



# The Texas Prince Hall Freemason



Official Publication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas  
Volume 2- Issue 4 - Fall 2011



**Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum  
Unveiled  
“Telling Our Own Story”**

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## From the Editor



Greetings,

"Telling Our Own Story" is a just theme for this past 136th Annual Grand Communication. It was historic when Grand Master Curtis cut the ceremonial ribbon officially opening the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum. It was a proud day to be a Texas Prince Hall Mason. I will be away protecting my country until early 2012 and Past Master Edward Jones will assume all layout and design duties. Please continue to submit your photos and articles to our great publication. It is an honor and pleasure to bring to you the 4th Edition of *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason*. If you know of organizations who would like to advertise in the publication, please provide them with my email address in order to correspond.

Fraternally,

H.P.M. Burrell D. Parmer

*The Texas Prince Hall Freemason* accepts submissions of articles and photographs of general interest to Prince Hall Masons 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. Articles and photographs become the property of the publication and the right is reserved to edit and use the articles and photographs as deemed necessary. Deadline for submissions is the 15th day of the preceding quarter. Articles are to be submitted using Microsoft Word (Arial 11) and photographs should be in JPEG format (150 - 300 dpi) and captioned (Times New Roman 11). Send all submissions to [bro\\_edward.jones@yahoo.com](mailto:bro_edward.jones@yahoo.com). Permission to reprint original articles appearing in *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason* is granted to all recognized Masonic publications.

# The Texas Prince Hall Freemason

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**2011 - 2012**

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Grand Tiler

**R.W. Vernon J. James**

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*The Texas Prince Hall Freemason* is an official publication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas and Jurisdiction. It is published four times a year for the members of Texas Prince Hall Lodges, their families, and friends. Opinions expressed by the Editor and contributing writers do not necessarily reflect official positions of the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas.

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# Message from the Grand Master

*Excerpts from the Annual Allocution (Edited for Release)*

"I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD." Psalm 27:13-14 New American Standard Bible  
I greet you in the name of The Great Architect of the Universe.

The Constitution of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas and its Jurisdiction sets forth the second duty of the Grand Master. He is to present at each annual Communication a written message therein, setting forth all of his official acts during the year. The Grand Master is to inform the Craft of the general conditions of Freemasonry within the Jurisdiction of Texas and recommend legislation that is deemed necessary for the welfare of the order. I stand before you today as your Grand Master to perform that task.

I thank God for allowing us to meet and greet one more time as a Masonic Family. I am well pleased to have our Sisters of Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter and the Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho in the midst of the Brothers for the purpose of sharing the thoughts of the condition, vision and hope for the future of our Grand Old Order as the Prince Hall Masonic Family. It is by God's grace that we are able to continue to play a major part in promoting Morality, Brotherly Love and Charity.

I come to you this Saturday morning, the 25th day of June, bringing you my 8th annual message as your Grand Master.

I ask that our Grand Organist to lead us in an inspirational song after which we will be blessed with a prayer by our Grand Chaplain. I ask that he pray for our military Sisters and Brothers that are in harm's way, fighting for our freedom. I ask that he pray for our country and wisdom for our President and leaders. I ask for him to pray for world peace.

I now stand before you to deliver my seventh annual allocution.

I want to thank the entire Prince Hall Masonic Family for your prayers, encouragement and support. We have successfully completed another Masonic year.

## **State of Our Grand Lodge**

### **Membership**

As stated in the report of the Grand Secretary; we lost almost 600 members to non-payment of dues and 43 members to death. Last year I had asked the Worshipful Masters and Secretaries to return to your local Lodges and begin contacting those Brothers that did not pay their May relief, and work to reclaim them. Some work was done because 245 Brothers were reinstated. I also asked that the Worshipful Masters follow through on requests for membership and bring in well qualified men.

Because membership is so important to us and is the life-line of our organization, I have assigned the task of providing a strategy to attract and retain members to the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior Warden and Grand Junior Warden. I want to have a plan in place to be presented at our 2011 Mid-Winter Session.

### **Financial Condition**

My Brothers, as reported by the Grand Treasurer and validated by the Grand Auditor's Report, our financial condition is relatively good. Presently, we have no outstanding loans or overdue taxes. We are meeting our normal financial obligations.

### **Charity and the Charitable Trust Foundation**

Our Charitable Trust Foundation is now functioning as a separate entity with Bro. Willie High Coleman Jr. serving as chairman. Most Charity of the Grand Lodge is now made through the Foundation. This last year funds were made available for the following annual functions through the Foundation:

- Robert E. Connor, Jr. Youth Camp
- Knights of Pythagoras Leadership Conference
- J. T. Maxey Scholarship
- Prince Hall Family Annual Christmas Gift Give-Away

Other Charity is donated through the Foundation as the need arises. I would be remised if I didn't thank all of the Masonic Bodies that have made contributions of Charity through the Foundation:

- Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter
- Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho
- Lone Star Grand Guild
- Texas Golden Assembly
- M.E. Prince Hall Grand Chapter, H.R.A.M. of Texas
- Lone Star Grand Commandery
- Texas Council of Deliberations
- United Supreme Council, A.A.S.R.

The Prince Hall Masonic Family Annual Christmas Gift Give-Away was a success once again. Making over 1,200 kids happy with free gifts for Christmas was a rewarding experience. The joint committee has already met and is preparing for this Masonic year's give-away. It was just as rewarding to us as an organization giving, as it was to those that received the gifts.

### **Burial Relief Program**

This year, we are making burial relief payments to all who submitted the proper paper work and were eligible to receive it. Masters and Secretaries, I ask that you work with the widows and family members of deceased Brothers in getting the death proof blanks and death certificates in to the Grand Secretary as soon as possible so that the relief can be processed.

### **Masonic Districts**

I thank those Brothers that gave up your personal time to serve the Grand Lodge through the Masonic Districts. I was able to attend six District meetings this year. I plan to attend more District meetings this coming year. The main objective this year is to assist the Lodges in ways to increase their membership.

### **Fraternal Relations with Concordant and Appendant Bodies**

I continue to work with the leaders to insure that all Masonic Houses in this jurisdiction are all on one accord. We must continue to work together in order to grow. The Grand Lodge is the foundation and the source for all the organizations. This year, we are planning a pilgrimage back to Brenham, Texas, the place we where we were organized. It will coincide with Prince Hall Americanism Day in September. Plans are in place to make it a family weekend. Deputy Grand Master Michael Anderson is spearheading this Pilgrimage. We hope to see you all there.

### **Fraternal Relations**

As of this date, The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas is in harmony with our sister Prince Hall Jurisdictions. We are pleased to have visitors from six jurisdictions at this Grand Session. We are also on one accord with the United Supreme Council A.A.S.R., S.J.

We support the Conference of Grand Masters, the General Grand Conference Holy Royal Arch Masons, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and the Sister Counter-parts to those Conferences.



### **The Texas Prince Hall Masonic Quarterly**

The Texas Prince Hall Freemason Quarterly has being reactivated as a web-based publication as the Texas Prince Hall Freemason Publication. One of the best decisions that I have made is appointing H.P.M. Burrell Parmer as the Grand Editor. He and his committee have done an excellent job on producing an excellent publication. Its continued success depends on everyone submitting your events for the publication. I am excited about getting this form of communication going again.

### **The Grand Masonic Temple**

The Grand Masonic Temple like any other structure has to continue to be maintained. It has been the home of the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas since 1986. This last year, approximately \$190,000 of work was done on the building. The work included interior work on building, sealing water leaks around the walls and converting the 2nd floor west side into the library museum. A special thanks go out to Grand Secretary Hulbert L. Reece in overseeing the work as it took place.

### **The Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum**

The library museum greatly enhances the Grand Masonic Temple and makes this house Our Home. It allows us to "Tell Our Own Story" through our documents and artifacts! The most exciting part of it all is that, this is just the beginning!

In accordance with the recommendation approved by the Craft on last year, the construction of the library museum has been completed but will be an on-going project as it should be. The Grand Lodge furnishings have been retired and will permanently reside in the library museum's Lodge Room. Copies of Grand Lodge Proceedings and important documents will be housed in the library museum. A computer cataloguing system is being put in place. On the administrative side, we are in the process of establishing a foundation with its own board of directors to oversee the library museum and seek funding to improve it.

I want to thank all you had a part in working on the library museum: Bro. Benny Tucker, Bro. Frank Jackson, Bro. Willie High Coleman, Jr., the O.E.S. Sisters, and a special thanks to Bro. Tracy Williams for all of his visions, hard work and patience.

### **State of the Country**

President Obama has identified as the most critical issues facing America as the nation's economy, job creation and healthcare reform.

Wars are still raging in Afghanistan and although the United States involvement in the war in Iraq has been declared to be over there are still troops on the ground there. President Obama has likewise announced troop withdrawals from Afghanistan. Military skirmishes have occurred in Libya and other locations. God bless our men and women in the military serving locally and abroad.

Lawmakers in 14 states, including Texas have announced plans to curtail application of parts of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. The 14th Amendment concerns citizenship for African Americans, Due Process and the Bill of Rights and Equal Protection under the law. God bless America.

On May 1, 2011, President Barack Obama declared in a media statement that Osama Bin Laden, the founder and leader of the militant Islamist group Al-Qaeda, and the most wanted fugitive on the US list, was killed during an American military operation in Pakistan. The September 11, 2001 attack on the twin Towers in New York, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. and the deaths of the passengers in Pennsylvania have now been avenged. The message is clear not only is it not smart to mess with Texas, but one should not mess with the United States either. We never forget and we never give up.

I remain...

Fraternally yours,

*Wilbert M. Curtis*

# Grand Master's Calendar

## August - December 2011

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>August 2011</b>		
Monday - Tuesday, Aug. 1- 2	Nashville, Tenn.	M.W.P.H.G.L. of Tennessee Grand Session
Thursday - Saturday, Aug. 25 - 27	Washington, D.C.	Business Meeting, United Supreme Council, S.J.
<b>September 2011</b>		
Friday - Sunday, Sept. 9 - 11	Brenham	Prince Hall Day Pilgrimage
Friday - Sunday, Sept. 23 - 25	Fort Worth	Grand Guild Training Conference & Banquet
<b>October 2011</b>		
Sunday - Tuesday, Oct. 2 - 4	Fort Worth	Grand Lodge Board Meeting
Friday - Tuesday, Oct. 7 - 11	Atlanta, Ga.	United Supreme Council, Southern Jurisdiction
Friday, Oct. 21	Houston	Ever Ready Trail Blazer Banquet
<b>November 2011</b>		
Saturday, Nov. 5	Fort Worth	Preparation for Mid-Winter Session
Friday - Saturday, Nov. 11 - 12	Fort Worth	Mid-Winter Session
<b>December 2011</b>		
Saturday, Dec. 3	Temple	Temple Masonic Family Banquet
Saturday - Sunday, Dec. 17 - 18	Fort Worth	Prince Hall Masonic Family Christmas Give-Away

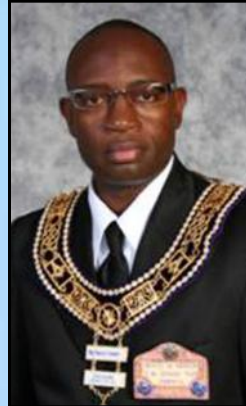
# Elected Grand Lodge Officers



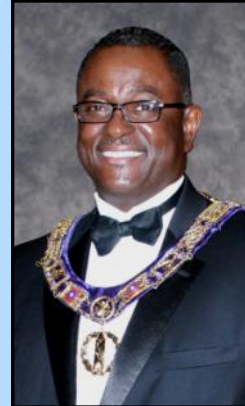
Past Grand Master  
**Hon. Edwin B. Cash**



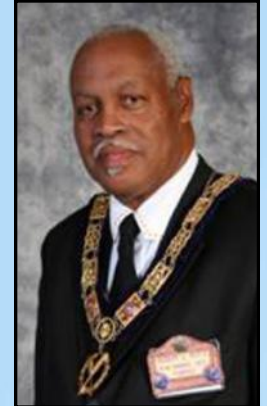
Deputy Grand Master  
**R.W. Michael T. Anderson**



