The Texas Prince Hall Freemason

Official Publication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas



Keep striving, for God gives His hardest battles to His strongest soldiers.

Table Of Contents

Page 2. Table Of Contents

Page 3. MWPHGLOTX, Elected Grand Lodge Officers

Page 4. Message From The Grand Master Page 5. Cross-Justificational Fellowship

Page 7. District 1 Back To School Supplies Giveaway

Page 9. LOGOS Lodge No. 659, 10 year Anniversary Celebration

Page 12. District 19 Celebrating Unity & Brotherhood

Page 14. Restoration of Lockhart Rosenwald-Carver School

Page 16-20. Pride of The South Lodge No.324 Community Impact

& 103rd Anniversary

Page 21-23. District 24 Annual Scholarship Contest

& Celebrating Prince Hall Americanism Dav

Page 24. Mosier Valley Lodge No. 103

Motivated Men On A Mission

Page 25-26. Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 Family Fun Day

& Service in The Community

Page 27. BeeHive Lodge No.105 News Release

Page 28. Sherman Boxing Gym Page 30. Queen Makeda Court No.4 Hits Food Insecurity Head-On

Page 31. Leora "O" Guild No. 35 A Life That Faith Built

Page 34. Gate City Guild No.42 In Action

Page 38. R. Lucille Samuel Guild No.41 Palace At Work

Page 41-44. S.T.E.A.M. Camp for Young Leaders & KOP Celebrate

25 Years

Page 45. Palace Member Makes Her Mark

Page 47. Douglas Burrell No.56 Consistory Meet & Greet

Page 48. Goodwill Consistory No.238 Annual South Camp

Page 49.J.W. Ray: An Unsung Pillar

Page 53. Mid-Winter Session

Page 60. POW/MIA Table of Honor



Greetings,

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason accepts submissions of articles and photographs of general interest to Prince Hall throughout the Lone Star State.

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason is published quarterly in the months of November, February, May and August. Submissions of articles and photographs are to be forwarded to the publication's Editor via email.

texasprincehallfreemason@gmail.com

Publications Committee Chairman R.W.G.I.W Ronald D. Gerac

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M. of Texas

P.O. Box 1478

Ft. Worth, Texas 76101

Office: (817) 534-4612 Fax: (817) 534-9289

Email: pha@flash.net



The Texas Prince Hall Freemason

Publisher

M.W. Michael T. Anderson

Publications Committee Chairman/Layout & Design,

P.M. Ronald D. Gerac

Chief Editor

P.M. Jesse R. Lee

Copy Editor,

P.M. Joe E. Scott Jr

Copy Editor,

P.M. Chester Michael DuBose

Copy Editor,

P.M. Phillip H. Edwards III

Copy Editor,

P.M. Gregory D. Allen

Columnist

Heroine Sonya Baker

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

2023-2024

Grand Master M.W. Michael T. Anderson Deputy Grand Master R.W. Big-Bryce A. Hardin Grand Senior Warden R.W. Frank D. Jackson Grand Junior Warden R.W. Ronald D. Gerac Grand Secretary R.W. Tracey C. Bittle Grand Treasurer R.W. Robert J. Datcher **Grand Tyler** R.W. Marcus Thomas

Grand Auditors R.W. Joseph Thomas, III

R.W. Samuel Hobbs, Jr.

R.W. Norman Thomas

ELECTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

2023-2024



Michael T. Anderson Most Worshipful Grand Master



Big-Bryce A. Hardin R.W. Deputy Grand Master



Frank D. Jackson R.W. Grand Senior Warden



Ronald D. Gerac R.W. Grand Junior Warden



Robert J. Datcher R.W. Grand Treasurer



Tracey C. Bittle R.W. Grand Secretary



Marcus Thomas R.W. Grand Tiler



Samuel L. Hobbs, Jr R.W. Grand Auditor



Joseph Thomas, III R.W. Grand Auditor



Norman Thomas R.W. Grand Auditor

A Message from the Grand Master

Greetings to All,

I pray that the Grand Architect of the Universe is fulfilling all your needs and has you under His protective arms.

As we near the Holiday Seasons, I hope that everyone is enjoying family, friends, and loved ones. It is my prayer that you are inspired to Bless those who are less fortunate than us. It is my wish that we as a fraternity can do more to help, aid, and assist as much and as many in our communities, so that they can have a Happy Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year.

For this to happen, we need to be more active in our charitable work. We need to be providing charity when/where we see a need: Thanksgiving Food Giveaways, Christmas Toy Giveaways, Clothing Giveaways, Health Fairs, Blood Drives, Back-to-School Giveaways, or what/where you see a need for something to be done. If it is something that we cannot do alone, partner with another organization and see if the need can be met. We need to be more active in our communities if we are going to make a difference. It is our duty to leave this world in a better place than what it is now in its current state. I am counting on us to get more involved and live up to the principles for which our time-honored institution represents.

Knowledge is the key to wisdom, but understand this: It is the use of knowledge that is the key. Having knowledge is good, but you must know how to apply it in the right situation. That makes it wisdom. Many people have valuable information but do not know how to apply it when the time is right. I know many who are knowledgeable in their area of expertise but do not know how to apply it to suit the circumstance. So what good is the information if you do not know how to use it in a beneficial way? The lessons that we learn as we are going through the various degrees are meant to teach us how to use them in our daily lives and to aid us in becoming better men; but if we do not use them, the lessons are useless. Get an understanding of the lesson so that it will help you to become a better Man, Husband, Son, or Father.

These are the things that I am asking each of us to do this year: "To improve ourselves" and to live the life that we are meant to live... to show the world that we are upright men, who care about the communities and world that we live in...we care about ourselves, our families, our communities, and our world. Let us BE about it and not just TALK about it. Remember:

"Well Done is Better than Well Said."

Humbly Submitted,

Michael T. Anderson



Cross-Jurisdictional Fellowship – A New Masonic Experience

Story by Rodney K. Hartfield, District Deputy, District #1

HUGHES SPRINGS, TEXAS

Since May of 1985, I have been a Mason; and since that same time, I have been taught and warned of the acknowledgement of Prince Hall Masonry by other Masonic Orders. Although I am enlightened and believe there are more similarities than differences, the marked distinctions lie along the same lines as does many other things here in the deep



south... the color lines. Though trained to be proficient at all levels of catechisms to thwart and defend challenges that may result in being stumped or having to surrender fraternal trinkets, I have never been encouraged to launch such challenges to non-Prince Hall affiliated Masons. These notions were further cemented as the fabric of the Prince Hall brotherhood spread as I entered college and my career. Thus, the notion of bridging this masonic chasm remained.

As of late, a change has been noticed. During public displays such as masonic ceremonies, parades, local festivals, and community emergencies, the Brothers of Love Chapel Lodge have embraced such instances to educate the community to not only the existence of, but also the longevity of our lodge, which will be celebrating its Centennial Anniversary in 2025. Schools and businesses around town quickly assume the inaccurate location and membership of the lodge upon mention. Respectfully, we have continuously reconfirmed, "We are Love Chapel Lodge #558, not the other one."

