following:

June 2024

Meeting at Grand Lodge with Attorney Ed Bowen and Ed Driver.
St. John's Day, Grand Lodge of Georgia, South Fulton, Georgia
Grand Lodge meeting, 330 Auburn Ave.
WC Thomas Outing.
WC Thomas Lodge Meeting

July 2024

Visited Chapter, Macon Ga
Visted Ruth Chapter#102, Atlanta, Ga

Meeting with Grand Lodge Attorney
Zoom meeting with Trustees.

August 2024

HR Butler Outing, Atlanta, GA
Church Visitation, Atlanta, GA
Joint Anniversary Capitol Star No. 148 and H.R. Bulter No. 23
Gate City Tea, Lithonia, Ga

September 2024

Prince Hall Day, Athens, GA
Church Visitation, Atlanta, GA
North Carolina Grand Lodge, Goldsboro, NC
Meeting with Foundation Chapter, South Fulton, GA
Visited Plymouth Rock Lodge, South Fulton, GA

October 2024

United Supreme Council, Memphis, Tennessee
AL KARIM Potentate Ball, Atlanta, GA
Visited HR Butler Lodge Fifty Year Award Services.
Visited Eden Lodge, Marietta, GA
Black Lab for Men, Stonecrest, GA
Speaker for Chattahoochee Lodge Banquet, Buford, GA
Attended Truth and Union Anniversary, South Fulton, GA

November 2024

WCT Scholarship Banquet, Atlanta, GA
Peace Chapter Tea, Atlanta GA
Atlanta Consistory Banquet

WCT Lodge meeting, Atlanta, GA

December 2024

Meeting with Grand Attorney Grand Lodge, 330 Auburn Ave.

Visited AMD3W District Youth Christmas Party Grand East, South Fulton, GA

Visited Grand Lodge Christmas Party, South Fulton, GA

Grand Lodge of Georgia Past Master's Degree, South Fulton, GA

January 2025

Mid-winter Zoom meeting.

Zoom meeting with Deputies.

Southeast Region Conference of Grand Masters, Birmingham, Alabama

Meeting with Grand Worthy Matron

FEBURAY 2025

Prince Hall Day at the Capital

WCT Lodge #112 meeting.

Attended the Georgia Council of Deliberation, College Park Ga

Visted Gate City Lodge

March 2025

Georgia Desert Planning meeting, Stone Mountain, GA

Attended Selma Bridge Crossing, Selma, Alabama

Visted South Fulton, Lodge Atlanta, GA

Attended Ruth Chapter meeting, Atlanta, Ga.

Attended Youth Grand Session, Columbus, GA.

April 2025

Attended Grand Master First Car Show

Attended Victory Lodge, Macon, GA

Visted St James Lodge No. 4, Grand East South Fulton, GA

Meeting with Grand Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron

Attended the Grand Lodge of Florida, Orlando, FL

Meeting with Concord Lodge, Griffin, GA

Attended workshop in Lagrange, GA

Attended Meeting with City of Atlanta for 250 years program.

May 2025

Attended Gala Day in Macon, GA

Conference of Grand Masters, Omaha Hilton Hotel Omaha, Nebraska

Meeting with Grand Worthy Matron and Gate City Chapter at the Grand East, South Fulton, GA

Zoom For Grand Lodge

OUR GRAND EAST:

Our Grand East is located at 7340 Old National Highway, South Fulton, Georgia. We are continuing to make repairs and upgrades to preserve the appearance and longevity of the building. Some of the repairs and upgrades that have been made since our last Session are listed below:

Installed a new security/camera system that encapsulates the inside and outside of the building to include the entrance. Parking lot upgrades, Upgraded the refrigerator and freezer, purchased additional event tables & table clothes, purchased

additional sound equipment, purchased additional storage outside containers, replaced one 2ton A/C unit and services the other ones, and professionally painted the kitchen and second room of the Grand East. These were much needed upgrades. We have made these upgrades, and it is on us to keep our facility in a manner that we would like to live and work in. The renovation on 330 Auburn Ave has begun and the updated report will be given at this session. Many brothers and sisters donated their time and helped with some of the repairs. We have many talented brothers and sisters in this jurisdiction. I say thank you to each of you.

FOREIGN RELATIONS:

Our Grand lodge is in Fraternal relations in accord with the (46) jurisdictions that make up our Prince Hall Family. Our CCFC will give you a full account of our relationship if needed in his report, and it will be posted on the website.