Grand Senior Warden  
**R.W. Bryce Hardin Sr.**



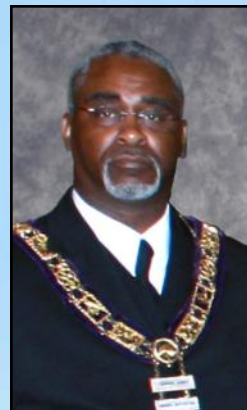
Grand Junior Warden  
**R.W. Frank D. Jackson**



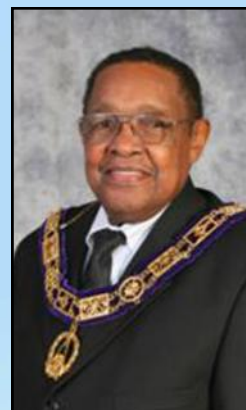
Grand Secretary  
**R.W. Hubert L. Reece Sr.**



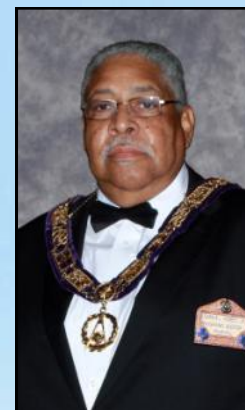
Grand Treasurer  
**R.W. Robert J. Datcher**



Grand Tiler  
**R.W. Vernon J. James**



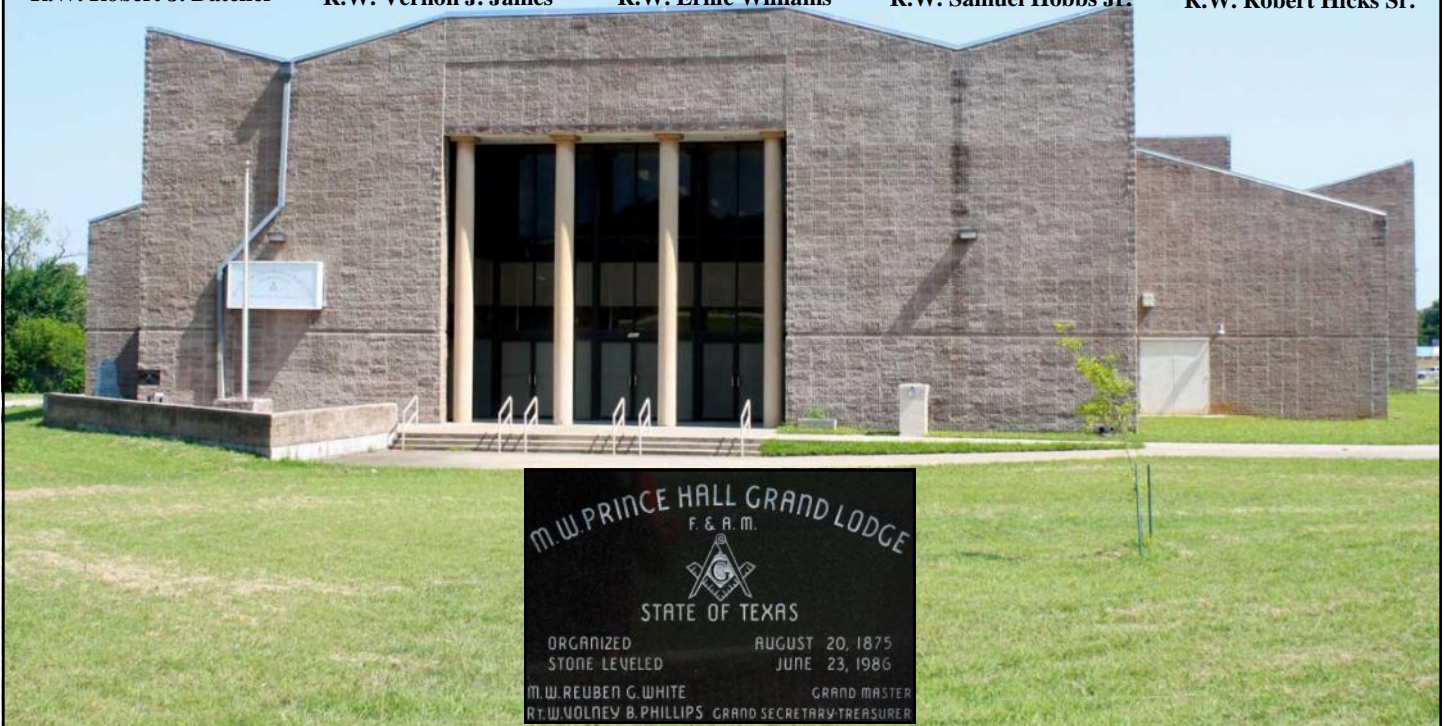
Grand Auditor  
**R.W. Ernie Williams**



Grand Auditor  
**R.W. Samuel Hobbs Jr.**



Grand Auditor  
**R.W. Robert Hicks Sr.**





# PRINCE HALL/AMERICANISM DAY

## “PRIGRIMAGE TO BRENHAM”

September 9 - 11, 2011

Brenham, Texas



You are cordially invited to come and celebrate our Founder, Prince Hall's birthday in the place of our Grand Lodge's birth. There will be food, games and fellowship. The whole Masonic Family is invited. More details to follow. Let's get ready to have a good time as we celebrate the birth and life of our Founder, from whence we came!

### **Prince Hall Masonry in Texas**

Under the leadership of Captain W.D. Mathews, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Kansas, Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons were established in Texas in 1871 and 1873 to wit:

San Antonio Lodge No. 22 - Magnolia Lodge No. 24 - Mt. Bonnell Lodge No. 2  
Galveston Lodge No. 25 - Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 26

These were the first Negro Free and Accepted Masonic Lodges organized in Texas

In the early part of June 1875, Norris Wright Cuney, Deputy Grand Master, and Richard Allen, District Deputy Grand Master, acting under the authority of the Kansas Jurisdiction, issued a call requesting the above-named Lodges to send representatives on August 19, 1875, to meet with Mount Lebanon, located in Brenham, Texas. The purpose was to organize the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Texas.



# Telling Our Own Story: Prince Hall Family convenes for Annual Grand Sessions



*Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis prepares to open the 136th Annual Grand Communication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F.&A.M. of Texas, June 24.*

Story by:

G.E. Burrell Parmer (1)

Photos by G.P. Bernard Brown (324)  
and G.E. Burrell Parmer (1)

Lodge No. 108.

Various workshops followed and

included lectures from Deputy Grand Lecture Tracy Williams on Symbolism, Worshipful Master Charles Lilley on the 22nd Landmark, and increasing / maintaining membership by Special District Deputy Grand Master Charles Gray.

A Secretary Workshop was conducted by Grand Secretary Hulbert Reese, Sr. and a District Deputy Meeting was hosted by Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis.

In the Deputies meeting reports were delivered and numerous topics were discussed to include initiations / retention, John T. Maxey Scholarship participation, numbers of S.D.D.G.M.s per District, Demit process, the Misuse of Social Network Website Edict, D.D.G.M. training, and the Grand Master's desire to visit more Districts throughout the upcoming Masonic year.

**FORT WORTH** – By the authority vested in the office of the Grand Master and in accordance with the constitution of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas, the Honorable Wilbert M. Curtis called all Prince Hall Masons of the Jurisdiction of Texas into the Grand Lodge's 136th Annual Grand Session held at the Grand Masonic Temple, June 23 - 26.

Concurrently, members of the Grand High Court Heroines of Jericho and Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter convened their 127th and 15th Annual Grand Communications, respectively.

The Grand Lodge Session began with the opening of an Occasional Lodge by True Square



*District Deputies Grand Master Meeting, June 23.*



*Grand Masters of Arizona, M.W. John Miller, Florida, M.W. Anthony Stafford; Tennessee, M.W. Arvin Glass; Arkansas, M.W. Cleveland Wilson; Louisiana, M.W. Dr. Ralph Slaughter and Oklahoma, M.W. Dr. Deary Vaughn attended the Grand Communication..*

"There should be one S.D.D.G.M. per District," said G.M. Curtis. "All appointments will be review this upcoming year. Each D.D.G.M. / S.D.D.G.M. appointment is only valid for one year."

In reference the Edict, G.M. Curtis said that something had to be done and that his Edit is being reviewed by the Conference of Grand Master for potential usage by other Jurisdiction.

"A committee is being created regarding the proper Masonic use of social networking websites," said G.M. Curtis.

After lunch, a Council of Past Master was opened and 29 Worshipful Masters received the Past Master Degree along with two others who received the Honorary Past Master Degree.

In the evening at the Radisson Fort Worth North, the Prince Hall

Family Choir along with others performed.

On Friday, the Occasional Lodge resumed and received the District Deputies, Appointed and Elected Grand Lodge Officers, and G.M. Curtis.

Once the gavel of authority was transferred from R.W. Deputy Grand Master Michael T. Anderson to G.M. Curtis, he received the only living Past Grand Master of the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas, the Hon. Edwin B. Cash.

After establishing a quorum, G.M. Curtis opened the Grand Communication for the purpose of business in Due Form.

During the meeting, G.M. Curtis award certifications to 7 members with 50 or more years of membership with 22 others unable to attend the Grand Communication.

Grand Youth Directed Charles

Dewitt gave a report on the Robert E. Conner Youth Camp in which 43 Youth will attend.

After some reports, leaders of the concordant bodies were received, to include Right Eminent Grand Commander Ronald Gerac, Lone Star Grand Commandery; Most Excellent Grand High Priest Willie Tate, Holy Royal Arch Masons of Texas; and D.G.H.P. Roosevelt Huggins of the General Conference Grand Chapters Holy Royal Arch Masons of the United States and the Bahamas.

Distinguished visitors were then received and included the Grand Masters of Arizona, M.W. John Miller, Florida, M.W. Anthony Stafford; Tennessee, M.W. Arvin Glass; Arkansas, M.W. Cleveland Wilson; Louisiana, M.W. Dr. Ralph Slaughter and Oklahoma, M.W. Dr. Deary Vaughn, who also serves as the





*G.M. Curtis awards 50 Years of Service Certificates.*

Sovereign Grand Commander of Freemason, P.H.A., Southern Jurisdiction.  
the United Supreme Council, An- risdiction.  
cient and Accepted Scottish Rite of In the evening, the Saints John /

Memorial Service was held at the Radisson, which included a Lodge of Sorrow which was conducted by District 14.

The sermon was delivered by Deputy Grand Chaplain Rev. F. D. Sampson, who preached a powerful message of the need not to be hearers of the word, but also doers.

Forty-three Master Masons were called Home during the past Masonic year.

On Saturday morning G.M. Curtis delivered his Allocution in a joint session that included the Heroines and Eastern Stars.

With the Grand Master's Allocution completed, G.M. Curtis and his quests attended the official opening / ribbon cutting of the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum.

After the opening of the W.M.C.T.P.H.L.M., the Grand Communication reconvened and



*Members of District 14 conducted the Lodge of Sorrow during the Saints John Day Service at the Radisson North, June 24.*





*G.M. Curtis delivers remarks after cutting the ribbon to officially open the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum, June 25.*

nominations for elections were held.

Once voting ended, membership gathered at the Radisson to attend the Annual Awards Luncheon.

During the luncheon, numerous awards were presented by the Grand High Court and N.W.C. Grand Chapter.

The Grand High Court awarded Outstanding Court to Lakeview Court No. 262. The runner-up was Walker Court No. 262, respectively.

The N.W.C. Grand Chapter presented Awards of Recognition to Christopher Delight Chapter No. 1, Royal Princess Chapter No. 23, Sisters of Agape Chapter No. 35, Pride of Beaumont Chapter No. 30, Imani Chapter No. 52, Lone Star Chapter No. 60, and Covenant Sisters Chapter No. 74. An Award of Excellence was awarded to Dorcus Chapter No. 19.

Scholarship winners were then announced:

The Grand High Court awarded three scholarships totaling \$10,000. The top scholarship recipient was Carmela Booker of Dallas, who was awarded \$3,800. Booker will

attend Angelo State University and will major in Exercise Science to become a physical therapist.

The N.W.C. Grand Chapter awarded 14 scholarships totaling \$13,000. The top scholarships were awarded to Meredith Maryland of Wichita Fall (Pre-Law), Rebecca Hardegree of San Angelo (Music), and Taylor Edmond of Wichita Falls (Health Science).



*Andre Grant received top honors in the J.T. Maxey Scholarship Contest held at the Radisson North, June 25.*

Each received \$1,500.

The Grand Lodge awarded 10 scholarships totaling \$10,000.