Two years ago, a member of Hughes Springs Lodge #671 of the Grand Lodge of Texas, approached me at a community festival. He was cordial and friendly. We exchanged contact information and kept in touch. In

November 2022, his lodge sustained damage during an F-4 tornado. Contact was made expressing concern for their building and the community in general. The following spring, Love Chapel Lodge was invited to their Annual Pancake Breakfast. We were warmly greeted, treated well and even told that they would like to support activities sponsored by Love Chapel. This past July, Love Chapel Lodge hosted its Inaugural School Supply Give-Away. Brothers of Hughes Springs Lodge #671 (Grand Lodge of Texas) volunteered and supplied contributions for this event. These Brothers attended and participated in all facets of this initial and hopefully annual endeavor.

I'm sure there are apprehensive thoughts on both sides that urge us to remain more secure by maintaining status quo. Rome was not built in a day and neither will the relationships between two entities with shared principles and values, but socially represents two different sects of a population. These events were a first for both lodges, and I'm pretty sure that the "other lodge's participation" was a topic of discussion well before the next lodge meeting. Brotherhood and fraternal fellowship across social and racial lines is believed to be the undergirding of communal solidarity. Little may have to be invested, but much can be gained. We can go further and faster if we ALL pull together... in the same direction.



Brothers of Love Chapel Lodge #558 and Brothers of Hughes Springs Lodge #671 pose for a group photo at the entrance after having donated via raffle.

Inaugural District Back to School Supplies Give-Away

Story by Rodney K. Hartfield, District Deputy, District #1

HUGHES SPRINGS, TEXAS – On the morning of Saturday, July 29th, Love Chapel Lodge hosted its Inaugural School Supply Giveaway at the Hughes Springs City Park in downtown Hughes Springs, Texas. This event was the brainchild of Senior Warden Carl Holloman, who verbalized his passion for assisting ALL area kids with school supplies for the ensuing year. Worshipful Master Henderson and Secretary Terence Mathis rounded out the committee to complete this community service project and labor of love. The committee suggested to solicit the help of the community and town's vendors to see if any individuals or businesses would like to donate to the lodge's effort. The community did not disappoint! The community's generosity took various forms of expression: refreshments [hot dogs, chips, and assorted drinks], music, tables and chairs, ice, and a big blue jump house with a water slide. And...of course, school supplies – LOTS of 'em!

Sisters associated with Love Chapel Court #429 assisted with the sorting, grouping, and bagging of school supplies by grade level. This was, by no means, an easy task. They not only braved the 102-degree East Texas heat, but they also assisted in the distribution of over 75 bags of school supplies. Brothers of the Grand Lodge of Texas, Hughes Springs Lodge #671, were special guests and partners to this event. Numerous members attended, fellowshipped, and wished the Brothers of #558 well in this initial (and hopefully) annual endeavor. Earlier in the year, these Brothers had invited the Brothers of Love Chapel to their annual benefit where they were met with the utmost of fellowship and kindness. All recipients, guardians, and the general public were encouraged to remain at the park, enjoy the refreshments, let the kids play, and FELLOWSHIP as neighbors!

Newly elected Worshipful Master Nathaniel Henderson commented that this event was a total success from many aspects. The Brothers of Love Chapel were successful in the completion of its first community project under new leadership. The whole community benefitted. School kids got supplies. Non-school aged kids got to blow off steam and play in the water. Parents got some financial relief. Whoever hungered or thirsted was welcomed to an abundance of refreshments. Community spirit is what makes a community. The entire community is strengthened when it sees fellowship and brotherhood between our lodges. It appears that this activity is amongst the first witnessed in this area. The Brothers of Love Chapel Lodge made a statement to the community that "Masonry" is alive and well!



LOGOS LODGE 659 10YEAR ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION







LOGOS LODGE 659 10YEAR ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION











LOGOS LODGE 659 10YEAR ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION







District 19 Celebrating Unity and Brotherhood: The Success of the 2023 Prince Hall Americanism Weekend

Sidney H. Thompson, SDDGM (19)

San Antonio, Texas – The members and leaders of the 19th Masonic District gathered for the Prince Hall Americanism Weekend from September 8 to 10, 2023, setting a new standard for unity, brotherhood, and fellowship. The enriching event was a triumphant blend of tradition and innovation, with a strong emphasis on Masonic principles.

A Night to Remember at Gateway Club



The celebration kicked off with an unforgettable dinner at the Gateway Club, located at 1650 Kenly Ave, JBSA Lackland AFB, TX 78236. The evening commenced with a Meet & Greet session from 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM, followed by the main program. The event hosts, PM Steve Crayton and PWM Yolanda Jones, set a welcoming tone for the evening. The presentation of colors and the singing of the National Anthem contributed to the event's dignified atmosphere. Additionally, a slideshow presentation created by Junior Warden George Shell of John T. Maxey Lodge #74 highlighting Prince Hall and his contributions to Masonry was featured during the dinner service. Speaking of the dinner service, it was a culinary delight. Guests enjoyed Roasted Stuffed Chicken Breast with Mushroom Gravy, Garden Salad, Rice Pilaf, and a wide range of vegetarian options, concluding with a scrumptious slice of cake for dessert. "Events like these bring us together as a fraternity. The atmosphere was one of unity and brotherly love," shared Grand Master Michael T. Anderson during his closing remarks.

District-Wide Cookout and Church Visitation

The event extended beyond formal settings, featuring a district-wide cookout organized by SDDGM Darrin Prude at the 19th District Council Temple Building on Rice Rd., San Antonio, Texas the sense of community and fellowship was further heightened by a special visit from the honorable Grand Master Michael T. Anderson and PM Gary Connor, Good Street Baptist Lodge #182. Families and friends gathered in a spirit of unity to partake in the outdoor festivities of music, games, and food.

The weekend concluded with a special visit. The 19th Masonic District took a pivotal step in community building by visiting The Love Church, San Antonio, Texas hosted graciously by Pastor Gigi Williams and esteemed church leaders. The visit was a part of the larger Prince Hall Americanism weekend, an event aimed at promoting unity, inclusivity, and moral uprightness. "Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," said DDGM William Paige, District Deputy GM of the 19th Masonic District. "We extend heartfelt gratitude to Pastor Gigi Williams and her team for their warm reception. Their willingness to open their doors to us speaks volumes about the love and community that fills their congregation."



Acknowledging Leadership

The organizing committee extends its gratitude to the leaders and members of San Antonio Lodge #1, Beacon Light Lodge #50, John T Maxey Lodge #74, Star Tom Lodge #100, Blue Bonnet Lodge #192, Noble Star Lodge #277, Lone Star Consistory #113, Moussa Temple #106, Alamo Commandery #7, Lone Star Assembly #113, Flowers of Alamo #8, Shiloh Holy Royal Arch Chapter #16, Rebecca Court #2, William H Craig RSM #4, Infiniti Unity LOCOP #2, Christopher Delight Chapter #1, Stars of Texas Chapter #2, Cubie Horton Chapter #14, Gernell Smart Elite Chapter #79. "Your support was instrumental in the success of the event," said DDGM Paige during the recognition of Master Masons.

Looking Ahead

The success of this year's event has ignited excitement for next year's celebration, scheduled for September 6-8, 2024. In the spirit of Colossians 3:15, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." The attendees and organizers alike left the weekend with a sense of peace and gratitude, eagerly looking forward to next year's gathering.

