



59th ANNUAL ADDRESS OF  
**HONORABLE JOHNNY ALLEN**  
**M.:W.: GRAND MASTER**

Greetings,

Sixteen years ago I was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in Harmony Lodge No. 2, F. & A.M., P.H.A. here in the city of Seattle. Sixteen years ago I attended my first grand lodge session in Portland, Oregon. Three years ago, here in the city of Seattle, you elevated me to your honored office--called Grand Master. For sixteen years I have attended grand lodge sessions without interruptions.

My most cherished recollections of the sixteen consecutive years are the memories of the fraternalization of those brothers who have crossed the swelling tide and those with you who, by the Grace of God, have been spared to meet again in this our 59th Annual Grand Communication. I wish to extend to each of you a hearty welcome.

Again, Brethren, I must render to you an account of my stewardship. For Twelve months you have shown me your best respect, you have offered me your support, and your prayers have brought me all the way. To each of you I am grateful,

**NECROLOGY**

An alarm at the doors of many of our lodges was not some traveling brother. It was the Grim Reaper who brought sorrow to our entire Masonic Family. It is only natural to expect a certain number of deaths each year. Each call is a warning to those fortunate enough, by the Grace of God, to be spared, to keep their hawse in order. Our brothers are resting until that great tomorrow when again we shall meet in that Celestial Lodge on high. Brethren, let us remember our duties to their loved ones.

It is indeed a very happy moment for me to be privileged again to come before you, who are the direct representatives of the lodges of our jurisdiction, you who are representatives of other affiliated Masonic bodies, Master Masons and brothers, who have achieved such great heights in your various communities in civic, social, business and professional activities--to bring you a report of my work as your representative in our Grand Jurisdiction.

Many events of importance to our Masonic family have occurred during this Masonic year, naturally, like good Masons, we are always concerned and interested in such events, and we must always continue to be on the alert as to what tends to affect the well-being of our country.

Current events affect our whole economy, whether they are good or bad. One must indoctrinate himself to three of the basic principles as referred to in the greatest of all books, in I Corinthians--Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption. There can be no real prosperity or progress in a nation, a home or a soul, unless there be peace. It is not difficult to see why this must be first. Our pride has been touched to a very low degree, by those of a degenerate nature, those who would upset our entire form of government to maintain segregation on all levels and in all branches of society. Brothers, segregation is dead. All that is left for us everywhere to do is to continue to get it on the minds of those who are in the dark, the things that are happening in the light of the new day.

Our nation, like our lodges, or like a machine, cannot do its work unless it rests secured on a good foundation. Quietness and assurance are indispensable to our moral and spiritual well-being. The first requirement of a salvation that should really bring blessedness to us was peace. There cannot be peace until all men are treated equal under the laws under which they live.

Our hearts are continually prone to wander from the great principles of our country, our Masonic lodge, our Grand Lodge, Prosperity and enjoyment all too easily satisfy us, weakening our support for our lodges, for religious and civic and other high moral means of elevating us above those who tend to destroy our American Way of life, as we strive from day to day to advance to the best of our abilities we must not let anything detract from the moral teachings of our Masonry.

### **FOREIGN RELATIONS**

Our Grand Lodge enjoys the great fraternal accord that should always exist among Prince Hall Masons who comprise our great family. Our C.C. of F.C. will give a full report.

### **YOUTH MOVEMENT**

Our Youth Department is divided into four departments directed by four state directors, A Grand Director, appointed by the Grand Master, is provided to assist the Grand Master in the appointing of the other directors. Our Grand Director has been unable to carry on his duties and it has been an added job for the Grand Master to work with the three active directors, A summary of their work follows.

### **Knights of Pythagoras**

Director Ira Simons has worked hard in this position and has kept alive this program, without the proper assistance. He has traveled in many areas and has brought good will. His support in Seattle has been very good, with two Master Masons, Brothers Louis J, Martin and Tyree Flecks doing a good Job.

### **Director of Scholarships**

Director Robert F, Colbert, assisted by Grand Secretary Louis R. Solomon and Attorney Herbert M. Stephens, has done an excellence job this year in this department. They will be give you a full, outstanding report.

SPECIAL NOTE: No scholarships were issued last year, The applications received were held over by the committee because each lodge in our Jurisdiction did not have an equal opportunity to submit recommendations since the information was not sent to them in due time. The actions of the committee, in refraining from recommending scholarships last year, had the complete approval of the Grand Master.