The overall winner of the J. T. Maxey Scholarship Contest was Andre Grant, who was awarded \$2,000.

The J.T. Maxey Scholarship Program demonstrates the Grand Lodge's commitment to youth and education.

Grant, who graduated from Chester W. Nimitz High School, represented District 15-A. He will attend Texas Tech University to pursue a degree in construction engineering.

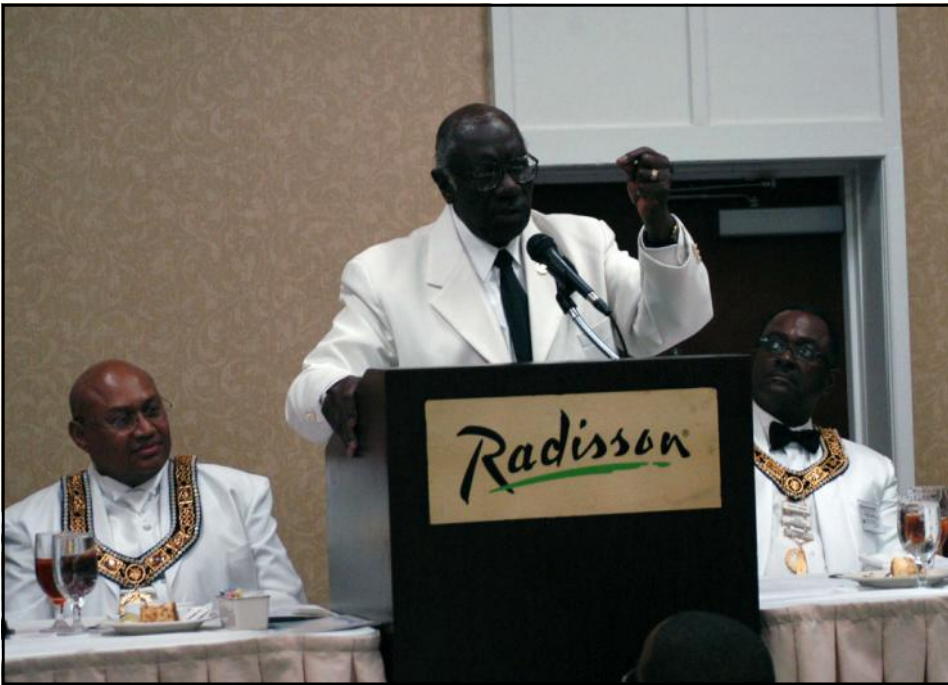
With the award luncheon completed, the Grand Lodge Communication was reconvened and remaining committees delivered their annual reports.

Near the conclusion of the Grand Communication, Grand Lodge awards were presented for the 2010 – 2011 Masonic Year.

One of the final reports given was from the Jurisprudence Committee on the recommendation to change the requirements to be an Honorary Past Master, which was accepted and approved by the Grand Lodge.

G.M. Curtis congratulated the





*Bro. Dr. Osiefield Anderson through his poetic vocalizations provided an astounding speech during the Prince Hall Masonic Family Banquet at the Radisson North, June 25.*

newly elected officers and for all who attended the Grand Communication, he then proceeded to close the 136th Annual Grand Communication.

To close out the night, the Prince Hall Family attended the Annual Prince Hall Masonic Family Banquet at the Radisson.

The guest speaker was Bro. Dr. Osiefield Anderson, who through his poetic vocalizations provided an astounding speech for the occasion.

Bro. Anderson, who serves as the Territorial Grand Master of Florida and Professor Emeritus, Department of Mathematics of Florida A&M University began with a poem of a boy trying to finish a race and illustrated the man in the mirror.

"When you get want you struggle for in life and the world crowns you king for a day. Just go to a mirror

and look at yourself and see what that man has to say. For is it your father, your mother or wife whose journey you must pass, the verdict that counted most to you in life is staring you back in the glass. He's the fellow to please, never mind all



*G.M. Curtis prepared to be re-installed as Grand Master by P.G.M. Cash, assisted by G.M. Wilson.*

the rest. He will be with you clear up to the end, and you will pass the most dangerous and difficult test, cause the man in the glass is your

friend..." said Bro. Osiefield

According to Bro. Osiefield, he was honored to be in attendance and to present at the ribbon cutting of the W.M.C.T.P.H.L.M.

He also talked about how African Americans are failing in the current time and what have we done to make a difference.

"What are we doing? I recommend that we start an awareness movement," said Bro. Osiefield. "We don't know who we are. Children are running astray because there's no one to teach them."

"This is Masonry's hour. God is watching from a distance and 10 – 15 years from now little boys and girls are going to be reading 9th and 10th grade civic classes, they should be able to say look what those Masons in Texas, Florida, Louisiana and Arkansas did. They ought to see something we have done."

After a standing ovation, a raffle for a 2011 Chevy Malibu was conducted. The winner of the 2011 Joint Car Raffle was P.M. Nathaniel Tennyson Jr. of San Antonio Lodge No. 1. Last year's Joint Car Raffle was won by Sis. Joyce Peavy of Cubie Horton Chapter No. 19 of San Antonio. Second place winner (\$500) was Demarcus Daughtry of Eddy, Texas and 3rd place (\$250) was Phil Weatherall of Dallas.

G.M. Curtis thanked all who attended and that the Grand Session was fruitful for all.

On Sunday morning, P.G.M. Cash installed G.M. Curtis along with the elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers. He was assisted by G.M. Wilson, who installed the Grand High Court and N.W.C. Grand Chapter officers.





*Worshipful Master of the Year / Lodge of the Year  
W.M. Jerry Martin Sr. of Wyatt Lodge No. 21*



*Secretary of the Year  
P.M. Michael Whitted of Wyatt Lodge No. 21*



*District of the Year  
District 14*



*District Deputy Grand Master of the Year  
D.D.G.M. Marvin Kelker, District 24*



*Master Mason of the Year  
P.M. Tracy Williams of Rescue Lodge No. 20*



*Master Mason of the Year  
H.P.M. Burrell Parmer of San Antonio Lodge No. 1*





*Lakeview Court No. 262.*



*Walker Court No. 262*



*Covenant Sisters No. 74*



*Pride of Beaumont No. 30*



*Christopher Delight Chapter No. 1*



*Lone Star Chapter No. 60*



*Royal Princess Chapter No. 23*



*Imani Chapter No. 52*

Awards



*Dorcus Chapter No. 19*

Luncheon



# Telling Our Own Story: Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum Unveiled

Story by: H.P.M. Burrell Parmer (1)  
Photos by: W.M. Bernard Brown (324)

**FORT WORTH, Texas** – By the authority vested in the office of the Grand Master and in accordance with the constitution of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas, the Honorable Wilbert M. Curtis hereby called all Prince Hall Masons of Texas into the Grand Lodge's 136th Annual Grand Communication held at the Grand Masonic Temple, June 24 - 25.

On June 25, the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum was officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony and name unveiling at the Grand Masonic Temple.

The Library Museum adds another repository for the collection of Prince Hall Masonic History in the city. It will possess collections and preservation of Prince Hall Masonic History and activities in Tarrant County and throughout the state in the form of photos, paintings, books, articles, original lodge charters, cornerstones, ledgers, uniforms, a Lodge Room, etc.



*G.M. Wilbert M. Curtis and his wife, Lanell, enter the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum, June 25. "The Library Museum has been on the Trestle Board of the Grand Lodge for many years. Now it has come to fruition," said G.M. Curtis.*

Many of the items date back to the late 1800's.

Government officials from Tarrant County and the Texas House of Representatives, officials from the Tarrant County Black Historical & Genealogical Society and the Fort Worth Public Library were in attendance. Special guests in-

cluded Grand Masters of Prince Hall Grand Lodges: G.M. John Miller of Arizona, G.M. Arvin Glass of Tennessee, G.M. Cleveland Wilson of Arkansas, G.M. Anthony Stafford of Florida, and G.M. Deary Vaughn of Oklahoma, who also serves as the Sovereign Grand Commander, United Supreme Council, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction.

Every Texas Prince Hall Masonic Organization was represented to include Grand Worthy Matron Martha Wolridge and Grand Worthy Patron Robert B. Calloway Jr. of the Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter; Grand Most







*An overwhelmed G.M. Curtis gives remarks after the ribbon cutting of the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum. In the background are D.G.M. Anderson, G.S.W. Hardin, G.J.W. Jackson, and G.Mar. Gerac. The Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens performed the Consecration of the Library Museum.*

Ancient Matron Jackie Levingston and Grand Joshua Isaac Cary Sr. of the Grand High Court, Heroines of Jericho; Grand Princess Caption R. Lucille Samuel of the Lone Star Grand Guild, Heroines of the Templars Crusade; State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Shirley Gideon of the Texas Council of Assemblies, Order of the Golden Circle; Most Excellent Grand High Priest Willie Tate of the Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Masonry; and Right Eminent Grand Commander Ronald Gerac of the Lone Star Grand Commandery of Knights Templar Masons of Texas.

After the opening prayer by Deputy Grand Chaplain Rev. F.D. Sampson Jr. and the occasion delivered by Grand Junior Warden Frank Jackson. Grand Marshal Ronald Gerac made the Proclama-

tion and the Consecration was then performed by Deputy G.M. Michael Anderson, Grand Senior Warden Bryce Hardin I, and G.J.W. Jackson overseen by the Hon. Edwin B. Cash, the only living Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge.

With the Consecration of corn, wine, and oil complete, G.M. Curtis with tears in his eyes cut the ceremonial ribbon and provided comments.

"We will now be able to tell our own story," said G.M. Curtis. "I hope that the city of Fort Worth, Tarrant County, and the state of Texas will embrace this Library Museum and utilize it as a research resource."

"The Library Museum has been on the Trestle Board of the Grand Lodge for many years. Now it has come to fruition," said G.M. Curtis.



*G.M. Curtis shakes hands with Territorial G.M. Dr. Osiefield Anderson of Fla., who was the guest speaker for the Masonic Banquet in the Lodge Room of the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum, June 25. Lt to Rt: Standing behind them are G.M. Miller of Ariz., G.M. Stafford of Fla., G.M. Wilson of Ark., G.M. Vaughn of Okla., G.M. Glass of Tenn., and Grand Secretary Albert Kelly Sr. of La.*



*Lt to Rt: P.M. Willie High Coleman Jr., Chairman of the Prince Hall Charitable Foundation of Texas, Chairman of Archives P.M. Tucker, Grand Editor Burrell Parmer, and G.J.W. Jackson sit in front of portraits of Past Grand Master and officers of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F.&A.M. of Texas in the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum June 24. The portraits are on loan from the Tarrant County Black Historical & Genealogical Society.*



*G.M. Vaughn and G.M. Curtis share a moment in front of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Exhibit at the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum. G.M. Vaughn also serves as the Sovereign Grand Commander, United Supreme Council, A.A.S.R., P.H.A. Southern Jurisdiction.*

“Getting to this point of the grand opening has been a rewarding experience not only for me but also for the team members that assisted me.”

After G.M. Curtis comments, he opened the door to the Library Museum and guests began to pour in to view its treasures.

The original design of the Library Museum was conceived by Nicole Hawthorne, daughter of Past Master Benny Tucker, the Chairman of the Archives Committee.

Hawthorne, a graduate of Baylor University with a Bachelors of Art in Interior Design, had been performing interior design since 2007. She was asked in June 2010 by her father to produce some drawings.

According to Hawthorne, she wanted to create something that



*G.M. Wilson of Ark. speaks with P.M. Tucker and his daughter Nicole Hawthorn, the Library Museum’s original designer, after the opening ceremony of the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum.*

reflected what the space would be used for.

“I wanted the look and feel of the area to resemble a turn-of-the-century, new world library. The antiquated, over-sized portraits displayed there were inspiration for the rest of the design and every-



thing else branched from them,” said Hawthorne. “The design of the Library Museum was intended to be like a time capsule with a rich historic atmosphere.”

G.J.W. Jackson, who also serves as the Grand Lodge Historian, provided background on the Library Museum’s conception.

“The Library Museum is a labor of love, it came from a vision by G.M. Curtis and we are thankful for him and his leadership. One thing that alarmed us was that we were losing a lot of our history and archives at a very disturbing rate,” said G.J.W. Jackson. “If we were to look forward from today, maybe 50 to 100 years, it will be highly likely that people will know our story and I truly believe that you cannot really tell the story of Texas without telling the story of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas.”

