



69th ANNUAL ADDRESS OF  
**HONORABLE JAMES E. CHASE**  
**M.:W.: GRAND MASTER**

We have gathered here in the beautiful city of Vancouver, Washington, located on the lovely Columbia River, for another Grand Communication; our Order having accomplished 69 years of meaningful participation in the lives of our beloved Brothers. This is a very special occasion for this is the first time Vancouver has been the host city. The Brothers and Sisters here, working with the Grand Entertainment Committee, have left no stones unturned in their efforts to make this a memorable occasion for everyone. I am confident that this session will be a most successful one and we shall return to our homes inspired to work harder than ever to carry on this important work.

I want you to know how deeply I have appreciated the honor of serving as your Most Worshipful Grand Master this past Masonic year. This has been one of the most enriching and rewarding experiences of my life. I thank you for making this possible. Also, I appreciate so much your support. It has always been my hope that I would warrant the trust you have placed in me.

Also, I want to tell you of my deep appreciation for your hospitality and lovely gifts. I shall cherish your presents and your kindness always. They mean so much to me because they came from you.

**NECROLOGY**

Dear Heavenly Father, We thank Thee for the privilege of meeting here. We remember with both pride and humility the exemplary qualities of the founders of our organization. Those Brothers who founded our Order inspire us to live in its great tradition of worthy ideals.

Grant us FAITH to light our souls, LOVE to free us from prejudice and hypocrisy, and TRUTH to guide us in life's never-ending search for Thy answers to life's questions.

In a chaotic world where diverse pressures are great and old ways no longer seem appropriate, we thank Thee for loyalty and brotherhood which bind us in the close relationships we cherish this day. May Thy divine spirit bless us as we work together. In the name of Thy dear Son, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

God shall wipe away all tears; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be anymore pain; for the former things have passed away.

In Memory of: Brother Leroy Slade – Mandarin Lodge No. 57 - June 13, 1971; Brother Joel Russell — Inland Empire Lodge No. 3 - October 4, 1971; Brother Sylvester A. Thomas - True Resolution Lodge No. 16 - November 18, 1971; Brother Schley Jackson – Hercules Lodge No. 17 - January 9, 1972; Brother Robert Jones - Abiff Lodge No. 37 - February 14, 1972; Brother Ezell Harris - Inland Empire Lodge No. 3 - March 17, 1972; and Brother Benny Walker - Cassia Lodge No. 5 - May 5, 1972.

It remains that we who are living should so live and, by our actions, attend the coming of the day of fate, that we may neither be surprised nor leave our duties imperfect, nor our sins uncanceled, nor unappeased, but that when our bodies, in their turn, descend to their graves, our souls may ascend to the regions of eternal light. Whatever fate is to befall us in this world, let the motto of our lives be: For the past, CHARITY; for the present, HOPE; for the future, FAITH.

### **STATE OF THE CRAFT**

I am pleased to report that the Craft is in an excellent condition. The projected income for the fiscal year so ably prepared by our Grand Lodge Finance Committee was very accurate and realistic. With the help of my staff, we were able to operate within our budget.

It is with sincere pride and pleasure that I report to you that we have chartered two lodges in the 6th District; they are: Eureka No. 41 and Craftsmen's No. 58. However, because of the closing of the Air Base, Craftsmen was forced to dissolve. All remaining members as well as all assets were transferred to O'Misawa No. 54 as of April 15, 1972.

Due to the closure of another military base in the Far East, Eureka No. 41 was forced to dissolve and their membership and assets were transferred to Cherry Blossom No. 42.

In spite of the fact that we have lost two lodges by dissolution, our membership is still growing in size and quality. We have one more bright spot in the 6th District; namely, Beehive Lodge U.D. According to the reports I have received from them and the reports and recommendations I have received from my District Deputy Grand Master, Brother Roland R. Rainey, they are an up-and-coming group of Brothers who desire a Charter.

You may rest assured that the assets of our Jurisdiction are growing steadily in spite of many handicaps any administration is faced with today.

### **FRATERNAL RELATIONS**

The State of Washington and its Jurisdiction continues to have harmonious and fruitful relationships with all the other Prince Hall Jurisdictions in the United States. It is pleasing to me to see our members of the Masonic family attending national meetings and conventions in other jurisdictions. I am sure that all of us feel very fortunate to be a part of such a tremendous organization when we return home from one of these memorable occasions. It is indeed inspiring.

