



102nd ANNUAL ADDRESS  
**HONORABLE WENDELL O. HUTCHINGS**  
**M.:W.: GRAND MASTER**

Good Morning,

First, pause to invoke, as our first order of business, the blessings of Almighty God upon our deliberations and all of the attendees of our 102nd Annual Communication. We ask that the same God that brought each and everyone here to take us safely back home to our loved ones.

How appropriate it is that we should, at the commencement of our labors as a Grand Lodge, bow in humble admiration and thanksgiving to the giver of all good. Let us in unity and individually beseech the great and good ruler of the universe to preside in our councils and give us wisdom that we may conduct our affairs successfully and in peace and harmony.

**NECROLOGY**

Grand Architect of the Universe, our hearts are filled by the memory of our brothers who God in His infinite wisdom has taken on the journey to eternal rest. Grand Chaplain', let us pause for a moment of prayer in tribute to those brothers who have departed this troubled earthly world, and are now with the Grand Master of the Universe, far beyond the sky.

**Fred Lee Foley Jr.**

Harmony Lodge #2

DOD: 7/07/2004

**Clem L. Gallerson**

Olympus Lodge #45

DOD: 2/21/2005

**Tahir Ahmad**

Harmony Lodge #2

DOD: 8/07/2004

**James Wilson**

Fred U. Harris Lodge #70

DOD: 2/14/2005

**Augustus Hobgood**

Hercules Lodge #17

DOD: 7/20/2004

**Brian O. Gilmore**

Pride of Washington Lodge #98

DOD: 2/14/2005

**Bert Louis Harris Jr.**

Cassia Lodge #5

DOD: 9/13/2004

**Curtis Dudley**

Lee Grant Rogers Lodge #61

DOD: 2/17/2005

**Ehrenfried Kodjo Mawudeku**

Evergreen Lodge #9

DOD: 11/11/2004

**James C. Purnell**

Harmony Lodge #2

DOD: 3/24/2005

**David E. Johnson**

Trowel Lodge #80

DOD: 1/07/2005

**Darrell Duplechan**

Egyptian Lodge #44

DOD: 4/15/2005

**Herman William**

Hercules Lodge #17

DOD: 1/23/2005

**Richards James Thomas**

Union Lodge #43

DOD: 4/18/2005

**Cecil Richmond Softli**

Hercules Lodge #17

DOD: 1/25/2005

**Darnell O. Wiggins**

King Solomon Lodge #62

DOD: 5/14/2005

**Maurice Jackson**

Harmony Lodge #2

DOD: 1/26/2005

**Henry Jones**

Harmony Lodge #2

DOD: 5/31/2005

**James Buchanan**

Abiff Lodge #37

DOD: 1/27/2005

**LIVING THE DREAM**

Greetings and welcome to this, our 102nd Annual Communication. Today is one of the proudest moments of my life, as I stand before this august body that elected me to serve as its 38th Grand Master one year ago, and as the fourth member ever elected from Hercules Lodge #17. It strengthens and compliments the illustrious history of this Grand Jurisdiction — your enthusiastic support, your loyalty, and your faith in me has been one of my greatest assets in the administration of the office of Grand Master.

I regard this privilege of addressing you as imposing upon me two obligations: First, that of being brief; and secondly, that of saying such things only as are calculated to merit the attention of my Brothers, whose time is as precious as mine. For the breach of the first obligation, I should be without excuse, however, the second involves such difficulties that I must rely upon your forbearing, if I fall short.

As look about this assembly on our 102<sup>nd</sup> year, realizing that we have gathered here from throughout this vast jurisdiction and, as your chief servant, to report on my stewardship for the last 12 months, it is with a feeling of solemnity and a sense of responsibility that I accepted this high honor and was fully aware of the magnitude of this office and have tried to do my utmost to discharge my duties in accordance with the Masonic Code of the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington and Jurisdiction - with credit to all and for the welfare of this jurisdiction.

How important it is, brethren, for you to calmly consider the important propositions and questions that may be presented to you for your careful investigation and consideration.

