

MASONIC BIOGRAPHY

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Washington and Jurisdiction



GARDNER M. TORRENCE SR.

Most Worshipful Grand Master

- Most Worshipful (MW) Gardner M. Torrence Sr was the second of five (5) children born to James and the late Mildred Torrence in Belle Glade, Florida on July 30, 1963.
- After completing primary schooling and graduating from Glades Central High School in June 1981.
- Afterward, he applied and was accepted into Electronic Engineering Institute in Lake Worth Florida where he graduated with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Electronic Engineering after two years of study.
- With basketball being his passion, he attended Florida International University (FIU) in Miami, FL on a basketball scholarship.
- After two years of studies there, in January 1985 he joined the United States Air Force where he served 22 years of honorable service. He retired on 1 December 2007.
- MW Torrence began his Masonic Career in February 1994 where he was Initiated Entered Apprentice, Passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft, and Raised to the Sublime Degree Master Mason in Cherry Blossom Lodge No. 42, Yokota Air Base, Tokyo Japan.
- In May 1994 after being Raised, he was appointed Assistant Secretary of his lodge where subsequently elected Lodge Secretary, Junior Warden, Senior Warden and in 1998 to the oriental chair of Worshipful Master.

- In 1999 continuing his masonic career in Washington Jurisdiction, he received his first Grand Lodge appointment as Asst. District Deputy Grand Master for Masonic District #6 (Mainland Japan) by then MWGM William C. Rheubottom. District Six comprised of 5 lodges--Cherry Blossom #42, O'Misawa #54, Pride of Orient #55, Genesis #89, and Revelation #97.
- In 2002 his military commitment assigned him to Okinawa Japan where he was immediately appointed District Deputy Grand Master for Masonic District #7 which comprise of Torii #46 and Okinawa Military #68.
- In 2004, MW Torrence military assignment brought him to Masonic District #10 (Republic of Korea) where he was appointed District Deputy Grand Master and empowered to manage lodges consisting of Sprig of Acacia #93, Lion of Judah #94, Guiding Light #95, II Corinthians #96 and then Tri-Step #99.
- Despite his mobile military career, MW Torrence continued to serve his Grand Lodge in various capacities such Special District Deputy Grand Master--Chief Editor for its Washington Community Monitor (newspaper) and Website Administrator for the Grand Lodge's official website.
- He has served chairman and as well as vice chairman on numerous Grand Lodge Committees in particular Grand Lodge Grievance and Appeals; Report on Grand Masters' Annual Address, Election Judges as well as the Grand Lodge Code Committee.
- In July 2005 he was elected and installed Grand Lecturer;
- 2006 and 2007 elected Grand Junior Warden;
- 2008 and 2009 Grand Senior Warden;
- In 2010 elected and installed Deputy Grand Master;
- And on 13 July 2011 elected and installed the 44th Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons, for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Washington and Jurisdiction.
- A full product of the "Far East" MW Torrence still serves membership thereof.
- In 1999 served as John J. Story Consistory #111, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite (A.A.S.R.), Valley of Mainland Japan, N.J., Inc. Commander-in-Chief.
- At the same term as Illustrious Potentate of As-Sami Temple #225, Oasis of Mainland Japan, Desert of Far East and Asia, A.E.A.O.N.M.S. Inc.

- And in 2001 as Most Excellent High Priest of Sylvester “Pappy” Cann, H.R.A.M., Okinawa Japan.
- He has served grand positions as Imperial Advisor and Organizer for the Desert of the Far East and Asia;
- Illustrious Advisor to the Deputy for the Valley of South Korea, Orient of Far East as well as Asst. Grand Secretary for Council of Deliberation, Orient of the Far.
- In 1999, MW Torrence was rewarded for his support and dedication to Scottish Rite Freemasonry by being nominated to receive the Honorary Thirty-third and last degree in Masonry
- And subsequently in May 2001 coronated a Grand Inspectors General, United Supreme Council, (A.A.S.R.), Prince Hall Affiliated (P.H.A.) in Philadelphia, PA as a member of the class “Alvin H. Swigget”.
- MW Gardner M. Torrence Sr. considers it an honor and privilege to be married to his lovely wife of 28 years--Gloria M. Torrence.
- They have been blessed with three grown children--Garneisha Metrice, Germieka Michelle and Gardner McKay Jr. ☀