

*Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Washington and Jurisdiction*

Proclamation No. 1

WHEREAS, pursuant to Part II, Title 71, Section 71.02 of the Code of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Washington and Jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, Prince Hall, whom we as Prince Hall Masons recognize as the Father of Negro Masonry in the United States, made it possible for us today to be recognized and to enjoy all the privileges of Free and Accepted Masons; and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 1775 he was made a Free Mason in an Irish Military Lodge, No. 441, and in March, 1775 he organized the First Black Lodge of Free Masons in the United States; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 1947 the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts acknowledged Negro Masonry of Prince Hall affiliation in that state to be legitimate and "duly constituted." Subsequently many of the several states and the U.S. Supreme Court have decreed Prince Hall Masonry to be legitimate and duly constituted.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gardner M. Torrence Sr., by virtue of the power and authority vested in me as Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons in and for the State of Washington and Jurisdiction, do hereby direct all lodges of this Grand Jurisdiction to celebrate **Prince Hall Day** by some suitable service or ceremony on or about **Sunday, September 18, 2011**, which is hereby set aside, observed, and celebrated as "**PRINCE HALL DAY.**"

Take due and timely notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

Given under my hand and seal this 10th day of August 2011, A.L. 6011.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. M. Torrence" with a stylized flourish at the end.

GARDNER M. TORRENCE, SR.
Grand Master of Masons

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James F. Troutt II" with a stylized flourish at the end.

JAMES F. TROUTT II
Grand Secretary