With sentiments of loyalty to the cardinal principles of freemasonry, and with feelings of fraternal affection, I most sincerely ask you to address yourselves to the duties which now confront us.

The great volume of business that will be brought to our attention at this Annual Grand Communication will challenge our best thought and command our most serious consideration to properly dispose of it, and I earnestly ask you to assist me in preventing the waste of valuable time in the discussion and consideration of matters that are of no practical service to the Craft, and which are in many instances a menace to the future of the Order.

Masons are possessed of the same appreciation of joy and pleasure as other mortals, and they are equally as capable of experiencing the rising within them of angry passions, but we have with us always that sweet, gentle reminder: "Keep our passions within due bounds with all mankind, but more especially with the brethren."

I have always held, and hold now, that Masons should be the personification of courtesy, civility, incapable of using rough, abrupt language, especially one Mason to another. In fact, he should be the highest type of kind-hearted gentleman. When he disregards these principles, he falls beneath the dignity of our fraternity's most sacred tenets.

One of the most dangerous influences that can possibly confront the Masonic fraternity is the canvassing of brethren in the interest of candidates for office, without regard to fitness or those qualifications which adorn and beautify the acts of official incumbency. The Craft in this jurisdiction has risen so high in the world of freemasonry that should it commit the error of placing the fraternity's government in the keeping of those who are manifestly incompetent to understand and perform their duties, it would result in the lowering of our standing, and undoubtedly end in a deep sense of chagrin and mortification to those whom a misguided and misinformed majority may have clothed with official power. I know that the sentiment of the Craft in this Grand Jurisdiction is unanimous, that hereafter to us the homely and somewhat worn-out phrase is "the Office must seek the man, not the man the Office,"

Every Grand Lodge in this country that encourages unbridled and unlimited competition for office is far behind all others in enlightenment and progress, which is the result of placing efficient and painstaking brethren in charge of the fraternity's interest. If we are to give the matter of selecting officers for the ensuing year any consideration whatsoever, I feel that the present condition and needs of the Craft forces me to tell you that for the year to come we must put none but the best informed and most competent brethren in charge of the fraternity's affairs.

It is with great pleasure I can report to you that with a few exceptions, peace and harmony has prevailed in the lodges of this jurisdiction during the past year.

There have been one or two cases where disturbances have arisen, but I hope that this Grand Body shall take cognizance of the facts that will be presented, relative to the difficulties, and have those differences amicably adjusted and restore that friendly and brotherly feeling that should always exist among Masons.

In addition to my administrative duties, I have focused on our Grand East by having the following discrepancies repaired or upgraded;

- (1) Interior and exterior painting of the lower section of the Grand Lodge.
- (2) The Ballroom Floor was completely renovated to reveal a beautiful Hardwood Floor.
- (3) Plumbing work was done throughout the building.
- (4) The Water fountain was replaced.
- (5) Fencing (Gates) were installed under the entrance steps.
- (6) The Grand Master and Grand Secretary's Offices received a fresh coat of Paint.
- (7) The Grand Secretary's Office Door was modified to conduct business.
- (8) New counters were installed in the Grand Secretary's Office.
- (9) A Security System was installed thanks to the Deputy Grand Master.
- (10) New locks were installed throughout the building.

There are many other items that are in the process of being worked on, that will make our Grand Lodge presentable and a building that we can all be proud of.

### **STATE OF THE CRAFT**

I am pleased to report for the most part, all lodges are doing fairly well. As most of you are aware, we are continuing to experience a negative impact on our lodges in Europe and the Far East, resulting from the draw-down of our Military Forces; this has been going on since the war started two years ago. I anticipate that a large majority of our membership will be deploying back to Iraq, beginning in November 2005, through February 2006.

They should be returning the beginning of 2007, at which time many military bases in Germany are scheduled to close down by mid-2007. The plan is to relocate many of the soldiers assigned to the 3rd Armored Division to Bavaria, meaning Grafanwohr, Vilseck, Katterbach, and illesheim.