“We are proud of our legacy, we are proud of our heritage. If we don’t tell our story, no one is going to tell it for us,” said G.J.W. Jackson. “We have numerous materials. We haven’t even been able to go through all the archives, and materials are still being donated.

Currently the Library Museum only shows you just a glimpse of our treasures. So when people come here, we want them to see the vision that our Grand Master has shared with us and for researchers to see the culture and history that Prince Hall Masons have contributed to the great state of Texas.”

The mission of the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum is as follows:

To collect, organize, describe,



*Ctr: G.M. Curtis is interviewed by CBS News (KTVT 11 Fort Worth) after the opening ceremony of the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum. The Library Museum contains exhibits from each Appendant and Concordant Body.*

make available, and preserve primary and secondary resource materials emphasizing the historical documentation of the M.W.P.H.G.L. of Texas and its impact on the cultural milieu on the broader local



*Lt to Rt: G.J.W. Jackson, P.M. Tucker, and P.M. Coleman read through pages of a ledger belonging to the Fraternal Bank and Trust in the Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum, June 24. Numerous books and records can be found at the Library Museum to include the Homer Drew Collection.*

communities, the state of Texas, the Jurisdictions under its authority and the larger expanse of human kind.

To provide adequate facilities for the retention and preservation of such records.

To serve as a resource and research center to stimulate and promote creative teaching and learning through the use of primary research materials; and provide instruction in the use of those materials.

To promote research and scholarship by providing access and encouraging the use of its collections by members of the Masonic Family and the public at large.

To implement records management by formulating policy and procedures that will ensure the collection and preservation of the Library Museum’s materials.

The Library Museum is available to the public by appointment Monday thru Thursday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Information about the Library Museum can be obtained by contacting the Grand Lodge Office at 817-534-4612 or by visiting [www.wmctphlm.com](http://www.wmctphlm.com).

# P.M. Tennyson wins New Car in Joint Grand Car Raffle, 2nd Straight Year for District 19



*G.M. Curtis shakes hands with P.M. Tennyson, the winner of the 2011 Joint Grand Car Raffle, along with membership of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Grand High Court (H.O.J.) and Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter (O.E.S.) at the Ryan Chevrolet Dealership in Fort Worth, July 9.*

Story by: P.M. Edward S. Jones (1)  
Photos by G.P. Bernard Brown (324)

**FORT WORTH** - Rarely sequels live up to its predecessor, but District 19 can revel in the fact that one of its members has won the 2011 Joint Grand Car Raffle two years in a row. Past Master Nathaniel Tennyson of San Antonio Lodge No. 1 was this year's winner of a 2011 Chevy Malibu.

According to Grand Master, Wilbert M. Curtis, the raffle was a success due to the collaboration effort of the Heroines of Jericho, Eastern Stars, and the Master Masons.

G.M. Curtis went on to say that the raffle's impact will assist with the Grand Lodge's charitable donations towards its youth departments and the support of Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum.

When asked how he felt after

winning the car, P.M. Tennyson described the moment as unbelievable and something he would be talking about for years to come.

P.M. Tennyson plans to give the car to his daughter who currently attending college in Houston.

Not only did P.M. Tennyson pick up his wonderful prize, he also presented the Original Charter for San Antonio No. 1 to be on display in the Grand Lodge's new Library Museum. P.M. Tennyson felt pride in transferring a document which has been part of San Antonio Lodge No. 1 for over 135 years.

G.M. Curtis shared that the Management Team of the car dealership, who were members of the Grand Lodge of Texas (A.F.&A.M.), was very impressed with submission of the Charter.

All in all, it was a great day for Texas Prince Hall Masonry.



*G.Treas. Robert Datcher drafts the check to purchased the 2011 Chevy Malibu.*



*P.M. Tennyson and G.M. Curtis pose with San Antonio Lodge No. 1's Original Charter of May 10, 1876.*



## Remembering our Dedication to the Holy St. Johns

Story by:

D.D.G.M. Jerry Brown Sr. (648)

**DALLAS** – To honor the memories of the Holy Saints John, District Deputy Grand Master Marcus C. Walker Sr. called together the Brothers of District 11, along with membership of the Heroines of Jericho and Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter, to join in worship services, July 10.

The services were held at the Greater St. James Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church at 3p.m. A soul stirring message was delivered by Pastor Michael K. King, who is also the Worshipful Master of Golden Compass Lodge No.60 in Pittsburgh, Texas. The male chorus provided the music for the service.

S.D.D.G.M. Jacob Davis Jr. served as the Master of Ceremony for the day. The program also included prayer by Grand Recorder Edwin D. Moore, scripture by Past Master Ed Smith, welcome by Bro. Henry Roach, response by WM Victor Edwards, occasion by Deputy Grand Master Michael T. Anderson, and announcements by S.D.D.G.M. Anthony K. Reece. Bro. Henry Roach was recently raised in Golden Compass Lodge No. 60.

D.G.M. Anderson's occasion reminded us of why we are dedicated to the Holy Saints Johns and how we should be learning from them in the application of our lives today.

Pastor King's message came from Matthew 11:1-11, where he spoke on Jesus' confirmation of there being none greater than John The Baptist.

Grand Treasurer Robert Datcher



*Prince Hall Masons of District 11, members of the Heroines of Jericho and Norris Wright Cuney Grand Chapter assemble for worship services honoring the Holy Saints John, July 10.*

presented Pastor King with a donation to the church's youth programs. Pastor King spoke on the blessing of the donation, as they are taking children to Florida for a youth conference.

May the blessing of heaven continue to rest upon us.



*Pastor Michael King (60) delivers a powerful message for attendees.*

## District 14 participates in Juneteenth Parade, awards Scholarship, congratulates one of their Own



*Members of District 14 in Juneteenth Parade in Waco, June 18.*

Story and Photos by:  
S.D.D.G.M. Michael Whitted (21)

**WACO** – Juneteenth was the focus for the month of June for the Prince Hall Freemasons of District 14. Anyone living in the state of Texas knows the significance of Juneteenth Day and well observed in the city.

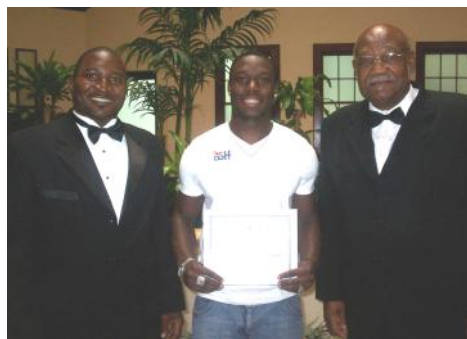
The District was well represented during this year's celebration. Members from Wyatt Lodge No. 21, Union Seal Lodge No. 64, True Friend Lodge No. 145, New Hope Lodge No. 400, and JNO G. Lewis No. 622 participated. The event was significant; it marked the first time the District had participated in the parade in 25 years according to the Waco Tribune.

Additional success of this event can be accredited to the Central Texas African American Chamber of Commerce, whose goal is to improve community relations for all

involved. The day consisted of events for the family, such as a climbing wall, water sports, and a concert.

The District supported District 24 during their Juneteenth Parade held June 17. The significance of this collaboration was the elimination of the District lines for benefit of the community.

The District would like to congratulate Past Master Gene Do-



*Anthony Martin, Scholarship Winner with True Friend Lodge No. 145.*

mon of True Friend Lodge No. 145 for being recognized for over 50 years of Masonic service at the 136th Annual Grand Communication.

Anthony Martin, winner of the District 14 Scholarship Award, was selected among several contestants to represent the District in the J.T. Maxey Scholarship Competition held during the Grand Session. He received an \$800 award in addition to the \$500 award from the District Contest. Martin was sponsored by True Friend Lodge No. 145.

The District thanks each of its Worshipful Masters for their support. Due to its leadership and hard work, the District was awarded District of the Year by Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis:

- W.M. Charles Lilley,  
Holloway Lodge No. 7
- W.M. Jerry L. Martin Sr.,  
Wyatt Lodge No. 21
- W.M. Demetrius Waples,  
Union Seal Lodge No. 64
- W.M. David Scruggs,  
Hopeful Lodge No. 78
- W.M. Timothy Domon,  
True Friends Lodge No. 145
- W.M. George Stuart,  
United Brothers Lodge No. 298
- W.M. Antonio McClinton,  
New Hope Lodge No. 400
- W.M. Venal Adderley Sr.,  
JNO G. Lewis Lodge No. 622



## District holds Scholarship Competition, Local Youth wins Top Honors in J.T. Maxey Scholarship Program



*Contestants, Brothers, Judges, District Deputies, and Special District Deputies.*

Story by:

*W.M. Samuel T. Albert (108)*

**HOUSTON** – District 15-A conducted its annual District-Level Scholarship Contest on Saturday, April 23.

Four high school seniors from the greater Houston area representing several Lodges who competed to receive tuition assistance toward undergraduate studies at an accredited college or university.

Kourtlandt Atkins of Lamar High School, Rashad Sabree of Yates High School, Danielle Payne of Royal High School, and Andre Grant of Nimitz High School competed and showcased their writing skills.

The winner, Grant, sponsored by Silver Trowel Lodge No. 47,

received a \$500 award and will be attending Texas Tech University to major in Construction Engineering. Grant also represented the District at the J.T. Maxey Scholarship Competition during the 136th Grand Session held in Fort Worth, June 25.



*D.D.G.M. Gerac with Grant, his mother, and W.M. Alvin Monroe (47).*

The runner-up, Payne, received a \$250 award. Sabree received a \$100 award. Each student received a \$50 gift card from Best Buy.

Congratulations to the following students for competing in this year's contest.



*Andre Grant of Nimitz High School. Grant was the overall winner of the J.T. Maxey Scholarship Contest held during the 136th Annual Grand Session in Fort Worth, June. 25. He was awarded \$2,000.*

# Wyatt Lodge No. 21: Worshipful Master, Secretary, Lodge of the Year



*Worshipful Master Jerry Martin Sr.*

*Story by: G.E. Burrell Parmer (1)*

**FORT WORTH,** - Worshipful Master of the Year was awarded to W.M. Jerry L. Martin Sr. of Wyatt Lodge No. 21. District 14 during the 136th Annual Grand Communication, June 25.

This is W.M. Martin's first year as Master of the Lodge and has served in the offices of Senior and Junior Wardens in JNO G. Lewis Lodge No. 622.

He has instituted programs such as nursing home visits in the city of Waco, adopted the sponsorship of Team Trinity's Annual Arthritis Fundraiser, instituted a Knights of Pythagoras sponsorship program for Charles H. Anderson Council No. 4, implemented a Widows Support Network; implemented an annual back to school drive for local members of the community, participated with in a local community leaders symposium; implemented an annual Meals-on-wheels support program, partnered with HEB for their annual Feast for Sharing

Program, supported the local N.A.A.C.P. Chapter, and gained a valuable relationship with several of the local churches in the community.

W.M. Martin was raised in Golden Rule Lodge No. 74 in Many, La. in 1988.

According to W.M. Martin, there are three things that make a good Master.

"In my opinion, he must process and implement the experience and lessons learned on his way to the East. I have kept a journal the last 20 years on what I would change or do if and when I got elected to the East. It works!

He must have a good Craft which is willing to work and possess Past Masters who are willing to share the knowledge with the Master and Craft to assist them with the business of the Lodge.

Last, but not least, the most important ingredient is a good Craft, for without the Brethren there would be no me!" said W.M. Martin.

According to W.M. Martin the Lodge responded very well to his leadership style and has supported him in all his efforts.

W.M. Martin was not the only officer in Wyatt Lodge No. 21 to leave the Grand Communication with honors. P.M. Michael E. Whitted was awarded Secretary of the Year.

P.M. Whitted, who was raised in the Lodge in 1995, has served as Secretary for years and has served as Master of Alvin B. Amos Lodge No. 645, Senior Warden for Wyatt, Lodge No. 21, Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227, and Billy G. Miller Lodge No. 43.

According to P.M. Whitted each of the positions provided knowl-



*Secretary, P.M. Michael Whitted*

edge and experience that are key to understanding the internal operations of operating the Lodge.

"A good Secretary is one who is willing to listen and learn from those that have come before them. The Lodge has benefited from my services because they stay well informed and abreast of everything within the Lodge and all activities within the District," said P.M. Whitted.