\$3 Million Award for Restoration of Lockhart Rosenwald-Carver School Building September 30th, 2023

Sidney H Thompson, SDDGM (19)

San Antonio, Texas –\$3 million Award for Restoration of Lockhart Rosenwald-Carver School Building September 30th, 2023



Members of John T Maxey Lodge #74, including Past Masters Sidney Thompson, Thaddeus Heaggans, Bobby Guthrie, Senior Warden Andre Gholson, and Brother Robert "Steve" Parker, were honored to join Most Worshipful Grand Master (MWGM) Michael T Anderson and District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) Cliff Massey, along with other members of District 23, in a highly significant gathering. The event, which also featured the attendance of the Mayor of Lockhart, Lew White, and Bob Ward, Chair of the Travis County Historical Commission, among other dignitaries, celebrated The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and Jurisdiction's Public Acknowledgement of The Restoration Project

for the "Lockhart Rosenwald-Carver School Building." The monumental event unfolded at Carver High School, located at 1104 E. Market St. Lockhart, Texas 78644, on September 30th, 2023, at 10:00 A.M.

Groundbreaking Funding from the Texas Historical Commission

The ceremony was spotlighted by a substantial award of \$3,000,000.00 from the Texas Historical Commission. This grant has been allocated for the thoughtful restoration of the historic Lockhart Rosenwald-Carver School Building, a meaningful step towards preserving Texas' rich educational and communal heritage.

A Community United in Celebration

Keeping spirits high, refreshments were generously supplied by Blacks BBQ of Lockhart, Texas, while drinks were courteously sponsored by District 23 PHA Masons of Texas. The event showcased the robust sense of community and collaboration that exists among the Masonic brotherhoods and civic leaders alike.



Contact for More Information

For those interested in learning more about this landmark project, the point of contact is DDGM Cliff Massey.



In line with the wisdom of the Bible, which teaches us to "train up a child in the way he should go" (Proverbs 22:6), this event and the accompanying funding mark a seminal moment for education, history, and community in Texas. The project promises to be a focal point of learning and unity for future generations.

Pride of The South Lodge No. 324 Conducts Nursing Home Visit at Village Creek Wellness and Rehabilitation Center

By Darrell Bell, Worshipful Master Pride of The South Lodge No. 324, District 20

Fort Worth, TX - On Saturday, August 26, 2023, Pride of the South Lodge #324, out of District 20, conducted our annual nursing home visit to Village Creek Wellness and Rehabilitation. Due to unforeseen circumstances, we were unable to visit; however, we delivered the items we had planned on donating as scheduled. This annual event resonates and hold a dear place in the hearts of our members, as most of us have experienced having a loved one residing in one of these facilities. Therefore, being blessed with having the opportunity to spend time with these lovely guests, we were afforded a chance to at least give the joy of visitation, conversation, and playing games while further embracing the warmth of our brief interaction. As we age through this thing called life, we are constantly reminded of our mortality; however, time is our most precious asset and spending it with our elders who have paved the way for us to enjoy our lives provides a little comfort for those of us who have lost a loved one. We have rescheduled the visit for another time this year and are looking forward to the event!





Pride of The South Lodge No. 324 Conducts Masons for Veterans Initiative Barbecue

By Chris Lewis, Junior Warden Pride of The South Lodge No. 324, District 20

Fort Worth, TX - On Saturday, November 4, 2023, Pride of the South Lodge #324 out of District 20, conducted our annual Masons for Veteran's Initiative barbecue. This is an important event to us as servicemembers once wrote a blank check to serve this country; additionally, we have several members of our lodge who are also veterans. The event was held at The Patriot House Transitional Facility for Veterans; henceforth, their mission is to guide the journey home, providing services and resources to end homelessness for each man, woman, and child who walk through their doors. In addition to the barbecue, clothing items were donated, and we were blessed to sit, fellowship, and spend time with these heroes.







Moreover, all gave some, some gave all serving this country with dignity, honor, courage, and commitment while vehemently declaring, "Tough times don't last, tough people do!" At any given moment, or flip of the coin, consequences could lead any veteran or person to homelessness or substance abuse. As we approach Veteran's Day to celebrate servicemembers of the past and present, it is important to remind them of giving themselves grace. Although, not a counselor; coincidently, a mentor to servicemembers and young adults we communicate with, we leave two pieces of wisdom learned through our life progressions: 1) If you forget your mistakes or diminish them, if you don't use them as fertilizer for a better you, you are liable to revert to the same terrible impulses, same terrible outcomes. 2) Have gratitude for your regrets, they are there to remind you to be a better version of yourself. Overall, it was a great day spent with the veterans on our annual visit, and we look forward to visiting them next year; although, we are discussing adding another visit to our schedule.

Pride of The South Lodge No. 324 Celebrated Our 103rd Anniversary & Family and Friends Family Day Picnic

By Darrell Bell, Worshipful Master Pride of The South Lodge No. 324, District 20

Fort Worth, TX – On Saturday, October 14, 2023, Pride of the South Lodge #324 out of District 20 celebrated our 103rd year anniversary and hosted our family & friends family day picnic. It was a joyous occasion as we rejoiced with our Masonic friends and family while also celebrating the lives of our beloved PM Linton Green, Sr. and PM Andrew Howard, as both laid down their working tools in the summer of 2021. Brother Green, who was a prominent and distinguished Brother and whose legacy will live beyond measure in Masonry, and PM Howard, although not as well known, had a prominent role and empowering impact on the harmony we embrace today in Pride of the South. As time is our most precious asset, we always ensure that we take advantage of each second as a second passed and is one that cannot be retrieved; therefore, enjoy your moments as if they were your last. As we embarked on our day, several members of District 20 attended the festivities, while additionally enjoying the fellowship and comradery of each other's company. Lastly, as our day came to a close, we were reminded of the value of family and friends and to always treasure the moments we are blessed with.



Brothers from Pride of the South Lodge Visits Church – And Also Get a Surprise Visit

Article by Darrell Bell, Worshipful Master (with contributions by Ronald D. Gerac)

FORT WORTH, TEXAS – On July 30, 2023, Pride of The South Lodge #324, from District 20, held our church visitation at the Pilgrim Valley Missionary Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, Texas. Pastor Maverick D. Gayden welcomed us with open arms and had a great service. During his service, the pastor told the church that he wanted Pride of The South Lodge #324 to have an annual visit on the 5th Sunday in July starting next year. It will be celebrated under the moniker "Pride of The South Sunday." It hopes to be a fun filled Sunday with food, fellowship, and positive Masonic exposure. We left a nice donation to the church, and in return, the church gave us a donation to our scholarship fund. After our church visit, a few of the brothers had lunch at a nearby establishment and happened to run into Noble Peace Prize Nominated, and the Grandmother of Juneteenth herself, Miss Opal Lee. Worshipful Master Darrell Bell took a photo with her and also gifted Ms. Lee one of our lodge's challenge coins as a token of appreciation.









POTS Back-to-School Drive

Article by Darrell Bell, Worshipful Master (with contributions by Ronald D. Gerac)

FORT WORTH, TEXAS – On Saturday, August 11, 2023, Pride of the South Lodge #324 conducted our annual Back to School Drive and Barbecue at the American Legion Post 838 from noon until 5 PM. The event was great as the members had an opportunity to fellowship with the parents and children while they ate and picked up their backpacks. It's always an honor and a privilege to participate in these community endeavors, as well as a blessing to serve and aid families. We get the opportunity to bless others by attempting to minimize parental stress about back-to-school financial obligations. As our day of service ended, we all took a moment to reflect, fellowship, and truly embrace our beehive, believing and saying in unison: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity..."