PRINCE HALL DAY:

Americus District No.14 and Butler District No. 20 will host Prince Hall weekend celebration in Macon, Georgia, September 2025. All registrations must be done online. Armbands will be distributed and must be worn at all events, including Sunday Services. Remember, Brothers Prince Hall Day is Sunday, not Saturday. Prince Hall weekend starts on Friday let us not forget

the reason we are here. For more information, please see the website or contact your Deputy.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE JURISDICTION:

Our membership is continuing to increase, and our subordinate Lodges have played a big part. I am asking the lodges to pay their taxes by the deadline to avoid late charges. We are still pushing the ideal to pay your financial bills through Grand view. It is still my responsibility and my goal to be a good steward of the finances of this Grand Lodge. The Jurisdiction of Georgia is in extremely good financial condition, with the help of our Grand Treasurer Earl Perry, Assistant Treasurer Edward Tucker, Grand Secretary Antonio E. White, Assistant Secretary John Hanson and the Grand Trustees Chairman, Flounory Rollins, Kenneth Morgan, Byron Jones, working together and collaborating with the Auditors.

OFFICIAL ACTS

The following Brother were Suspended:

- Maurice D. McDowell- Truthful Lodge No 375
- John F. Robinson Truthful Lodge No 375 has been reinstated.

CORNERSTONES:

Olive Grove: Baptist Church May 17th, 2025, District #20 Deputy Darrely Bryant and Asst Deputy Shaun Riggins.

Waggoners Grove Baptist Church Rededication Corner Stone Ceremony May 18th, 2025, District #6 Deputy Marvin Nunnally and Asst Deputy Lynn Hill.

IN CONCLUSION:

Brothers, we are still working, we are merely observers of this moment, we are participants, protectors, and builders of our organization. As Prince Hall Masons, we do not vanish from responsibility, we gravitate into service and lift others as we climb. Some of the worst people in the bible made the most positive impact because their story did not end, with their mistake, it finishes with their comeback.

You may feel like you 're defeated but your story is not over. 2025 is for healing, your victory is coming. People often ask me, why is it so hard to trust people, the real question is why it is so hard for people to tell the truth. Sometimes you must focus on the steps in front of you, not the whole staircase. None of us sit high enough to look down on anybody. Remember brothers Hell is not full of people that God rejected, Hell is full of people who rejected God.

I used to wake up some days and wish I had stayed asleep. I went to bed on top of the world, then some days I felt like the world was on top of me. You can never lose when it is your time to win, your destiny is already written, It is in God hands, and his timing is unstoppable. We all may have started this journey on different ships, but we are in the same boat now.

Remember important things in business are never done by one person, but by a team. The way a team plays determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual super stars in the world, but if they are not playing together, the team will not be worth anything. No matter how brilliant your mind or strategy is if you are playing a solo game, you will always lose to a team. I am glad these Grand Lodge elected officers work together, and we know there is no I in TEAM.

As a Master Mason, it is particularly important that we always conduct ourselves with confidence while always upholding the highest respect of integrity. You cannot make sense to a person who only comprehends things at their own level of perception. No matter how much you explain, Argue, or try, save your energy.

As I close, this year the jurisdiction of Georgia was invited by the Honorable Corey Hawkins Sr. the Grand Master of Alabama along with many other Grand Masters and brothers from across the nation to participated and march, hand in hand across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday. The Grand Lodge of Georgia was also invited to celebrate Prince Hall Day at the State Capital. On the 19th day of our Lord for the purpose of history the Grand Lodge of Georgia was invite to the City of Atlanta to receive two Resolutions Celebrating 250 years of the birth of Prince Hall Masonry in this Country. In attendance was the Mayor of Atlanta the Honorable Andre Dickens, Councilman Michael Bond, and Councilman Byron Amos who area all Prince Hall Masons. It was

well attended by Past Grand Master's, Deputies and Brothers from across the jurisdiction.

God has a mighty vision in my life, and I plan to live up to those expectations. Through the work I do, and the love I give, I hope to fulfill God's legacy of good in the world. I refuse to stay small when God is asking me to go Big.

May God bless the Jurisdiction of Georgia, the United States of America and each of you. And yes, I do approve of this message.

Fraternally,

Primus T. James

Primus T. James

Most Worshipful Grand Master