"I was totally shocked and unaware of the award. I heard it for the very first time with the rest of the members present at our Annual Grand Communication. A very humbling event! I owe a debt of gratitude to Secretary P.M. Freddy Jamerson of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 for his knowledge, friendship, and mentorship that he has given me."

With owning Worshipful Master and Secretary of the Year Awards, Wyatt Lodge No. 21 added one more, Lodge of the Year.



## District support Houston Knights of Pythagoras, host Fund-raising Breakfast



Story by:  
District Staff

**HOUSTON** – Brothers of District 15-A offered their support to local Knights of Pythagoras as they hosted a fundraising breakfast at Applebee's, May 28.

Representatives throughout the District came in support of the event along with State Director Michael Simms Sr, Assistant State Director Rahsaan Cook, State Educational Officer Ronald Gerac, Chairman of the Prince Hall Charity Foundation Willie High Coleman, and Senior Advisor Larry Jones.

Revitalized by the late Past Grand Master Robert E. Conner, the Texas K.O.P. youth organization has been in existence for over 10 years, and was named after the late Past Grand Master, Thomas H. Routt.

The K.O.P. youth program develops its members by teaching its youth the principles of leadership, responsibility, and brotherhood.

Youth conferences are held at

various colleges and universities on the benefits of a college education where the young men have the opportunity to experience a sample of college life while Master Masons place a strong emphasis



## Prince Hall Mason assists St. Philip's College in processing Record \$5.9 Million in Tax Refunds



*Information derived from St. Philip's College Press Release*

**SAN ANTONIO** – St. Philip's College processed \$5.9 million in refunds for clients through the college's 2011 Federal Income Tax Preparation Service.

This year, the college's volunteers prepared tax returns for 2,964 local clients en route to ensuring those clients \$65.3 million in adjusted gross income and \$2.3 million in earned income credit said Past Master Kenneth Bankston, the college's site leader and college business faculty member.

"We ensured a conducive environment for our first ventures in classroom instruction for volunteer tax preparers, internship and scholarship service students this year," said P.M. Bankston, a member of San Antonio Lodge No. 1. "Our

core staff focused on providing a broad new mix of tax and financial assistance to tax clients and families, and this was well received. Together we set college records for customer and community service, and we are recruiting core staff for the 2012 team now."

The students trained during winter holidays to prepare the site for returning and new clients. Volunteers each provided 16 - 20 or more hours per week, in the center or off-campus distributing information to potential clients in workforce centers in the city. Accounting program students were invited to intern at the site.

Core site member Angelica Courtney found it convenient to prepare taxes and assist the site supervisor while fulfilling her industry internship in the college's online Accounting Technician program.

"I take all classes online, but I did my internship on the campus, which is around the corner from my house," she said. "Providing financial advice to tax clients in my neighborhood was my favorite job."

This tax season, President Obama gave tax credits to taxpayers, and our clients did not know they were going to receive those credits. They were excited to hear my advice on what tax credits could be received. The expressions on their faces said, wow!" said Courtney.

Averaging 1,700 income tax returns for students and community members annually, the 17-year-old St. Philip's College Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program site serves tax clients earning \$55,000 or less while providing outstanding training and learning opportunities for students and community members during the January-April federal tax preparation season at the Bowden Building at 1801 Martin Luther King Drive.

The preparation service is free of charge on a first come-first served basis with no appointments. The college provides space, computers, IRS-certified volunteer personnel, and equipment for the convenience of its tax center clients. The college also conducts training for Income Tax Assistance Program volunteers who serve throughout the Bexar County service area.

St. Philip's College is a Historically Black College and a Hispanic Serving Institution. As *A Point of Pride in the Community*, St. Philip's College is among the oldest diverse community colleges in the United States.



# San Antonio Lodge No. 1 raises 9 Master Masons, donates 2nd TPHFM Publication to Carver Library



*Past Master Nathaniel Tennyson Jr. (Ctr.) poses with newly-raised Brothers Robert Bonner Jr., Robert Norman, Joe Craig, Larry Smith, Donte' Blackman, Migheal Campbell, Branden Moore, Brian Taylor, and Demetrious Blanks.*

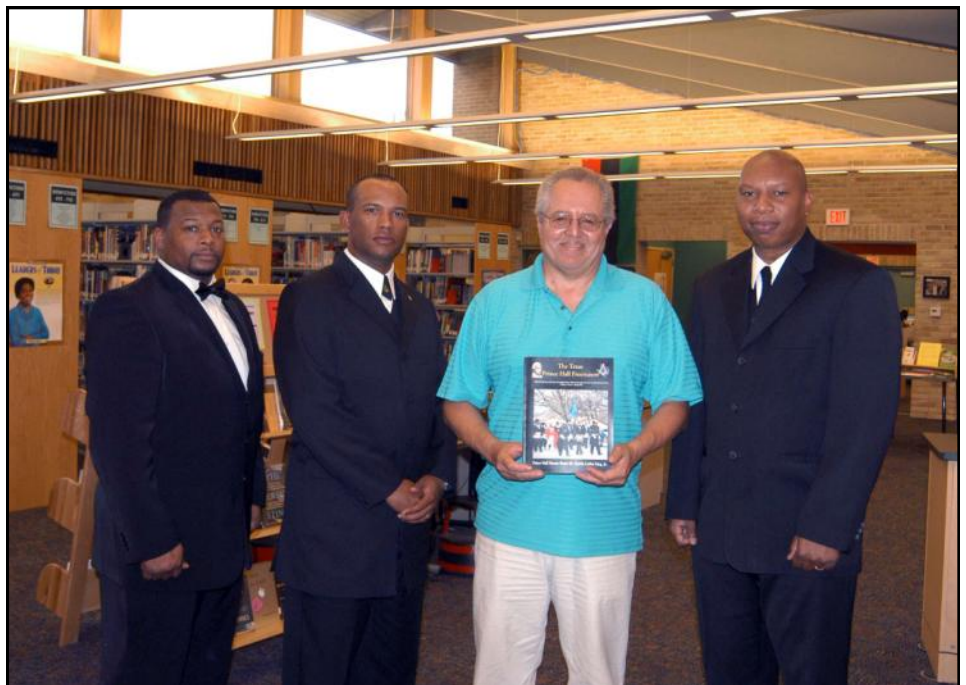
Story and Photos by:  
G.E. Burrell D. Parmer (1)

**SAN ANTONIO** – Bringing good men into the Masonic organization, Prince Hall Freemasons of San Antonio Lodge No. 1, the first Prince Hall chartered Lodge in Texas, raised nine Fellow Crafts to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason at a regular Communication at the Masonic Temple, May 3.

On May 17, the Lodge donated the 2nd Edition of the *Texas Prince Hall Freemason* to Carver Library.

The library, which is located on the city's eastside, primarily serves those of the African-American community.

"This is a great asset to the Library and contributes to the history of San Antonio," said Ronnie C. Delgado, the Branch Manager of Carver Library.



*Lt. to Rt.: Senior Deacon Donte' Blackman, Junior Warden Shawn Avery, Carver Library Branch Manager Ronnie C. Delgado, and Senior Warden Burrell Parmer.*

# H.P.M. Parmer named Master Mason of the Year

Story by: P.M. Edward Jones (1)

Photo by: G.P. Bernard Brown (324)

**SAN ANTONIO** – During the 136th Annual Grand Communication of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Texas, Hon. Past Master Burrell D. Parmer was selected as Master Mason of the Year for the jurisdiction of Texas, an award he shares with fellow Prince Hall Freemason, Past Master Tracy Williams of Rescue Lodge No. 20.

According to Grand Master Wilbert M. Curtis, H.P.M. Parmer received the award based on his outstanding and dedicated service to Prince Hall Freemasonry and the Grand Lodge.

H.P.M. Parmer became a Prince Hall Freemason in August 2005 in Okinawa Military Lodge No. 68 in Okinawa, Japan (Washington State Jurisdiction) and relocated to San Antonio in 2008.

He served in Okinawa Military Lodge No. 68 as Senior Warden (acting) in 2007 and Junior Warden in 2008. H.P.M. Parmer currently serves as the Senior Warden of San Antonio Lodge No. 1, the first Prince Hall chartered Lodge in Texas (May 1876).

Additionally, he serves as the Historian of 19th Masonic District, which encompasses Bexar, Comal, Cameron, Hidalgo, Uvalde, Kendall, and Medina Counties.

For the past year, H.P.M. Parmer has served as the Grand Editor for the Grand Lodge and produces its official publication, *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason*. It contains information on Prince Hall Freemasonry found throughout the state and abroad.

H.P.M. Parmer serves his country as a Major in the U.S. Marine Corps and is currently assigned to



the Joint Information Operations Warfare Center at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio as a Strategic Planner.

His military occupational specialty (MOS) is Public Affairs, which encompasses internal / external communications, and media / community relations.

"I feel honored to receive the award. There are many Prince Hall Masons doing great things for our organization and for our communities. I am proud to be amongst them and I am proud to be a Texas Prince Hall Freemason," said H.P.M. Parmer.

G.M. Curtis said, "One of the best decisions that I have made is appointing H.P.M. Burrell Parmer as the Grand Editor. He and his committee have done an excellent job on producing an excellent publication."

## Prince Hall Masons of Star Tom Lodge No. 100 hold Special Communication to Honor their Elder Brethren





## District hosts Annual Unity BBQ, provides Food, Fun, Fellowship



*Brothers of District 24 man the BBQ Pit in preparation of the day's event.*

*Story and Photos by District Staff*

**KILLEEN, Texas** – Prince Hall Freemasons of District 24 held their annual District BBQ at the Longbranch Park, May 7.

Easter Stars of Districts 14 and 24, to include Heroines of Jericho from El Downing, and a host of friends and family came out in support of the event.

District Deputy Grand Master Marvin Kelker said the event provides the opportunity for the Prince Hall family of Central Texas to come together, fellowship, and reflect on the all the work dedicated to Freemasonry and their communities.

The Hawaiian-themed event began with prayer and was followed by games such as dominoes and a limbo contest.

"Lunch was served promptly at noon. It was a total show of team-

work as Brothers and Sisters provided the BBQ, side dishes, desserts, sodas, and bottled waters for the entire family and guests," said D.D.G.M. Kelker. "We served an excellent meal. After the meal was served, the kids went to the outdoor water park and had a great time cooling off from the heat."

According to D.D.G.M. Kelker, the mission was accomplished: to bring the Central Texas Masonic Family to get together and have fun.

"If we don't have anything else, we should have family," said D.D.G.M. Kelker. "The goal for next year is already clear, to make our 3rd Annual BBQ bigger and better."



*Bro. Derek Zachary, P.M. Bill Moore, P.M. Marvin Yarber, P.M. Freddy Jamerson, and Bro. Jawanza Mason focused on a game of dominoes during District 14 Annual Unity BBQ, May 7.*



*Worshipful Master Johnny Perez and Sister Trina Powell participate in the Hula-Hoop Contest.*

# District 24 serves as Grand Marshals for Annual Juneteenth Parade in Killeen

*Story and Photos by District Staff*

**KILLEEN, Texas** – Juneteenth is celebrated in some form in every state in the United States as well as in several foreign countries, including Africa; however, Texas is the only state in which Juneteenth is an official state holiday.

Members of District 24 celebrated Juneteenth Day by participating in the Sam Sneed N.A.A.C.P. Juneteenth Parade in which they served as Grand Marshals.

Special guests included State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Shirley Henry Gideon, Council of Assemblies, Order of the Golden Circle; Most Excellent Grand High Priest Willie Tate, M.E. Prince Hall Grand Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masonry; and the Hon. Wilbert M. Curtis, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas.

The cars, trucks and trailers used in the parade were donated by Mac Haik Automobile Dealership with assistance from Past

Master Arvie Fairchild (salesman), S.G.L.L.R. Gideon, P.M. Kenneth Jones, P.M. Victor Wiggins, P.M. Clayton Crawford, and P.M. D. Michael Jones.

“It was indeed an honor and a privilege to be a part of a first in Killeen,” said District Deputy Grand Master Marvin Kelker. “The Masonic Family was well represented on this day in the spirit of Prince Hall.”



*Grand Master Curtis in Lead Car.*



*Prince Hall Freemasons of District 24.*



*Members of the District 24 in procession on their Masonic float during the N.A.A.C.P. Juneteenth Parade.*



*Grand Master Curtis and District 24.*



# Community Builders, Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227

*Story and Photos by Lodge Staff*

**BELTON, Texas** – Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 has partnered with the Southwest Elementary School located in the city. As part of the partnership, Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 has committed to support some of the school's programs.