### **Guidance Clinics**

Director George Jordan did our Grand Lodge much good in this masonic year. Much of his work cannot be printed but more of our Master Masons worked in an executive capacity on this program than before because of his activities, His report may not be long on paper but in the hearts and minds of those whom we wish to know what masonry stands for, has been implanted the seeds of goodwill for our entire Prince Hall Masonic Family,

### **CLANDESTINE MASONRY**

We feel assured that in the near future there will be one legitimate Grand Lodge in the State of Washington among our colored citizens and that it will be no doubt the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington and Jurisdiction. This is another step toward the human dignity in society for all our people. Our commission will give a full report on this as well as up-to-date resume of national suits won.

### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Under the very able leadership of Director W.B. Foster and his outstanding staff much has been accomplished for our Grand Lodge through this department. The future looks very good. Our official newspaper, the Square, has been placed in this department. I am sure that each of you is aware of its quarterly publication in cooperation with the Public relations Committee of Prince Hall Grand Chapter, O.E.S. Our Secretary of Hercules Lodge No. 17, have been of especially service in the publication of the Square.

### **AFFILIATED BODIES**

Much respect has been shown this office by our affiliated bodies. It was my happy privilege to assist in the charter presentation of the new Consistory in Tacoma, Washington, June 17, 1962 and to attend the banquet that followed.

### **OUR CONCORDANT BODIES - LADIES**

Invitations, greetings, dinners, etc, have been received from the Order of Eastern Star, Heroines of Jericho and the Daughters of ISIS throughout the year. A special treat was extended by my own Queen of Sheba Chapter on September 13, 1961. The then Matron Sister Winifred Duncan, insisted that I be present.

I was received by her and the Worthy Matron, Capt. John C. Eichelberger, (Retired), with the highest honors they had to give, The Matron read a very lengthy tribute to me.

As she read tears came from her eyes. She then presented me with a Jewel of the O.E.S. Sister Duncan is now on her way to France to join her husband, our faithful brother, Preston Duncan,. Both will be missed by all and we pray their return when his tour of duty ends,

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Under the very able leadership of W. Master James T. Smith, Union Lodge No, 43 celebrated its second anniversary. At this time several presentations of appreciation were made. I was the recipient of a plaque for which I am most grateful and shall forever cherish.

Harmony Lodge's past masters shocked me with the presentation of a fine fountain pen with my name engraved upon it. This was a great surprise and will always be remembered. The same evening Worshipful Master Lockhart and his officials and members gave me another shocking surprise when they presented me with a silver dollar mounted in a gold key set. I shall be a Master Mason for life because no one could ever turn back and leave such good friends.

### **STATE OF CRAFT**

During the past year, as before, we have administered your affairs with all the executive ability that you yourself would have used. Every decision, directive, mandate or piece of advice has been given after careful thought. Brethren, our jurisdiction is in a healthy condition and shows a much healthier sign for the future. Our worshipful masters have done wonderful jobs in most of the lodges in helping to carry us through our most critical period--especially in collecting the assessment without the lose of many brothers. This was our greatest test of strength and by the Grace of God we have made it through.

Three years ago, upon my being selected as your representative, I faced the greatest crisis of my life Among our critical problems were:

1. A lawsuit to be won,
2. A high death rate and the problem of how to keep it from draining our Relief Fund.
3. The collecting of an assessment levied by my predecessor.
4. A general revamping of our financial system.
5. A new code to write.
6. A declining membership.
7. A loss of four lodges to the Oregon Jurisdiction.
8. The loss of our lodge in Wenatchee.
9. Delinquent lodges as much as three years in the arrears.
10. A new assessment to levy and collect and the same time to try to avoid a decline in membership.
11. The establishment of new lodges in areas long over due.

12. The need of new equipment in the grand lodge offices to handle its operations.

13. A youth department to build.

14. A public relations department to establish.

15. The development of a newspaper, or other means of communication for our Prince Hall Family.

In everyone's life there comes a crisis sooner or later. These problems were my crisis. We are not all the way through but, by the Grace of God, we can now see the end. You, my brethren, are to be given full credit for our advancement. You gave me a qualified staff of officers, dedicated, loyal and always ready to do their share. Let us, together, give all the praise to God, our Father, because it was He who directed our every endeavor.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. For more than forty years of continuous, active service to our Grand Lodge, serving as Grand Secretary most of that time but also being elevated to its highest and most honored office, that of Grand Master in July, 1952, I recommend that Past Grand Master Fred U. Harris be given a life membership in this Grand Lodge, thereby exempting him from any financial responsibility to this Grand Lodge, or to his local lodge, that may arise under any circumstances, such as the paying of dues, assessments, regular or special, levied either by the Grand Lodge or his local lodge and that, upon approval of this recommendation, the Grand Secretary will be empowered to make a special life membership card, signed by the Grand Master and attested by the Grand Secretary, under Seal of this Grand Lodge, and issue same to him.
2. For over forty years of continuous, active service to our Grand Lodge, serving most of that time as Grand Trustee, and also having been elevated to our most honored office, that of Grand Master in July, 1953, I recommend that Past Grand Master Hilliard H. Hood be given a life membership in this Grand Lodge, thereby exempting him from any financial responsibility to this Grand Lodge, or to his local lodge, that may arise under any circumstances, such as the paying of dues, assessments, regular or special, levied by either the Grand Lodge or his local lodge and that, upon approval of this recommendation, the Grand Secretary will be empowered to make a special life membership card, signed by the Grand Master and attested by the Grand Secretary, under Seal of this Grand Lodge, and issue same to him.
3. I recommend that the yearly expenses of attending the Grand Lodge for both. P.G.M. Fred U. Harris and P.G.M. Hilliard H. Hood be allowed along with other top elected grand lodge officers in the budget prepared by the Finance Committee, which shall include travel, lodging, meals and kit or package.