The 1st Infantry Division is scheduled to be returned back to the United States. If this comes to pass, this would have us with about eight military bases remaining in Germany.

We are trying to anticipate where we can realign some of our lodges; some possibilities to relocate lodges could be Romania, Kuwait and Iraq. We currently have one UD lodge, which I will recommend for Charter during this Grand Communication. It is Middle East Lodge UD, in Kuwait. District Deputy Gardner M. Torrence and Kenneth Bailey should be commended for their diligent efforts.

### **STATE OF THE NATION**

The housing market is booming, gas prices are rising, Social Security restructuring still on the move, health insurance for young adults is too expensive and the economy continues to sag, even though inflation is relatively low, the stock market is unpredictable, therefore retirement funds and pension plans struggle to keep pace. Economic recovery and unemployment continues to be problematic, as jobs are realigned, cut all together or shipped overseas. There is some good news and not so good news; it's according to your personal position in the working population.

Crime continues to be on the rise in our communities, murder, rape, robbery, DUIs, Burglary, and gang violence.

We have lost over 1,700 Marines, soldiers, sailors, and airmen in the Iraq war since it started in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. As we continue the war in Iraq, recruitment has fallen overall by over 20%. I feel we all know that this war is about much more than terrorism. Please continue to pray for our troops in harms-way, where-so-ever dispersed around the world.

### **CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS**

The 86th Annual Conference of Grand Masters was held in the Jurisdiction of Virginia from May 5, through May 8, 2005. Most Worshipful Grand Master Kenneth Hill was the host Grand Master. Three of the five Grand Masters from our Pacific Rim Regional Conference were present and one Past Grand Master from Washington (Julian L. Harris), including the R.W. Deputy Grand Master Harden M. Keys Jr., and R.W. Grand Junior Warden Rudolph A. McPherson.

The Executive Committee proposes and implements changes in policies and procedures. All regions are affected but sometimes not equally represented. There were currently five members-at-large on the Executive Committee who were Past Grand Masters. There are seven regions in the Conference of Grand Masters and the members of the Pacific Rim Region felt there should be representation for the Deputy Grand Masters in all of the meetings that the Grand Master attends.

## **DISTRICT DEPUTIES and SPECIAL DEPUTIES**

We have had one of the more aggressive, dedicated, and active set of District Deputies and Special Deputies that this Grand Lodge has seen in a long time, during this Masonic year. We have delegated more responsibility and accountability to those officers, who in turn have worked with their Worshipful Masters, Wardens, Past Masters, and brethren in their various lodges and districts to stimulate more of an interest from the Grand Lodge level. We are proud to say our Grand Lodge now has practiced what it teaches and developed a new type of system intended to get more participation by the membership of the jurisdiction, by allowing everyone to have more input and suggestions. We can chart the progress we made during this Masonic year by the several different workshops that were held and lodge visitations.

**District Number 1**, the home of our Grand East, is doing well under the leadership of District Deputy Grand Master R.W. Charlie Walker III. There are ten lodges in his district and under his leadership this district has shown a great deal of potential. The regularly scheduled District Deputy meeting has been a vehicle for all Worshipful Masters, officers and brethren to work closer together and to support each other's lodges, activities, and visitations. I asked District Deputy Walker to ask all of the lodges in his district to clean up the Grand East for one month, and the lodge that stands out is Abiff Lodge #37. Thank you Worshipful Master Wilbert Johnson, officers and members, for a job well done. You are truly an asset to our fraternity.

**District Number 2**, has had a lot of success, which certainly could be attributable to its leadership and the many knowledgeable brethren that make up this district under the leadership of District Deputy Grand Master R.W. Andrew Harris. He should be commended for his vision in getting all lodges in his district to come together for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration in Tacoma Washington at the Tacoma Dome. This is one of the largest celebrations held through many states and we have been a part of this for many years. We are pleased to acknowledge that many community and civic leaders were in attendance along with your Most Worshipful Grand Master, his staff and numerous brothers of District Number 2. We also had the pleasure of being in several photos with the mayor of Tacoma, Bill Baarsma, and the Governor of the State of Washington, Christine Gregoire. Our photo was in the Tacoma FACTS.