Each year, Southwest Elementary School recognizes their students who have achieved perfect attendance. In support of this program Nolan Creek Lodge has committed to support this program by donating two bicycles.

The members of Nolan Creek Lodge feels that this is a worthy cause and that any incentives to keep a child in school gives him/her better chance of receiving a better education.



*Lt. to Rt.: Worshipful Master Richard Williams Jr. and members of Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227 with the winners of the bicycles awarded for their perfect attendance.*

## D.D.G.M. Kelker named D.D.G.M. of the Year



*District Deputy Grand Master Marvin B. Kelker of District 14.*

*Story by: G.E. Burrell Parmer (1)*

**FORT WORTH** — On June 25 during the 136th Annual Grand Communication, Grand Master Wilbert

M. Curtis named District Deputy Grand Master Marvin B. Kelker, District Deputy Grand Master of the Year.

D.D.G.M. Kelker has served as Deputy for the past two years and previously as a S.D.D.G.M.

He was raised on Dec. 8, 1984 in Clarence Lodge No. 121 in Germany, Jurisdiction of Maryland.

D.D.G.M. has served as District Senior Warden, Senior Warden, Secretary, and Senior Deacon of New Light Lodge No. 242.

Under D.D.G.M. Kelker leadership, the District Scholarship Program which has donated \$2,000 this year. D.D.G.M. Kelker has also encourage the Lodges of the District to step up their support and work in their respective communities, local churches, and schools.

"I have to be mindful that this is a voluntary organization and you can't order any Brother to do anything, but that you must possess

the ability to persuade and encourage them to accomplish the task at hand," said D.D.G.M. Kelker. "Part of this ability is to lead by example, you should never ask a Brother to do something that you, yourself would not do, or to sacrifice their time and money if you're not willing to do the same. You must also be open to all ideals from all Brothers no matter how long they've been in the Order, and remembering everyone has something to bring to the table; realizing that if each man would just do a little bit, a whole lot would be accomplished."

According to D.D.G.M. Kelker, he was shock and surprised to receive the honor.

"I must say that I am delighted and pleased to receive the award. I realize that it is because of the Lodges that worked so hard is the reason why I am being honored."



# Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227, K.O.P. participate in Annual 4th of July Parade



*Members of Nolan Creek No. 227 prepare for the Festivities.*



*Members of KOP Council No. 10 receive full support of Nolan Creek No. 227.*

*Story and Photos by Lodge Staff*

**BELTON, Texas** – Nolan Creek Lodge No. 227, partnered with members of the Sam T. Robinson Knights of Pythagoras Council No. 10, and local appendant bodies participated in the city's annual 4th of July Parade.

According to Chris Moore, who serves as committee chair for the city's Chamber of Commerce chairman, said there were close to 150 parade participants, with a significant percentage from other

towns.

Holding the distinction of one of the largest 4th of July Parades in Texas, there was no shortage of distinguished guests. Notable guests included Lieutenant General Rick Lynch, Commander of III Corps, who served as the parade's Grand Marshal.

Also in attendance were U.S. Representative John Carter, State Representatives Ralph Sheffield and Jimmie Don Aycock accompanied by their wives; Belton's Mayor, Bob Livingston, members of the

City Council, and visiting Mayors from surrounding towns.

To kick off the Parade, Boy Scout troops 117 and 118 led the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Belton High School Madrigals sang the National Anthem and provided other patriotic music.

USA Today called the parade one of the top 10 Independence Day parades in the country.

Texas Highways magazine said the celebration is the best place in the state to be on the Fourth.



*Downtown Belton serves as the perfect backdrop for the parade.*



*Onlookers seek shade in preparation of the parade.*



# History remade, Eureka Lodge No. 30 Reopened



*W. M. Farmer flanked by District Officers and centered amongst his Craft and District Membership.*

*Story and Photos by District Staff*

**BASTROP**, Texas - History was once again made when District 24 reopened Eureka Lodge No. 30, May 28.

To assist in this historical endeavor, District members of seven Masonic Lodges gathered to welcome its eighth Lodge back to the Order.

The call was given months prior

and the District answered, traveling down I-35, through Austin and Bastrop to attend.

Brothers came from different regions of Central Texas including Killeen, Belton, Temple and Austin to support the reopening of Eureka.

District Deputy Grand Master Marvin Kelker extends heartfelt thanks to S.D.D.G.M. Leon Roberts for the work he put in to initiate this historic event.

Every visiting Lodge donated aprons, rituals, constitutions and birth certificates to help Eureka Lodge's start-up expenses.

The gavel sounded and the Lodge was opened in due form.

Membership jumped right into Masonic works by conducting elections, installation, and conduction degree work.

Elected to the Office of Worshipful Master was Brother Weldon Farmer, who was extremely honored and vowed that he and his staff would put in the work necessary to place Eureka Lodge on the level of excellence for years to come.

Past Master Kenneth Jones (620) talked with every new member prior to degree work and found that all encompassed what Masonry is about.

They all bring many talents and skills that would not only enhance their growth as a Lodge but their contributions to the District and the State as a whole Jones added.

District No. 24 extends congratulations to W.M. Farmer, Officers and members of Eureka Lodge No. 30.



*D.D.G.M Kelker proudly stands at the entrance of Eureka Lodge No. 30's Lodge Hall*



*W.M. Farmer and members of Eureka Lodge No. 30*

# District 25

D.D.G.M. Derrick Jackson

## Grand Lecturer visits District 25 for Annual District Session



*Members of District 25*

Story by:

*D.D.G.M. Derrick Jackson Sr. (76)*

**EL PASO** - District 25 held its annual District Session on May 13 - 14. The first day of the session consisted of a workshop and the District Meeting.

District Deputy Grand Master Derrick G. Jackson Sr. opened the workshop by introducing Grand Lecturer Ivory Johnson, an pre-

sender during the workshop.

The workshop's purpose was to standardized the District, and closed with a Q&A session. Subjects discussed were the ritualistic opening, closing, and degree work.

G.L. Johnson addressed the correct way of moving about and saluting with the staffs, when to say the Pledge of Allegiance, when the Worshipful Master should stand in the opening, and the correct time

to start giving salutations to the Worshipful Master and many other things.

Later that evening, Brothers and Easter Star Sisters joined together for a mixer.

Representatives from Maryland, New Mexico and North Carolina partook in the weekend's Session.

The Session opened officially on May 14 by W.M. McCluney of Sunset Lodge No. 76.



The following Lodges were present for the Session; Jackson Lodge No. 15, Pride of the West Lodge No. 53, and Sunset Lodge No. 76.

After opening an Occasional Lodge, W.M. McCluney and then turned the gavel over to D.D.G.M. Jackson who commenced to receive his official guests.

Guest included Grand Chaplain and Deputy of the Orient of Texas, Dr. John Butler Jr., A.D.D.G.M. Rouse Payne of District 17 (Maryland Jurisdiction), D.D.G.M. Floyd Bell of District 3 (New Mexico Jurisdiction), Grand Lecturer Charles Norman (New Mexico Jurisdiction), Grand Worthy Patron Charles Cromer, O.E.S. (New Mexico Jurisdiction), W.M. Clarence Wallace and members of Prince Hall Lodge No. 11 (New Mexico Jurisdiction) and Brother Regilo James (North Carolina Jurisdiction).

D.D.G.M. Jackson received committee reports that were accepted by the District.

D.D.G.M. Jackson gave his end-of-the-year report which stressed the importance of getting children to participate in the District's scholarship contest, and how assisting in higher education was equally important for the youth.

D.D.G.M. Jackson addressed membership and getting back into the Lodges and assisting Worshipful Masters with community projects and supporting the Grand Lodge.

D.D.G.M. Jackson, along with guests and Grand Lodge officers, joined the Sister for the Joint Session portion of the weekend. Jackson stated that he really enjoyed the joint Session and wished all a great and fruitful Session.

After the Session's break for lunch, Jackson opened the floor to guest, all of which expressed their enjoyment of the Session and how informative it was. The guest were equally impressed with G.L. Johnson's conducting of the event, and



*D.D.G.M. Jackson presents G.L. Johnson with award.*

plan on taking info back to their respective Districts.

D.D.G.M. conducted elections. The following were elected, District Senior Warden, P.M. Reginald Hunter (76), District Junior Warden, P.M. Franck Bonhomme (53), District Secretary, S.D.D.G.M. Nathan Gray (15), District Treasurer,



*G.L. Johnson addresses the guests during District Ball.*

S.D.D.G.M. Willie Young (53), District Chaplain, Rev. Dr. John Butler Jr.(53) and District Tyler, Bro. Drewrey Brown (76).

The District ended its session with a Joint District Ball which was hosted by D.D.G.M. Jackson and District Deputy Grand Matron Maureen Simmons.

The Master of Ceremonies, P.M. Bernard Samuel, started the Banquet by introducing members of the head table. G.L. Johnson served as guest speaker for the night.

The theme for G.L. Johnson's speech was "Everything is not always what it seems." Johnson's speech was met with a standing ovation.

D.D.G.M. Jackson presented G.L. Johnson with a beautiful award in shape of Texas with a star marking El Paso. Also receiving an award was D.D.G.M. Jackson's wife, Maria. The heart-shaped award was in gratitude of the support she has given him throughout the years.

D.D.G.M. Jackson presented Certificates of Appreciations to Jackson Lodge No.15, Pride of the West Lodge No. 53, Sunset Lodge No.76, and Western Star Lodge No. 83. P.M. Samuel received an award for his diligent work on organizing the Ball.

The District's next Session will be held in San Angelo, Texas in August 2012.

# HISTORICAL CORNER

## A Chronological History of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas



By:  
G.J.W. Frank Jackson (85)  
Grand Historian

(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of excerpts from G.J.W. Jackson's manuscript.)

### Historic Timeline of Masonry 209 A.D. (4209 A.L.) to 1878 A.D. (5878 A.L.)

#### I

#### The 3rd – 4th Century

209 A.D. is the date given by the English historian, John Morris, as the date of the death and martyrdom of St. Alban. (Wikipedia On-line)

Prior to 303 A.D. St. Adhabelle or St. Amphibalus travels into England and it is he who converts St. Alban to Christianity.

Masonry was also brought into England by St. Amphibalus / St. Amphibal and it was likewise first communicated to St. Alban, who set down the charges of masonry. St. Alban was made paymaster and Governor of the King's work. (Coil's pg.586)

303 A.D. St. Alban, who is to become England's first or foremost martyr, is murdered.

"The date of the execution is best left to the venerable Bede: "when the cruel Emperors first published their edicts against the Christians". In other words, sometime after the publication of the edicts by Eastern Roman Emperor Diocletian in 303 and before the proclamation of the toleration Edict of Milan by co-ruling Roman Emperors Constantine I and Licinius in

313. The year 304 has been suggested." (Wikipedia On-line)

"In 1968, English historian John Morris suggested that St Alban's martyrdom took place during the persecutions under Emperor Septimus Severus in 209. Morris bases his claims on earlier manuscript sources, unknown to Bede, especially an 8th-century copy of a 3rd century manuscript found in Turin which states, "Alban received a fugitive cleric and put on his garment and his cloak (*habitu et carcalla*) that he was wearing and delivered himself up to be killed instead of the priest.... and was delivered immediately to the evil Caesar Severus." Severus was in Britain from 208 to 211. Morris thus dates Alban's death to 209 [4]." (Wikipedia On-line)

"Alban sheltered a Christian priest (Geoffrey of Monmouth's later interpolation giving his name as "Amphibalus", the name for the cloak) in his home, and was converted and baptized by him. When the "impious prince", as Bede has called him, sent Roman soldiers to Alban's house to look for the priest, Alban exchanged cloaks with the priest and was arrested in his stead at Chantry Island. Alban was taken before the magistrate, who was furious at the deception and ordered that Alban be given the punishment due to the priest if he had indeed become a Christian. Alban declared, "I worship and adore the true and living God who created all things." These words are still used in prayer at St Albans Abbey. St Alban was eventually sacrificed to the Roman gods and was condemned to death. The re-

puted place of his beheading is where St Albans Cathedral now stands." (Wikipedia On line)

#### II

#### The 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Century

- 925 A.D. King Athelstan, son of Edward the Elder and grandson of Alfred the Great ascended the throne and united England. Legend credits King Athelstan with re-establishing masonry and issuing a charter to his son Edwin. (Coils pg.80)

- 926...Edwin caused them to assemble at York & bring out the old books of this craft and out of them ordained such charges & manners as they thought fit. (Coils pg.228)

- There is a counter to this legend: King Athelstan never married and killed his brother Edwyn: There are doubts about the issuing of the charter and the meeting at York. (Coils)

- 1117-1118 The Origin of The Knights Templar

- 1150 – 1550 The Heyday of Gothic Architecture in Europe. This was also the heyday of Operative Masons. The Gothic Constitution is the oldest written in or at the end of the period of Gothic Construction. (Coils pg.293)

- 1217 Mazum and Sculptores lapidum liberorum used to describe a Freemason.