DISTRICT 24 HOSTING THEIR ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

Story & Photo by SDD Alphonso Ford



Ms. Lilyanna Gonzalez (District 24 scholarship contestant) with her mother and the members of District 24 at the Grand Lodge Scholarship award luncheon

On April 1, 2023, District 24 hosted its annual JT Maxey Scholarship contest, there were six contestants from the different Lodges in District 24 competing. Mr. Joshua-Zion Styles representing Mt. Bonnell No. 2, Mr. Kory Thomas representing Thomas H. Keithley No. 45, Ms. Trene Tee Lauren Briddell representing St. James No. 71, Ms. Savannah Marie Lee representing Nolan Creek No. 227, Mr. Damien Frank representing New Light No. 242, & Ms. Lilyanna Gonzalez representing Pride of Killeen No. 620.

Each contestant had to write an essay on a particular topic provided by the Grand Lodge Scholarship committee. The winner of District 24 scholarship contest will be the representative of District 24 at the Grand Lodge Scholarship contest. At the end of District 24 scholarship contest the 1stplace award was awarded to Ms. Lilyanna Gonzalez representing Pride of Killeen No. 620, Ms. Gonzalez won the 1st place award of \$1,200.00. Ms. Gonzalez also represented District 24 at the Grand Lodge Scholarship contest and won 2nd place, receiving an award of



Ms. Lilyanna Gonzalez, District 24 1st place scholarship contestant, 2nd place Grand Lodge

\$3,000.00. Ms. Lilyanna
Gonzalez a senior at Ellison
High School in Killeen TX plans
to attend Texas State
University, majoring in
psychology, counseling.

DISTRICT 24 CELEBRATING PRINCE HALL AMERICANISM DAY

Story by SDD Alphonso Ford Photos by LJ Austin



On March 6, 1775, Prince Hall and fourteen (14) other men of color, were initiated, passed, and raised to the degree of Master Mason in a Military Lodge. This was the early beginning of what has become the oldest and largest Black Fraternity in America



Prince Hall Americanism Day is celebrated on or as close to September 12th each year to honor Prince Hall.

On September 10, 2023, District 24 of the MWPHGL of Texas and its Jurisdiction, led by DDGM Tommy Levi celebrated and honored the founder of Prince Hall Masonry. District 24 visited church at Greater Vision Community Church where Reverand (Dr.) David G. Reynolds Sr. is the pastor. In attendance at the service were members of District 24 along with the AppendantBodies, Adoptive Rites & Concordant Masonic bodies in the Central Texas area. During the service WM Adrian Davenport gave the purpose of the celebration of Prince Hall Americanism Day.





Grand Master Anderson with DDGM Levi and some of the Appointed Grand Lodge Officers of District 24 at Prince Hall Americanism Day





Visiting the Central Texas area was our very own Grand Master for the MWPHGL of Texas and its Jurisdiction Michael T. Anderson. GM Anderson stated that he had a great time during the church service and the hospitality shown while he was in Central Texas.

After church service dinner was served at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9191, 3307 Zephyr Rd, Killeen TX 76543.

Mosier Valley Lodge No. 103 MOTIVATED MEN ON A MISSION





Mosier Valley Lodge No. 103 had the privilege of providing over 35 families in the Tarrant and Dallas county communities with food boxes from November 17th -23rd to assist in bringing a moment of joy and relief during the Thanksgiving holiday.

The food boxes contained:

- · A turkey or ham
- Brown Gravy
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Corn
- Green Beans
- Sweet Potatoes
- Stove-Top Stuffing
- Au Gratin Sliced Potatoes
- A box of Cake Mix, including icing

All the families were grateful and appreciated the service provided, and the Men Of Mosier Valley Lodge No. 103 were truly honored to serve.

Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 Hosts Family Fun Day and Backpack Giveaway

Story by: Kenneth M. Nash, Sr., Senior Warden

Copperas Cove, TX - Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 hosted its annual Family Fun Day and Backpack Giveaway on August 12, 2023 at Camp Triumph in Copperas Cove, Texas from 5pm to 8pm. This event was sponsored by several organizations, to include South Central Commandery No. 37 Knights Templar, Omicron Pi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fratemity Incorporated, CSM A.C. Cotton VFW Post 12209, Central Texas Council No. 5 Royal and Select Masters, Royal Elegance Court No. 6 LOCOP, Killeen Turtle Club No. 1, and the Auxiliary of VFW 9191. It was an outstanding day of fun and fellowship.

We collectively were able to provide 200 children with backpacks filled with supplies for the new school year. The children and their families were also able to enjoy the amenities of Camp Triumph and celebrate our family fun day. We used the entire facility which included the go-cart track, gymnasium, splash pad, pool, and pavilions. Everyone enjoyed the food and had a great time. The menu included smoked chicken, ribs, brisket, green beans, baked beans, and potato salad.

Awards were presented and Worshipful Master Davenport thanked everyone for their support and for being a part of the event. Special DDGM Ford commended the work we are doing in the community and was our photographer for the evening. SW Nash gave kudos to all the brothers who assisted in making the event a success. We would like next year's event to include more organizations, especially Masonic organizations and wish to see it grow bigger and better every year.



Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 Service in The Community

Story by: SW Kenneth M. Nash, Sr.

Killeen, TX - On June 10, 2023, the brothers of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 hosted its quarterly Feed the Homeless Affair at 410 N. 8th St., Killeen, TX at 10:00 am. The menu included hotdogs, chips, cookies, and water. Several brothers came out to prep, setup, and operate the event. LaBrent U. Epps Youth Palace No. 3, which falls under E.L. Downing Court No. 237, Heroines of Jericho, also donated to the cause. The members of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 fed approximately 100 of the displaced members of our community, who were glad to receive a meal and thanked members for continuing to show up for them.

The members of the Lodge were blessed to have District Deputy Grand Master-Emeritus Fields's granddaughter and Bro. Jermaine Hollis from New Light Lodge No. 242 in attendance to assist. Brother Hollis stated that he loves to see how the members of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 are out in the community and how the members work together. Reaching out to those in need is a staple that Worshipful Master Davenport would like to continue to see during his administration, and the brothers, officers, and Past Masters of Pride of Killeen Lodge No. 620 strive to carry this task on. WM Davenport stated that if all goes well, the Lodge plans to continue this tradition for many years to come.

After the crowd dispersed, the brothers sat for a while to enjoy the sunshine and each other's company. Senior Warden Nash thanked all the brothers for assisting and welcomed the visitors to return at any time. As usual, this event was very productive and successful.



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Will Hobdy 972-371-0065 willhobdy@yahoo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Bee Hive Lodge #105 PO Box 176 Greenville TX 75403

Greenville High School Graduate Myriah Barrett Sets Sights on Prairie View A&M University

(GREENVILLE, Texas) August 8, 2023. Greenville High School graduate Myriah Barrett is all set to begin studies at Prairie View A&M University after garnering over one thousand dollars in scholarship awards through the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas. Myriah emerged as the front runner in the local Bee Hive Lodge #105 of Greenville contest. She went on a week later to sweep the area's district contest, which includes Hunt, Hopkins, Lamar, and Bowie counties.