4. I recommend that life memberships be given any brother who has served in any lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge, who has demitted to a lodge in our jurisdiction, and who has been a continuous member of a lodge in our jurisdiction for thirty years or more, providing he has served a total of fifty years or more continuously.
5. I recommend that Torii Lodge U.D., F. & A.M., P.H.A. be granted a charter and recorded upon our grand lodge rolls as Torii Lodge No, 46, F.& A.M., P.H.A. and that their members and officers become charter members of the same, (Okinawa).
6. I recommend that Vancouver Lodge, U.D., F. & A.M., P.H.A., Vancouver, Washington, be granted a charter and recorded upon our grand lodge rolls as Vancouver Lodge No. 47, U.D., F. & A.M., P.H.A. and that all officers and members now listed in the official records of our grand lodge be recorded as charter members and officers.
7. I recommend that the Grand Lodge begin the practice of opening an Occasional Grand Lodge at each regular or special grand session, for receiving the Grand Master and his staff, according to Masonic law, and that one of the following officers preside, in the given order:
  - A. Deputy Grand Master
  - B. Grand Senior Warden
  - C. Grand Junior Warden
  - D. Junior Past Grand Master
8. I recommend that the Grand Lodge begin immediate plans to send a representative to visit Eureka Lodge No. 41, Cherry Blossom Lodge No. 42 and Torii Lodge No. 46 and that a budget be set up by the Finance Committee for the said purpose.
9. I recommend that a \$500.00 U.S. Savings Bond be purchased from one of the funds, the fund and the type of bond be recommended by the Finance Committee.
10. I recommend that \$40.00 be paid to the Grand Master's Conference General Fund.
11. I recommend that we contribute the usual \$100.00 to the Clandestine Commission Fund of the Grand Master Conference.
12. I recommend that \$500.00 in shares be purchased in the Sentinel Credit Union and the Finance Committee recommend from which fund this amount be drawn.
13. I recommend that a life membership in the NAACP be purchased through the Area Conference so that all branches In our area will get credit and that we pay the minimum required per year, which is \$50.00, until such time as the full \$500.00 can be paid.
14. I recommend that we renumber our lodges beginning with number one and proceeding in numerical order.

## **CONCLUSION**

We have been blessed, by the Grace of God, to pass another milestone and to write another page in our history. Because of each of you we have been able to meet the challenge, go through the crisis and today say: three years ago we had 700 plus members and a host of obstacles facing us. Since that time we have lost five lodges, reducing our membership to less than 600 members. Today we have more than 800 on our rolls despite more than thirty brothers being dropped from the rolls of one lodge. We have replaced the five lodges we lost with five new lodges and a host of fine brothers. Some of our lodges have made some of the greatest progress in history, while some are steadily decreasing.

Brethren our accomplishment is the result of teamwork with each of you as an important member of the team. Our Grand Lodge selected a team of experts to assist the Grand Master three years ago and that team must be given full credit for the great progress we have made. Behind that team was each of you--loyal, faithful and dedicated to the progress of Masonry everywhere. We have had to use strong directives during the year to get the job done but it was the law, adopted by you and upon your advise. Except on rare occasions we have executed it with equal regularity, although tempered with mercy, equity and justice. These have been our guides. Peace and harmony prevail in this our Prince Hall Masonic Family of Washington and Jurisdiction. No Master Mason could ever refuse to work for this great jurisdiction.

Again many, many thanks for your loyal support. Thanks to the staff of officers who worked so hard this year for me and their grand lodge. It is with my warmest thanks and gratitude and appreciation that I close this report. Let our prayers be for each other, our Grand Lodge and our oppressed people everywhere and for the success of our grand jurisdiction.

Faithfully submitted,

**Johnny Allen**  
**Grand Master**