- 1275 Convention of Masters at Strasburg.

- 1307 October 13 (Friday 13<sup>th</sup>) The Knights Templar were arrested & imprisoned on the orders of Pope Clement V and King Phillip of France.

1310 First of Templars burned at



the stake in Paris.

- 1314 Grand Master of the Knights Templar, Jacques de Molai burned is at the stake in Paris...Pope Clement V & Phillip the Fair died.
- 1350 Mestre Mason de Fraunche pere used to describe a Master.
- 1355 Date of the Fabric Rolls at York Minister.
- 1376 Earliest reference known to Masons Company of London.
- 1390 estimated date of Regius or Halliwell MS...The oldest of these documents entitled "Here begins the Constitutions of the Art of Geometry according to Euclid." Gothic Constitution – Line 55: "The clerk Euclid in this wise founded this craft of geometry in Egyptian land, In Egypt he taught it full wide, In divers Isnds on every side; Many years afterward, I understand, Before the craft came into this land. This craft came into England as I now say, In the time of good King Athelstan's day; He made them both hall and likewise bower and high temples of great honor, To disport him in both day and night, and to worship his God with all his might." (Coils pg.293)
- 1391 Magister Iathomus liberorum petrarum used to describe a Master Mason.
- 1396 The term ffre maceons first used.

### III

## The 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Century

- 1425 Act of Henry VI Chapter I, against Masons.
- 1429-71 estimated date of Leland -Locke MS.
- 1472 York Minister finished... Arms granted to Masons Company of London.
- 1507 Date on square found under bridge at Limerick, Ireland.
- 1520 Charter granted Masons Company of London by Henry VIII
- 1535 English Reformation.
- 1550 Approximate cessation of new Gothic construction.

- 1561 Tradition of a lodge meeting at York.
- 1563 First work published in England on architecture... convention of Masters at Basle or Strasburg
- 1583 Date of Grand Lodge MS.
- 1598 Oldest extant minutes of a Masonic lodge, Aitcheson's-Haven Lodge, Scotland.
- 1600 First record of a non-operative mason in a lodge.
- 1656-58 Alleged meeting of Jewish lodge in Rhode Island.
- 1676 Earliest reference to the use of the term "Accepted" Mason.
- 1682 John Skeen first Freemason known in America.
- 1688 Speculative Freemasonry known in Ireland is noted in a speech by John Jones.
- 1701 Earliest preserved minutes in England, Alnwick Lodge... Alnwick M.S. dated.
- 1704 John Belcher of Boston made a Freemason in London; First American known to have been made a freemason.
- 1705 Earliest minutes of York Lodge, England, once found but later lost.
- 1712 Earliest preserved minutes of York Lodge, England.
- 1716 Preliminary meeting for formation of a Grand lodge at London. Premier Grand Lodge formed at London, Anthony Sayer Grand Master.
- 1717 Four Old Lodges met in 1717 to form the Grand Lodge of England. Although none of these are known to have existed prior to 1717...June 24, 1717 meeting at the Goose & Gridiron Ale House... It brings to an end in England, Ireland but not Scotland the transition from Operative to Speculative Mason. (Coils pg.230)

Charges are as follows:

1. A Grand Lodge was formed to unify masonry and regulate lodges in Westminster & London
2. Stated Quarterly & Annual

Communications.

3. Authority to warrant new lodges by Grand Master.

4. The old charges were replaced in speculative form and 39 new General Regulations were adopted.

5. All pretenses at Operative masonry were abandoned and stone masons were out.

6. Grand Master – Nobleman.

7. Degrees formulated, legends supplemented, rituals elaborated.

8. Christianity abandoned, non-sectarian natural religion accepted by implication

• 1724 York Grand Lodge formed.

• 1725-30 Grand Lodge of Ireland formed December 2, 1725 at Cork. Charter granted. Richard, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Rosse is the 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Master. The Grand Lodge in the real sense was formed in 1730. Lord Kinston is the GM. He was Grand Master in England 1729. Ireland was the first to issue warrant for a Military or Traveling Lodge.

• 1728 February 15 – 1<sup>st</sup> Lodge warranted outside of England in Madrid Spain.

• 1730 Daniel Cox was deputed as Provisional Grand Master for New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Martin Clare's "Defense of Masonry" is the 1<sup>st</sup> writer to attempt to explain and admit Masonry's eastern origin. (Coils pg.231)

1730 Bible first mentioned as furniture of the lodge... York Grand Lodge went into eclipse...Daniel Coxe deputed Provincial Grand Master for New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.. A lodge begins meeting at "Tun Tavern in Philadelphia," being first lodge known in American colonies.

*(A Historical Timeline of Masonry 1731 A.D. (5731 A.L.) to 1878 A.D. (5878 A.L.) will be featured in the Winter Edition of The Texas Prince Hall Freemason.)*

# G.M. Clayborn, G.M. O'Connor fellowship in San Antonio during Bicentennial, Centennial Celebration



Story by:

Bro. Edward S. Madison III (277)

**SAN ANTONIO** – On Saturday evening of August 30, 1975, amidst the gala celebration of the Bicentennial of Prince Hall Free Masonry and the Texas Grand Lodge Centennial, Grand Master I.H. Clayborn and his wife together with Grand Master Robert B. O'Connor of the Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masonry of Texas were formerly received by Worshipful Master Lloyd T. Blanchard of Noble Star Lodge No. 277 and his wife.

This event marked the first time in the history of Masonry within the

great state that the two Grand Masters fellowshiped under the same dome.

What does this mean? First, we can look forward to fulfilling G.M. Clayborn's goal of Texas Masons joining hands. Second, we will educate individuals of the St. Joseph Grand Lodge (clandestine) and other like groups that their operation will not be tolerated unless they can conform to the true organization of Freemasonry. Third, at last we will be truly implementing the rules upon which Freemasonry is built.

In all his vigor and stamina, G.M. Clayborn's address created a deep

impression that success comes only after we have overcome the many anxieties of self cultivation.

Other guests in attendance included State Representative Garlington Jerome Sutton (first Black elected official in San Antonio), who present a Certificate of Congratulation to our Lodge; City Councilman Al Rohde, who presented G.M. Clayborn a Certificate of San Antonio Citizenship on behalf of Mayor Lila Cockrell; District Deputy Grand Master Robert Brown; and Past Master Richard H. Cobble Jr., who is the Grand Junior Steward of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas.



# FORUM

## Handing down Wisdom from One Generation to the Next



Story by:  
*P.M. Frederic Milliken*  
(135)

In my time in Mainstream Masonry I was often critical of the way in which Masonic Charity was used. Its primary purpose became a recruitment tool and its name changed to "Masonic Awareness."

Struck with a rapidly declining membership, Grand Lodges were doing everything besides pulling rabbits out of hats to restock the Fraternity. Exploiting charity to let the general public know who Freemasons are and what good fellows we are, nothing like those whispered stories of satanic cult and New World Order, seemed like a way to entice interest in Freemasonry.

Having an ulterior motive for doing good always seemed to me to be a corruption that was hard to live with. In order to gain the highest publicity value Mainstream Charity turned to large ongoing projects that never ended and always wanted more. Helping widow Jones by providing her a ride to the doctor just didn't seem to have the exploitive value necessary to deliver the return needed to obtain the notoriety Freemasonry was looking for.

Those of us who thought that this method of growing the Fraternity was ill advised coined the term "Institutionalized Charity" to the large scale "Masonic Awareness" practiced on the Grand Lodge Level. And the sad part of this program was that so much time was devoted to Institutionalized Charity that little time was left for Masonry.

Of course these were not the only means being used to gain membership. Open Houses and One Day Classes, whereby a Mason was made a Mason in one day, often one of several hundred who just observed all three degrees performed, were other favorites. When I left Massachusetts the Grand Lodge was airing television

ads.

I have always considered the mass marketing of Freemasonry to be a tragic mistake. So much time was devoted to marketing Freemasonry that the product (Freemasonry) quality suffered. Pushing the hard sell on a poor product did not yield a lasting good result. New disillusioned Masons dropped out as fast as they were replaced by even newer ones.

When I came to Texas Prince Hall Masonry, I was impressed with the way in which it served the community and helped those in need. Most Masonic Charity was performed at the local Lodge level not in Grand Lodge. And the majority of charitable acts were one on one, that is face to face rather than collecting money for some faraway humungous cause. It was individuals helping other individuals not individuals helping large charitable institutions.

My Lodge gave Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to families that had little. We went into individual areas to "Make Dallas Beautiful" restoring pride in those communities. We visited the sick and shut-ins and performed countless other individual acts of kindness and aid that never got notoriety because that was not the reason they were performed.

But there is a far bigger story that distinguishes Prince Hall that needs to be told. It evolves around these four important contributions Texas Prince Hall Masonry is making.

- Youth scholarships
- Knights of Pythagoras for boys
- Summer Leadership Camp for young men
- One on one mentoring

When you look back into the early history of mankind you can see a body of knowledge, a way of looking at the world and man's place in the grand scheme of things, passed from one ancient mystery school to another to Freemasonry. And this information

has been the pursuit of truth and knowledge proclaiming the worth of the individual and the freedom for man to be master of his own destiny.

The lessons of the second degree teach us the virtue of knowledge that in the correct context leads us to wisdom. And as the world came out of the dark ages of illiteracy it was the Masonic Lodges that refined men's knowledge with instruction in the seven liberal arts and sciences.

Gradually schools and colleges supplanted the role of Masonic Lodges in the education of the individual. Yet knowledge without direction, without purpose, without meaning leads us nowhere. And it is to that purpose modern Freemasonry has devoted itself.

That far bigger story of Prince Hall already alluded to is the work that they do with the youth in the community. Texas Prince Hall Masonry devotes time, money and talent to providing direction, guidance, leadership and education to today's youth. It is one of the unheralded callings of Prince Hall Masonry that the world needs to note and the rest of Freemasonry to emulate.

This is Charity in its finest hour. This is a ministry with a big payoff. Prince Hall supports the Knights of Pythagoras a youth character building organization. It provides a summer leadership camp for youth development. Individual Prince Hall Masons mentor young men one on one. And the Masonic community offers numerous scholarships for young adults to increase their knowledge and further their careers.

Building tomorrow's society is a most noble task. Structuring a large focus of its efforts to making a better future distinguishes Prince Hall Masonry from the rest of the pack. For they are doing what the ancient mystery schools centuries ago did, handing down wisdom from one generation to the next.

# Lone Star Grand Commandery conducts Annual Workshop



*Members of the Lone Star Grand Commandery attended their annual mid-year workshop, June 23.*

*Story by: Grand Commandery Staff  
Photos by G.P. Bernard Brown (324)*

**DESOTO, Texas** - Sir Knights of the Lone Star Grand Commandery, Order of the Knights Templar of Texas, convened in the city for their annual Mid-Year Workshop, June 23.

More than 75 Sir Knights representing 11 of the 14 Constituent Commanderies were present for what turned out to be a well informed and entertaining meeting.

Very Eminent Sir Ivory Johnson, Deputy Grand Commander, facilitated the meeting in exemplary fashion. The highlight of the workshop included a competition

for Eminent Grand Lecturer. Sir Knights Charles Gray (2), Julius Wright (3), Tracy Williams (5), and Charles Lilley (37) all gave thought-provoking lectures on the topic of Templarism.

Eminent Commander Julius Wright was awarded the appointment of Grand Lecturer. Eminent Commander Charles Gray and Past Eminent Commander Charles Lilley were appointed Deputy Grand Lecturers. Additionally, Sir Knight Tracy Williams was appointed Deputy Grand Lecturer and Grand Marshal.

Workshop attendees enjoyed a first-hand opportunity to obtain valuable information pertaining to Grand Commandery operations.