It all culminated this summer when Myriah advanced to the state level, where she placed in the top-10 of award recipients for the J.T. Maxey Scholarship Contest, awarded by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas. "We were awfully proud of Myriah when she won our local contest," says Willie T. Hobdy, Master of Bee Hive Lodge #105. "Once she won our local and district contests, we knew she would shine in state competition."

This is the tenth consecutive year that a student from the Greenville/Commerce area has dominated the district. Senior warden Tony Henry, and Junior warden Reginald Gilbert did a great job of continuing our

(L-R) Bee Hive Lodge #105 Senior Warden Tony Henry, parent LaTesha Barrett, Myriah Barrett, and Junior Warden Reginald Gilbert.

tradition of producing winning students he said. The District Deputy Grand Master is Bryan Vaughn.

Myriah is the daughter of LaTesha Barrett of Greenville. She was a member of the varsity track team and played with the varsity basketball team during her sophomore and junior years. Myriah was one of five head majors for the school drill team. Academically, she focused on honors and dual credit classes. She ended her senior year with a 3.8 GPA, good for a spot among the top 20% of her graduating class.

The J.T. Maxey Scholarship is named after John T. Maxey, Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas. Every summer, many high school seniors from across the state compete to receive scholarship funds for undergraduate study at an accredited college or university of their choice. Potential scholarship recipients participate in local creative writing contests. The winner of each district contest advances to the state level, where they engage in a variety of academic challenges that test their cognitive skills, creativity, and verbal reasoning.

"My journey - I owe it all to God," Myriah says. "Now I will start my new journey at Prairie View University, where I will be studying business management in hopes to later open my own business."

Sherman Boxing Gym Trains "Militarystyle"

By Talaiya Munson

Published: Jul. 25, 2023 at 10:46 PM CDT

SHERMAN, Texas (KXII) - The Camp is more than a place to box, the training is shaping the kids in the ring and out of it.

Andre Luper is the owner and head coach of this boxing gym. As a veteran, he is big on discipline and trains the kids "military style." Luper took up boxing at the young age of 11. He says growing up, he was bullied, and as a result started the gym and anti-bullying classes.



Many of the kids say they train hard, and some of them are seeing results. Luper says they have "four golden glove titles, five championship belts, and a national junior Olympic finalist."

Brandon Salado was a National Junior Olympic Finalist and got silver. Though he didn't win, he says he didn't necessarily lose either because he still got out there. Luper gets help from other Certified USA boxing coaches like himself to train the kids

five to six days out of the week.

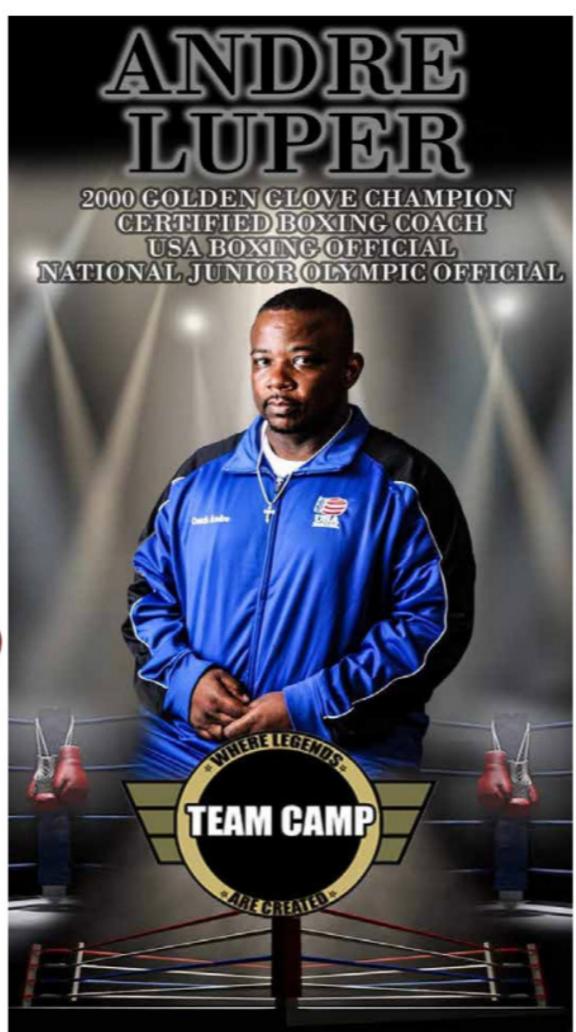


Luper says he is big on giving back and being active in the community and is doing so with his gym. "We go out, and we go to local churches, and we go to local nursing homes, and we put on demonstrations" he says. Luper says his biggest goal is to help shift the mindset of individuals who need guidance to succeed. Many of the kids say the training is intense and that

they are working tirelessly, especially with an <u>upcoming tournament in August</u>

Link to Promo Video

Copyright 2023 KXII. All rights reserved.







Queen Makeda Court #4, Ladies of the Circle of Perfection, Hits Food Insecurity Head-on

Taia R. Smith, Royal Perfect Matron

Houston, TX – On September 6, 2023, Queen Makeda Court #4 Ladies of the Circle of Perfection, PHA continued their monthly charity initiative of stocking the food pantry at Empowerment Hight School in Southwest Houston. Per the Houston Food Bank, more than 1 out of 5 children in Southeast Texas is food insecure.



(L-R: Royal Perfect Matron Taia Smith, Empowerment HS Principal Dr. Adrienne Bykowicz-Krul, Royal Deputy Matron Ima Ekanem, Honorary Past Royal Perfect Matron Stacy Vincent)

What is food insecurity? The USDA defines food insecurity as "A lack of consistent access to enough food for every person in a household to live an active, healthy life." (www.feedingamerica.org) What drove Queen Makeda Court #4 to this initiative was the story of a young man whom the staff saw wrapping his lunch up every day and putting it in his backpack. When asked why, he stated that he is taking care of his younger siblings and that they don't have food at home to eat.

Children shouldn't have to worry about if they have food at night on top of the stresses of education and everyday life. Queen Makeda Court #4 was blessed with donations not only from its member but our community partners at the United Way of Houston. The United Way of Houston provided Queen Makeda Court #4 with over 100+ breakfast and snack bags. The breakfast bags consisted of Oatmeal, breakfast bars, applesauce, and bottled water. The snack bags consisted of goldfish, fruit bars, raisins, and bottled water. Members of Queen Makeda Court #4 also provided individual packets of mac and cheese, soups, tuna, chips, and cookies.

Our goal is to stock the pantry each month, and if anyone would like to make a donation or purchase items off our pantry Amazon wish list, here's the link! https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/38IY7MIUGGOND?ref_=wl_share Please contact any member of Queen Makeda Court #4.

A life that faith built

ONE OF BURNET'S FIRST BLACK STUDENTS, BETTY MILLER SANDERS

LEARNS TO LEAD, LOVE, AND LIVE WITH SIGNIFICANCE Princess Captain Betty Sanders Will Celebrate her 80th Birthday Oct 31st

By Suzanne Freeman

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

iolence erupted on the University of Mississippi campus in September 1962 after a federal court ordered the school to admit its first Black student. Just a few months earlier, in May 1962, Burnet High School handed senior Betty Miller its first-ever Most Deserving Student Award. She wasn't the first Black student to graduate from BHS (she was actually the second), but she was one of only three who attended between 1959 and 1962.