**District Number 3**, under the leadership of District Deputy Grand Master R.W. Vincent King, who was recently appointed after R.W. Arthur Broady assumed duties in another concordant body. My sincerest thanks is extended to you, R.W. Broady for all of your years of dedicated service. With only one lodge operating, Pioneer Lodge #39, located in Pasco Washington, District #3 continues to grow in a positive direction by being visible and accessible through the community in a variety of areas and there is a steady increase in awareness and respect for our Masonic organization.

**District Number 4**, of Spokane Washington, is a small district; it has two lodges. While District Deputy Grand Master R.W. Ronald Carpenter has tried his best to keep it going, there needs to be a decision as to how to maintain our building and members and generate community awareness.

**District Number 5**. The two lodges that were in this district were reassigned to District #1 - they being, True Resolution #16 and African Genesis #101.

**District Number 6** remains in the capable hands of R.W. District Deputy Grand Master Authuree Bellanger. There are five lodges operating under the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington and Jurisdiction; they are Cherry Blossom Lodge #43, O'Misawa Lodge #54, Pride of the Orient Lodge #55, Genesis Lodge #89, and Revelations Lodge #97. District Six has not escaped the effects of war, because our lodges are operating at minimum staff and a constant flux of membership.

**District Number 7**. Outstanding support, commitment, and excellence best describes this district, under the leadership and tutelage of R.W. District Deputy Grand Master Daniel R. Poole. I consider it a blessing to have the opportunity to work with you.

Although you are leaving Okinawa, you are not leaving the Washington Jurisdiction; you're just getting closer by relocating to California. Torii Lodge #46 and Okinawa Military Lodge #68 - your continued support and devotion to the fraternity continues to solidify your position in the community on Okinawa and throughout the world.

**District Number 8**. This district, under the leadership of District Deputy Grand Master R.W. Clifton Claybrooks is home to Marianas Travelers Lodge #49, located in Guam. I am pleased to report that this lodge is performing well, considering the rapid turnover of its members, and that we have a good fraternal relationship with the Philippines as well.

**District Number 9** The largest district in the entire jurisdiction, under the consummate care of R.W. District Deputy Grand Master Andrew Morgan. With many years of longevity, this district is head and shoulders above the rest when it comes to success. The overall leadership in the lodges represents the best and some of the brightest we have in the jurisdiction.

**District Number 10** is under the leadership of R.W. District Deputy Grand Master Gardner M. Torrence. He oversees the work of five lodges in the Republic of Korea. R.W. Torrence faced tremendous odds considering he had just arrived into Korea as a Special District Deputy Grand Master with instructions from the Grand Master to advise this district when and where needed — since there had recently been a change in leadership that was in place for the last 12 years.

R.W. Torrence discovered numerous violations and disregard for standards set forth by the Masonic Code of this Grand Lodge, and reported it immediately to the Grand Master. The Grand Master then sent official communication relieving Past Master Derrick Stallings and appointing R.W. Torrence as District Deputy Grand Master for District #10, with instructions to clean up the cesspool that has existed in District #10.

I am very pleased to report that most lodges operating in District #10 are performing very well, considering the rapid turnover of its members and the diversity of Masonic organizations operating in Korea. To you, R.W. Torrence, I consider it a blessing to have you in the Masonic family; you are truly a brother. Thanks for all that you do.

**District Number 11.** This district consists of three lodges, with R.W. District Deputy Grand Master Clarence Baxley at the helm of Fred U. Harris #70, Spanaway #83, and Pride of Washington #98. This year each lodge focused on increasing membership, improving in Masonic knowledge, and working together with the communities and youth.

**District Number 12.** This district consists of one lodge, under the leadership of R.W. District Deputy Grand Master Norman Macon. Mabuhay Lodge #59, being the only (PHA) civilian lodge in the Far East, is doing well and thriving to improve.