Eminent Sir Samuel Williamson, Grand Recorder, presented information about chronicling Commandery meetings, voting credentials, and annual reports.

Eminent Sir Vernon James, Grand Generalissimo, updated the assembly on the most recent Grand Conclave of the Grand Encampment in Baton Rouge, La.

Eminent Sir Jerry Brown, Grand Captain General, informed the membership about eligibility to obtain the gold/white braided citation cord for serving on the escort team and gave information about purchasing chapeaus for the Sir Knights of Texas.

Eminent Commander Patrick Brathwaite disseminated informa-



tion about Templar uniform standards.

Sir Tony Moore, Right Eminent Grand Commander-Emeritus, was presented with his purple citation cord for his service to the state as Right Eminent Grand Commander.

Eminent Commander Wright

Past Grand Commanders William Scott and Herman Gabriel will have their cords presented to them at a later date.

Heart of Texas Guild No.38, under the leadership of Princess Captain Jovann Farley, provided a "hearty" lunch for the workshop attendees. In addition, the Guild

place of the July workshop. If the Body approves the proposal in February, the Sir Knights will begin their training and workshop at the same time and place as the Lone Star Grand Guild starting in September 2012.

The workshop could not have been the success it was without



*R.E.G.C. Gerac presents R.E.G.C. Emeritus Moore with the Purple Citation Cord and E.C. Wright accepts Citation Cord on Behalf of P.G.C. Reece.*

accepted the purple citation cord on behalf of Sir Hubert L. Reece, Past Grand Commander and Past Most Eminent Grand Master (Grand Encampment).

Alamo Commandery No. 7 purchased and presented a purple citation cord to Sir Roosevelt Tennessee, Past Grand Commander and Deputy to the Grand Encampment for Texas.

presented Right Eminent Grand Commander Ronald D. Gerac with a one-of-a-kind chess set as a token of appreciation for visiting the Guild in June, and also for it being his first official visit to any Guild in the jurisdiction.

The meeting wrapped with R.E.G.C. Gerac introducing the proposal of a mid-Templar year session which would take the

each individual Sir Knight in attendance who was reminded of the theme of this year's Crusade: "If a task is once begun, never leave it till it's done. Be the task large or small, DO IT WELL...or not at all."



*R.E.G.C. Gerac receives a Token of Appreciation from Sir Knights of the Lone Star Grand Commandery Heart of Texas No. 38*

# Called to the Celestial Lodge

The Great Architect of the Universe has called the following Brethren Home.

Lawrence "PAP" Anderson.....	Corinthian No. 51
Willie B. Bryant.....	Cleveland Star No. 394
Edward Cooper.....	Star Tom No. 100
Joseph Eaton.....	Lamarque No. 373
Curly Kerry.....	Pride of Hitchcock No. 181
John T. King.....	Lyons JR No. 290
Booker T. Mays.....	Cherubim No. 237
Willie L. Mayfield.....	Headlight No. 124
Rev. Veree W. McGee.....	Silver Trowel No. 47
Randolph McGraw.....	Live Stone No. 152
Walter B. Tucker Jr.....	Coastal Bend No. 497



## Advertise in the Grand Publication

Greetings,

*The Texas Prince Hall Freemason* is looking for businesses, organizations, associations, and other entities to advertise in *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason*.

*The Texas Prince Hall Freemason* is published electronically four times per year in the months of February, May, August, and November. It is accessible via [www.mwphglotx.org](http://www.mwphglotx.org) where it is viewed by thousands in and outside of the Texas Jurisdiction. Full page and half page spaces are available.

If you are interested in advertising in *The Texas Prince Hall Freemason*, please send your contact name, address and telephone number to the Grand Editor Burrell Parmer at [parmermasonictraveler@hotmail.com](mailto:parmermasonictraveler@hotmail.com).

Advertising rates are:

	<b>1X per Qtr</b>	<b>2X per year</b>	<b>4X per year</b>
Full Page	\$100	\$175	\$300
Half Page	\$50	\$100	\$175



**“2011”**  
**Pilgrimage to Brenham**  
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, PHA  
Brenham, Texas  
September 9-11, 2011

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact while  
@ Pilgrimage/Brenham \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Grand Lodge Title \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee:**

Advance Registration (ON OR BEFORE August 26, 2011)	<b>\$30.00</b>
Late and On Site Registration	<b>\$40.00</b>
Kids (18yrs and under)	<b>\$20.00</b>

Adults	_____ @ \$30ea _____
Kids	_____ @ \$20ea _____
T-shirts	_____ @ \$15ea _____

T-shirts sizes    sm.\_\_\_\_ med.\_\_\_\_ lg\_\_\_\_ x-lg\_\_\_\_ 2x-lg\_\_\_\_ 3x-lg\_\_\_\_ 4x-lg\_\_\_\_ 5x-lg\_\_\_\_  
total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Badges can be picked up (5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.) Friday, September 9, 2011 at the Holiday Inn Express. Badges will also be available for pickup on Saturday, September 10 (11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Fireman’s Park) Please mail completed form and registration fee to:

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas  
P. O. Box 1478  
Ft. Worth, Tx. 76101-1478

## **Pilgrimage to Brenham Hotels**

### **Holiday Inn Express**

(Headquarters Hotel)

555 Hwy 290 West

Brenham, Texas 77833

979-836-4590

\$85 standard room, \$90 mini suite, \$105 mini suite

Cut-off date 08/12/11

### **Best Western Plus Inn of Brenham**

1503 Hwy 290 East

Brenham, Texas 77833

979-251-7791

\$79.99 all rooms

Cut-off date 08/09/11

### **Comfort Suites of Brenham**

2350 South Day Street

Brenham, Texas, 77833

979-421-8100

\$79.99 all rooms

Cut-off date 08/04/11

### **Hampton Inn and Suites**

2605 Schulte Blvd.

Brenham, Texas 77833

979-337-9898

\$109 all rooms

(if all blocked rooms are reserved then \$99)

Cut-off date 08/12/11

### **Super 8**

2831 South Market Street

Brenham, Texas 77833

979-830-8885

\$67 all rooms

Cut-off date 08/09/11

I am asking that the **“La Quinta”** not be used as they basically said that they did not want our business, so why give it to them. Also the room rate that was quoted to me would be \$129/night.



## Schedule of Events:

### Friday-- September 9, 2011

Members arriving.

Hospitality Room will be in the Holiday Inn Express 8p-11p.

Registration at Holiday Inn 5pm-10pm, Saturday 11am-12:30pm Fireman's Park

### Saturday--September 10, 2011

8am-11am Church Service/Re-dedication of Memorial

St. John AME Church

1012 Main Street

Brenham, Texas

Rev. Alvin Larke, Jr., Pastor

### 12noon--5pm

Afternoon in the Park

Fireman's Park

910 North Park

Brenham, Texas

Activities will include:

Softball, Flag Football, Volleyball, Horse Shoes, Basketball, Dominoes and Cards

There will be a Snow Cone machine available for the kids and lunch will be served

### 7pm-9pm

Fellowship Dinner

Brenham Fireman's Training Center

1101 Hwy 290 West

Brenham, Texas 77833

979-838-8616

### 9:30pm-1:30

Knights of the Noon Day Sun Dance

Cash Bar will be available

### Sunday September 11, 2011

10:30am Church Service

St John AME Church

(for those who can attend before departing)

The room rates are before taxes and the cost for the lunch and dinner will be \$30. There will **NOT BE ANY ALCOHOL** at the Afternoon in the Park as this will be a FAMILY AFFAIR. So let us gather up the family and go to Brenham and have a good time. Thanking you in advance. Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

**“2011”**  
**Pilgrimage to Brenham**  
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, PHA  
Brenham, Texas  
September 9-11, 2011

Greetings,

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas will be hosting Prince Hall Day in the city of Brenham, Texas, 9-11 Sept, 2011.

This event will be highlighted with a Commemorative Souvenir Journal. We are asking friends and supporters to assist us in making this effort by purchasing an ad(s). The prices of the ad(s) are listed on the attached sheet. If you desire to include a photo (black/white/color) with your ad(s), it must be of the highest quality. Polaroid's Photos will not be accepted. Photos being submitted with narratives must be typed or legibly handwritten.

The deadline for submission of ads is **15 August 2011**. Checks or money orders are to be payable to Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas. You may **E-mail** your ad(s) to [jbjgig@yahoo.com](mailto:jbjgig@yahoo.com) or **Mail** to:

Prince Hall Day Souvenir Committee  
C/o SDDGM Julian Jenkins  
9570 Vallecito Pass  
San Antonio, TX 78250

Thank you in advance for your support!!!

Fraternally,

*Julian Jenkins*

Julian Jenkins, PM  
SDDGM (19)  
Chairman



MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS  
PRINCE HALL FAMILY DAY

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Advertiser/Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Size of Ad \_\_\_\_\_ Price \_\_\_\_\_  
Photo(s) enclosed (circle one) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**PRICE LIST**

Inside Back Cover ---- \$150.00  
Full Page Ad ----- \$100.00  
Half Page Ad ----- \$ 50.00

Quarter Page Ad-----\$ 35.00  
Business Card----- \$ 15.00

- Ads narratives must be typed or legibly handwritten.
- Use a separate sheet for narrative that will accompany the ads.
- Pictures included with your ad must be of the highest quality.
- Polaroid or adobe pictures cannot be used and will not be accepted.
- The deadline for submitting ads is 15 August 2011.
- Ads can be emailed to [jbjgig@yahoo.com](mailto:jbjgig@yahoo.com), or sent to the following address; 9570 Vallecito Pass, San Antonio, TX, 78250.
- Please ensure that payment, contract, narratives, photos and a check or money order for total amount.

**MAKE CHECK, MONEY ORDER TO MWPHGL OF TEXAS.**

PM Julian Jenkins, SDDGM (19)  
Souvenir Book Committee Chairman

# Lynn Smith Chevrolet

800-499-1102



**Rich Stevens • Lonnie Morgan**

## Lynn Smith Chevrolet

925 N. Burleson BVD

Burleson, Texas 76028

817-933-7637 • 817-295-1102

[richstevens@hotmail.com](mailto:richstevens@hotmail.com)



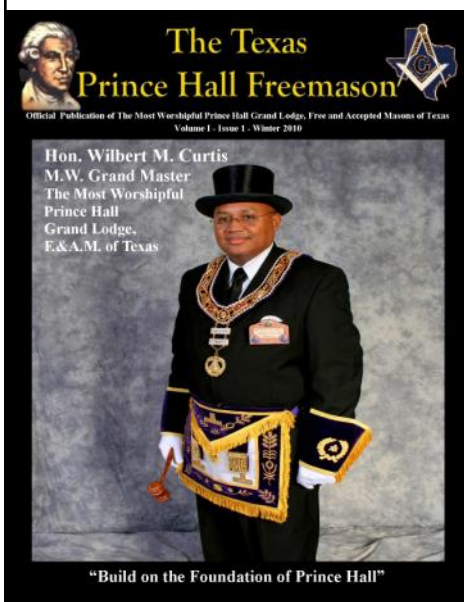


**Order your Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum Medallions  
Cost \$15 plus \$4.95 for shipping. To order call 817.534.4613 or email [pha@flash.net](mailto:pha@flash.net)**

**A Wilbert M. Curtis Texas Prince Hall Library Museum Opening Ceremony Program will be added to each medallion and publication order while supplies last.**

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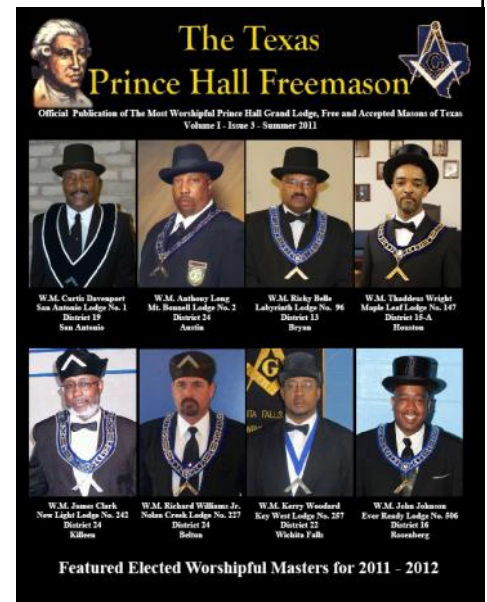
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