"I did not want to go, but I'm telling you, it was awesome," said the now-Betty Miller Sanders. "I didn't have any problems. Nobody ever let me hear it - the N-word. 1 had friends and I still do have friends from high school. I'm going to lunch with one tomorrow."

From grades 2-8, Black students in Burnet attended what Sanders called the "Black School," After that, the students enrolled at Burnet High School, although many went to Austin. One of Sanders' older brothers went to Anderson High School in Austin, which is where Sanders wanted

"But I was a girl, so no," she said.

According to Sanders, the first Black student at BHS was Kenneth Baker. She recalled him graduating when she was a sophomore, although this reporter could not find any mention of him in the yearbooks for those years.

At Burnet, Sanders was a member of the football and basketball pep squads for three years, Future Homemakers of America for three years, and Speech Club for two years.

During her sophomore year, she remembers a team trip to Austin for a football game. On the way home, they stopped at a





TOP: Betty Miller Conders at the lestem in St. Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church, 508 S. Itill St. in Burnet. Her mother was instrumental in founding the church in 1953 when Sanders was 7 years old. Its first meetings were in the family's living room in a house across the street from where the current church now stands. Staff photo by Dahoto Morrissies **BOTTOM: Betty Mil**er in her freshman year at Burnet High School, Staff photo

by Suranne Freeman

two-story Mexican restaurant at the corner of Sixth Street and Interstate 35 in Austin.

"We got out, and they told the coaches that I could not go in that place with them," she said. "The coach said, 'Well, if she can't go in, we can't go in.' And we were HUNGRY!"

The restaurant took them all upstairs and served them dinner.

The only time she remembers being denied something in high school because of the color of her skin was a three-day senior trip to a beach near Galveston. The hotel would not allow a Black person to stay.

"My teachers were really kind to me," she said. "They asked me how I felt about that." With a distinctive twinkle in her eyes and

a chuckle, as she came to the end of this particular story, she continued.

"I said, Well, do I have to go to school those days?" she said. "They told me no, s I said, Well, then I'm fine with it!"

The 77-year-old attributes her obvious high spirits and positive attitude to her mother, Emma Miller, another communit dynamo who was posthumously named a Burnet County Woman of Note in 2017.

Ms. Emma, as everyone called her, was born in 1904 in Brenham. She died in 199-in Burnet.

"My mother always told me, "You are just smarter than anybody and everybody lov you," she said. "So I went to school thin! ing everybody loves me. I'm just like, 'Hi — you know, to everybody."

Sanders was the youngest of seven children. She was 7 years old when her famil lost their farm in Liberty Hill and moved Burnet. Her father set up a barbecue sta.... in Buchanan Dam, while her mother went to work for the Donald Duncan family on their Burnet County farm.

In 1953, Ms. Emma was instrumental in founding St. Matthew African Methodist Episcopal Church, which started in her home.

"There was no Black church in Burnet when we moved there," Sanders said. "Mother used to have church in the living room. She thought God wanted her to do that because she loved the Lord. She love the Lord, she did."

The Millers had attended an AME church in Liberty Hill, so that was the denomina tion Ms. Emma established in Burnet.

"That's what she wanted," Sanders said.

"She wanted an AME church. The name
St Matthew, that was our first bishop (S.).
Matthew)."

Known as "the church that faith built," the St. Matthew's building at 508 S. Hill St. was put together with volunteer labor and donated building supplies. A group of Black families, including the Smiths, Satterfields, Maxwells, and Matthews, purchased a lot at the corner of Hill and Live Oak.

According to Sanders, the property was owned by a relative named Myrtle Barton.

"Her son used to live right on this corner, and Myrtle told Mother they were going to be moving and maybe she could get the

building they had for the church," Sanders said. "My mother was working for a family in Burnet, name of Duncan. Donald Duncan. She told them, she said, 'I need a church.' And they helped."

They moved an Army barracks off of the property and built their own structure from scratch. The Sunday school class made monthly payments until it was all paid off, according to a piece written by Burnet County Historical Commission member Lela Goar when Emma Miller was named a Burnet County Woman of Note.

Miller secured a bank loan, which ended up in her name, something that was not a problem until the congregation went back to the bank for a loan to remodel in 1977. Miller was 73 years old and retired. She signed the church over to the bishop for the remodel without a second thought, Sanders said.

During the remodel, the entrance and address moved around the corner from Live Oak to Hill Street. St. Matthew's celebrated 70 years on Sunday, July 23, 2023.

"When we first started the church, it was full," said Sanders, who claims to be the oldest member. "Now, there are only about nine regular members every Sunday, and we are all relatives. I told the pastor when he first came, "The worse thing you can do in this church is make one of the members upset, because they are all related!"

Sanders went to Paul Quinn College in Waco (now in Dallas) after high school. Paul Quinn is a private, nonprofit, faith-based school that teaches students to lead, live lives that matter, love something greater than themselves, and leave places better than they found them. Sanders took it to heart.

After college, she married a military man and they were deployed to Spain, where she went to work for the government.

"I have to tell you a story," Sanders said during this interview.

She recounted how she visited her home economics teacher when she returned to the United States from Spain.

"(The teacher) said, 'Do you not know that the FBI came to my house for you?' For me?!" Sanders exclaimed. "They were asking me all kinds of questions about you,' she said. I told her, 'I hope you told them I hadn't done anything."

Gate City Guild #42

Gate City in action!!! Assisting with the Back to School Orange County fundraiser at Granger Chevrolet. #westaybusyatthegate #... See more







Gate City Lodge #31, Gate City Guild #42, Stars Of Gate City #57, and East Gate Court-HOJ #133 Donated a bike so this child ca... See more



Gate City Guild #42 donated dinner for

Vacation Bible School ... See more

vacation St Paul Missionary Baptist Church



Gate City Guild #42 Special Deputy Artis Petterway in action, assisting with voter registration! #westaybusyatthegate

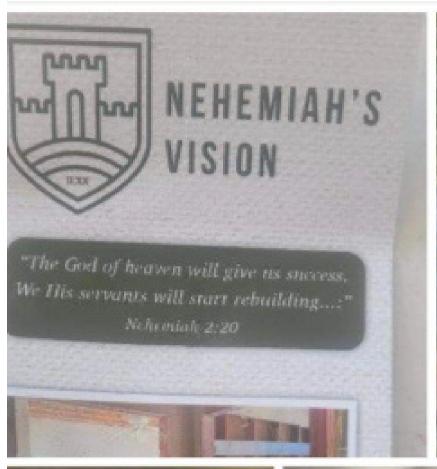








Gate City Guild #4z in action assisting to build an accessible ramp for an elderly lady in Vidor, TX. #westaybusyatthegate











Gate City Guild #42 Special Deputy Artis
Petterway in action, assisting applicants at the
Second Chance Job Fair! #westaybu... See more



SD Artis Petterway at Beacon House in Houston, Texas, fixing lunch for those in need. #westaybusyatthegate



R. Lucille Samuel Guild #41

RLS41 the Palace at WORK in the community



R Lucille Samuel #41 does work in the community to support the local food pantry which aids to help end hunger and feed families affected by domestic violence, 1st Responders Fire & Police for serving on the front line and those surviving while battling cancer.