**District Number 14.** No Report

### **COMPTROLLER BOARD**

I am very pleased with the performance of our Comptroller Board this past Masonic year. Our relationship has been one that has proven to be successful and in the best interest of this Grand Lodge. I want to personally take this opportunity to express my sincerest thanks to each and every one of you for your dedication, time and effort.

### **FRATERNAL RELATIONS - CONCORDANT BODIES**

I am pleased to report that fraternal relations are good; all Grand Bodies are working together, however there are areas of concern that need to be addressed. We have moved in the direction of reviewing our past practices and establishing a different kind of approach to working harmoniously with our other bodies in the Prince Hall Masonic family. We have attempted to interpret the law and the relationship that exists between each group and the Grand Lodge. We have encouraged the support of all of Prince Hall Masonic family programs and activities and have made much progress in these areas. However, there is still room for improvement, brothers. As an organization with so many varied components, we are functioning, but not as well as we should or could be.

We need the aid, assistance, and help of every Masonic entity working with and under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge if we are to continue our progress.

I have had an enjoyable working relationship with our Deputy of the Orient, Scottish Rite Masonry, S.G.I.G. Daniel L. Lunsford. I congratulate him on doing a fine job in promoting Prince Hall Masonry throughout the jurisdiction and around the world. The Order of Eastern Stars in our Grand Jurisdiction has a major problem in District #9. In September, 2004, Shining Star Chapter #39, Order of the Eastern Stars, was investigated by the United States Army, Europe, for sexual harassment by two male members, which occurred during the initiation of a female candidate.

This incident initially affected the lodge, as they were suspended temporarily from operating on the military bases. However, the lodge was reinstated and after a subsequent investigation, the Chapter has been permanently barred from operating on any military base; the Chapter was eventually closed down. The two brothers involved have been expelled by the OES.

District Deputy Grand Master Andrew Morgan offered to intervene on behalf of the OES if he received a letter from the Grand Worthy Patron deputizing him to act on behalf of the Eastern Stars. He made several inquiries about the letter, which never came. Months after things had gotten out of control Deputy Morgan was contacted by the Grand Patron asking him if he would intercede on behalf of the Grand Chapter, to which Deputy Morgan declined, because too much time had elapsed and the case had progressed to a stage where it was no longer pragmatic for him to circumvent it from going to a full-scale investigation. After the findings and the action taken by the Community Commander, Deputy Morgan contacted the OES leadership and strongly suggested that they appeal the decision, because he had spoken to a few JAG lawyers who were absolutely sure they could win an appeal.

He even offered to assist with the appeal, but to this date he has not heard anything and the time frame in which they had to appeal has now expired.

### **HEROINES OF JERICHO**

I have enjoyed working with the Prince Hall Grand High Court, its officers and members. We anticipate continued peace and harmony.

### **A.E.A.O.N.M.S**

We have been asked to report to the Imperial Potentate any problems arising from the nobility within our jurisdiction that affects the Grand Lodge.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That Middle East Lodge UD (Kuwait) be Chartered and given a number at this 102nd Annual Communication.

2. That Past Master Jesse "P.J." Price, who has served this jurisdiction with honor, be granted and appointed an Honorary Past Grand Master.
3. That the position of Grand Trustee be changed from five (5) years to three (3) years.

### **CONCLUSION**

It has truly been my sincere privilege to serve you as Most Worshipful Grand Master during the past year. The year has been filled with many challenges and you responded well beyond all expectations.

In time, let us say as Isaiah did in Chapter 40, verse 31 of the Holy Bible: "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, not be weary; and they and they shall walk, and not faint." This is what leadership means, working with Christian purpose and faith that the work will benefit mankind.

May God confirm the truth of which I speak, and may He give each of us the power to discern what is best for this, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington. So a man thinks, so is he.

Fraternally submitted

**/s/WENDELL O. HUTCHINGS**  
**GRAND MASTER**