GROWTH in the Palace



Congratulations to new Princess Brittney Deamus Johnson who was initiated into the R Lucille Samuel Guild 41. We are committed to continuing the growth of our palace and work to add more new members to the Lone Star Grand Guild.

LSGG Regional Training Conference September 2023



R Lucille Samuel Guild #41 attending regional training to sharpen skills and learn. The training is provided to keep the Princesses knowledgeable, involved and provides a chance for mentoring and recruitment.

The Grand Princess Captain Monique Calbert is pictured with our Guild.

Excellence and Congratulations Special Deputy



Special Deputy and Princess of RLS#41, Tianna Williams who received an AWESOME award for her proficiency and participation in demonstrating the Burial Ceremony Honor during the 2023 training session.

2023 S.T.E.A.M. Camp for Young Leaders

Michael L. Simms, Sr., State Director, Texas Knights of Pythagoras

On July 28 - 30, 2023, the Knights of Pythagoras, Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council held its 2023 S.T.E.A.M. Camp for Young Leaders. STEAM refers to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. A S.T.E.A.M. career often involves using problem-solving skills while discovering real-world solutions. The conference was held at the University of Texas @ Arlington (for the 2nd time) in Arlington, TX. The event started early with an educational tour of the Dallas Cowboys (AT&T) stadium. The Knights learned what it takes to operate the stadium during a football game, how many employees are staffed, the type of grass provided during games, etc. They visited the locker rooms and other areas around the stadium. They had a great time.



On the first day of the conference, the Knights began at the University of Texas @ Arlington for lunch in the cafeteria and a campus tour. The Knights enjoyed the many speakers who provided information in the career fields of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. The Knights held their elections, educational award competitions, oratorical competitions, and basketball and football competitions. They also enjoyed an evening at the Main Event in Grand Prairie, where they held a bowling competition between the councils. Sir Knights had an opportunity to compete in the conference as well. There is a rivalry where the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge (officers) bowl against the Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council (officers). It was great to see another win for the KOP. On Saturday night, the Knights visited the Order of the Eastern Stars, Youth Fraternity Sneaker Ball (dance), and then joined them for a church visit on Sunday morning.



This makes year no. 16; we have hosted youth conferences on college campuses. It is always a joy when we come together across the state. It is about training, competition, and having fun.



The Texas KOP to Celebrate 25 Years

Michael L. Simms, Sr., State Director, Texas Knights of Pythagoras



The Most Venerable Thomas H. Routt Grand Council, Order of the Knights of Pythagoras, is looking to celebrate 25 years next year at its youth conference planned for July 25 - 28, 2024 in Houston. This community-based mentoring organization is for boys between the ages of seven and twenty under the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas. The KOP is also under the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation. In 1999, the Most Worshipful Grand Master, The Honorable Robert E. Connor, Jr., felt it was necessary to start the Order of the Knights of Pythagoras and name it after the Past Grand Master Thomas H. Routt. According to 113 Annual Grand Communication Proceedings (1988), it was then the Most Worshipful Grand Master, The Honorable Thomas H. Routt, who recommended for adoption the establishment of an Order of the Knights of Pythagoras mentoring program. The naming of the Grand Council by then MWGM Robert E. Connor, Jr. and implementation of this program was given at the 124th Annual Grand Communication during his allocution. MWGM Wilbert M. Curtis then continued the organization and is now under the direction of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, The Honorable Michael T. Anderson.

Some of the accomplishments of the Texas KOP include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 25 years of community mentoring services
- Started 20 councils around the state
- 16 years of hosting conferences on college campuses
- Conferences were held at 9 HBCUs (historically black colleges & universities), 7 in Texas & 2 in Georgia
- Conferences held at four non-HBCU's

We want to thank our youth, parents, master masons, organizations, and other masonic family members for making this youth organization a great success in Texas.



= FUNDRAISING =



\$25 FOR 25 YEARS DONATION

Texas Order of the Knights of Pythagoras





Checks, money orders, mailed to: Prince Hall Charitable Foundation PO BOX 1478. Fort Worth TX 76101-1478.



PayPal

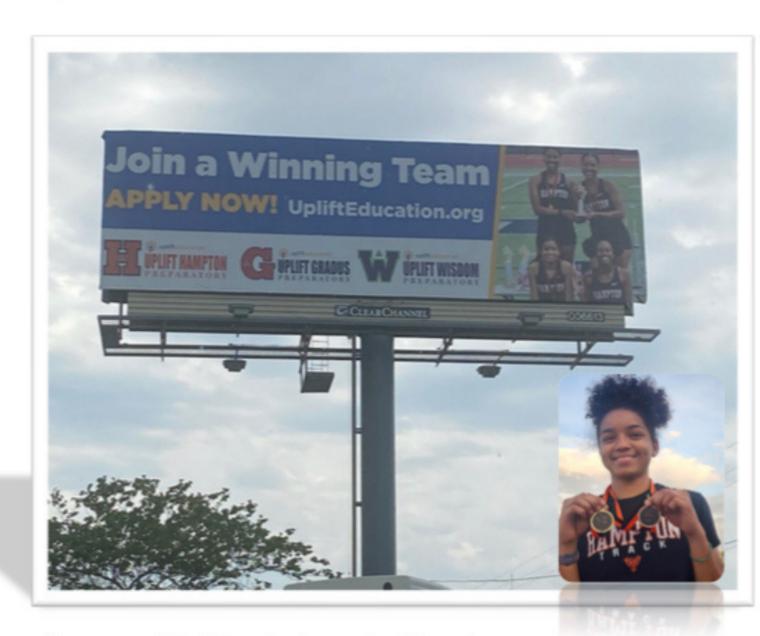
To donate by PayPal please use the information below: www.PayPal.me/PHCF3579



Have You Seen This Billboard?

Palace Member Makes Her Mark Along Interstate 20

Story and photos submitted by Heroine Emma Buckner, Most Ancient Matron Edited by Heroine Yvonne Shuler, PhD, CP, Palace Publisher



You can see this billboard going west on I20 coming from I45 on the left side before you reach Lancaster Road.

One of the young ladies on the above billboard is our very own Nadia Buckner, member of Margaret A. McDow Palace #332 in Dallas, Texas. Nadia attended Uplift Hampton Preparatory school and this billboard promotes the school.

Nadia runs the 4x1, 4x2 and 4x4. Her talents took her all the way to State. Nadia also participated in AAU track. Nadia played varsity basketball as a freshman also. She is another bright star in our Youth Department and hopefully a future Heroine of Jericho.











Douglas Burrell #56 Meet and Greet

December 16, 2023 | 10:00 A.M.

680 W. Sam Houston Parkway S, Houston, TX 77042 Email: Douglas.Burrell.56@gmail.com



ANCIENT & ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE
OF FREEMASONRY, PRINCE HALL AFFILIATION, SJ

GOODWILL CONSISTORY NO. 238

HOSTS

ANNUAL SOUTH CAMP LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH 1PM

Luby's

1727 Old Spanish Trail, Houston, TX 77054 POC: Damon H. Mattox, 832-392-1300

OPEN TO MASONS AND GUESTS



Goodwill Consistory #238 hosted South Camp Luncheon at Luby's as part of Council of Deliberation activity in Houston.

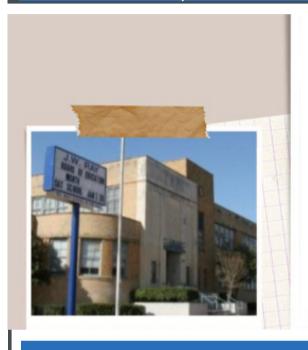






J.W. RAY: AN UNSUNG PILLAR IN EDUCATION, COMMUNITY, AND FREEMASONRY

Willie D. White, Past Master (669)







J. W. RAY, Principal (1888-1892)

Dallas, Texas - John Wesley Ray, a distinguished African - American educator in Dallas. Texas, was born on February 24, 1852, in Asheville, North Carolina. After the Civil War he relocated to eastern Tennessee. where he pursued an education at Maryville College. This early education set the stage for his future as an educator and community leader. Following graduation, he beganteaching in Tennessee, and later in Virginia, before migrating to Dallas, Texas in the winter of 1878. In 1881, he married Marv L. Crockett and went on to have three children.

There were no public schools for African Americans in Dallas at the time he settled. In the late 1870's he organized private schools in Plano, Jefferson, White Rock, and Dallas. These private institutions played an importantrole in providing educational opportunities for Blacks. Over time the private schools were incorporated into what would become Dallas Public School system. Ray was elected Principal of Dallas Colored School No. 1 in 1885 and served in that capacity until 1888. This school was located at the corner of Canton and Cockrell streets. It later became known as Booker T. Washington School High School. He served as Principal of the High School from 1888 to 1892. J.W. Ray dedicated 28 years of his life to teaching and shaping the minds of countless students in the Dallas area. His steadfast commitment to providing quality education was evident throughout his extensive and illustrious career.

ADMINISTRATION NO. 1



J. W. Ray, Principal (1888-1892) by Leona Wong Leim

Photograph of John Wesley Ray, the first
Principal of Colored School No. 1 in Dallas from
1888-1882. Source: J. Mason Brewer, ed., A
History of the Dallas High School for Negroes
(Friends of the Dallas Public Library, 1991)

J.W. Ray served not only as an educator but also as a devoted community leader. He was actively engaged in civic activities and politics, serving as a member and laterChairman of the Dallas County Republican executive committee. Ray was instrumental in the establishment of Woodland Cemetery, replacing the deteriorating Freedman's Cemetery. He also played a vital role in organizing Emancipation Day celebrations, working to ensure proper recognition of this important event.

In addition to his educational and community efforts, J.W. Ray served as a member of various organizations and fraternal orders. Ray was a faithful member of St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church. He was the National Secretary for the Royal Knights of the World, Grand Secretary of the Oddfellows, and Prince Hall Freemason. He was a member of the Paul Drayton Lodge No. 9, Free & Accepted Masons #9, in Dallas, Texas.

The roots of Prince Hall Freemasonry in North Texas can be traced to the establishment of Paul Drayton Lodge No. 9 on May 10, 1876. J.W. Ray's unsung, yet significant rolein Texas Prince Hall Freemasonry is extensively recorded in the Grand Lodge proceedings. His affiliation with Paul Drayton Lodge is noted as early as 1887. He was later appointed Grand Junior Deacon in 1892. The following year he served as Worshipful Master of Paul Drayton Lodge No. 9 signifying his dedication and fealty to the Masonic fraternity. Recognition of his stewardship to the craft came in the form of an appointment to the office of Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge, under the leadership of Grand Master J.W. Madison in 1893. In 1894, Ray's contributions were again celebrated as he was elected to the office of Grand Junior Warden. This was indicative of his continued application of the tenets and values upheld by the Masonic fraternity. He continued his service to Paul Drayton lodge by serving as the Secretary, which played a vital role in its foundation and administration. In 1896, Ray's prominence within the Masonic order was cementedwhen he was elected Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge. He held this position with distinction until 1897. Remarkably, J.W. Ray maintained his affiliation with Freemasonry throughout his life, remaining an activemember of the fraternity until his passing in 1929. His contributions to Freemasonry, much like his involvement in education and leadership, underscored his commitment to building a strong and united community.

In 1939, the Dallas **Board of Education** paid a lasting tribute to John Wesley Ray's remarkable legacy by naming a new North Dallas African American school the J.W. Ray Elementary School. This recognition honored his unwavering service to education and his profound impactin the city of Dallas. Today, the J.W. Ray School stands as a tribute to his zeal and fervency. Additionally, in 1991, the City of Dallas established a neighborhood park in his honor.

John Wesley Ray's life and achievements stand as a testament to the transformative power of education, community engagement, and leadership. His legacy, along with his deep involvement in Freemasonry serves as an enduring source of inspiration.

MIDWINTER



SESSION 2023

Session Friday 10 Nov 2023

https://ljaustinjr.zenfolio.com/p1035062503

Session Saturday 11 Nov 2023

https://ljaustinjr.zenfolio.com/p871240290

For More Pictures click the link above

SPECIAL THANKS TO GRAND PHOTOGRAPHER LJ AUSTIN





















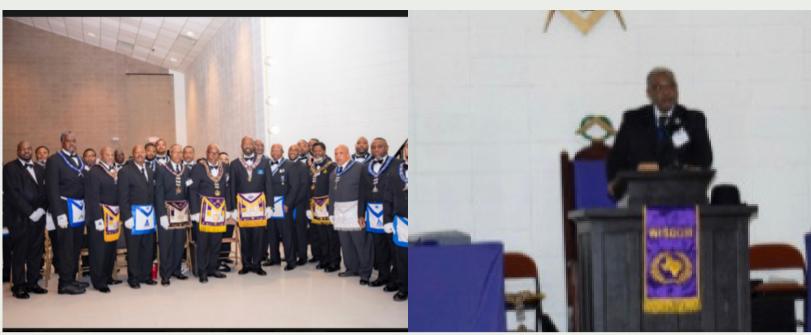








































POW/MIA Table of Honor 11 Nov 2023 https://ljaustinjr.zenfolio.com/p760870439/ec420450e

For More Pictures Click the link above



















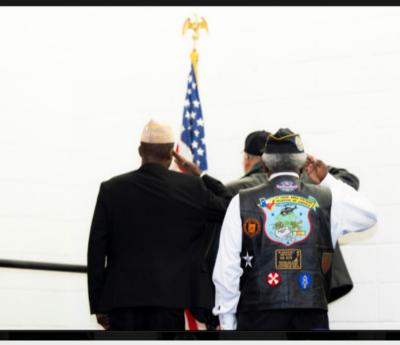




















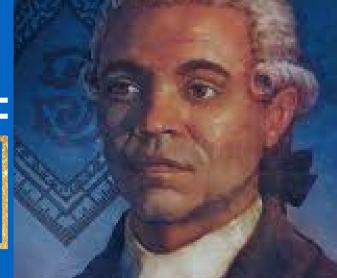






T.P.H.F.M

THE TEXAS PRINCE HALL FREEMASON











ORCANIZED AUGUST 20, 1875
STONE LEVELED JUNE 23, 1986