Through correspondence I have received from other parts of the country, I have learned that our Washington Jurisdiction holds a place of respect among the Craft nationally. We have received many communications from other Jurisdictions congratulating us and wishing us well on the occasion of this our 69th Grand Lodge Communication.

Intra-fraternal relations continue to be harmonious and excellent. All groups in our Jurisdiction: the Masons, the Order of Eastern Star, the Consistory, the Shriners, and the Heroines of Jericho are carrying on the work in an exemplary manner, working for the good of our Masonic family.

### **SPECIAL CONVENTION — NORTHWEST CONFERENCE**

Our Northwest Conference was held in Yakima, Washington on March 4, 1972 with R.W. Senior Grand Warden, Jimmy Simmons in charge. I deeply appreciate R.W. Simmons' devotion to the Masonic cause. I am sure that all those attending would agree that this was undoubtedly one of the most constructive spring conferences we have ever held. This meeting represents a great deal of hard work and dedication; the kind that will make us grow and prosper.

We were fortunate that we were present in Yakima that day, when Naomi Chapter No. 5 and our Prince Hall Grand Chapter honored Sister May Bradford with a life membership luncheon.

### **CODE REVISION COMMITTEE**

At the suggestion and advice of our Past Grand Masters, I appointed a committee to work on updating and revising our Code. The committee is composed of all Past Grand Masters who felt they had the time to serve in this capacity. The Past Grand Masters have added to their committee other Brothers who have had a special interest in this. The committee has tried to be objective about their work, not allowing any bias of their own or anyone else's, including the Grand Master, to interfere with their work. They have functioned in an impartial manner with only the good of our Order in mind. Many long, tedious hours have been spent and I know this is a job well done. They have put Masonry above personal desire and for this I sincerely thank them.

### **BUILDING FUND**

Only a few short years ago, the image of our Jurisdiction in our communities was not what we would have liked it to be, mainly because our meeting hall facilities were woefully inadequate. They did not inspire us to actively participate in our Masonic affairs.

Today, we are on the march--Tacoma, Toni Lodge No. 46 of Okinawa, and Spokane have buildings of which we can be proud. But, we cannot be satisfied until all cities in our Jurisdiction have adequate facilities. Those in need of temples are Yakima; the Tri-Cities area; Seattle; Vancouver, Washington; Vancouver, B.C.; Everett; Guam; and other lodges in the Far East.

Whereas, we may be pleased with many facets of the building program, we are not satisfied with the operation as a whole. We have Masons who have gone far beyond their grace period. This we cannot tolerate much longer if we can expect to accomplish the goal we have set before us.

In January 1972, I wrote a letter to the Worshipful Masters of every subordinate lodge notifying them that I was granting a dispensation to them for the purpose of evaluating and reviewing cases of brothers who are non-affiliated with the lodge for failure to pay the building assessment. I quote, "This dispensation will remain in effect until June 20, 1972 and is retroactive to July 15, 1971. After each case has been evaluated and reviewed individually as to financial ability to pay; any necessary, appropriate action may be taken in order to bring any brother back into good, bona fide Masonic standing."

In making this decision to grant this dispensation, it is not my intention to forestall or prevent a brother from shouldering his rightful obligation, but rather it is to alleviate the pressure on those who temporarily find themselves in unfortunate circumstances. This does not automatically exempt any brother from paying.

A few years ago, the Grand Lodge saw the need to create a building fund in order to update our physical image and the Grand Body wisely instituted this program. Today no one can deny the benefits derived from it. We all appreciate the gains that we have made and we desire to continue to progress.

In our request for progress, we sometimes find the path stewn with obstacles of every conceivable nature, and we feel they must be eliminated if we are to reach our goal; but we must be careful not to cast aside any that are vital to our well-being. Those of us who have labored long and hard and have sacrificed in order to acquire a temple that we can look upon with pride, know the real value of this building program. But yet, there may be brothers that also recognize the value and have a sincere desire to do their share, but financially are unable to pay as soon as they would like. These are the brothers we should not cast aside, but rather we should give them a reasonable length of time in which to complete their building fund obligation. "Together we shall surely reach our goal."

### **FAR EAST COMMAND — THE 6TH DISTRICT**

The trip to the Far East to attend the 4th Annual Conference of District 6 is one that I shall never forget. Accompanying me on the trip were R.W. Deputy Grand Master, Brother James W. Davis, and our Grand Secretary, Brother Jasper R. Warren. Enroute to Japan we stopped overnight in Honolulu, one of the most beautiful spots in our country.

We arrived in Tokyo at 5:30 p.m. on the same day, March 21, 1972, and were met by R.W. District Deputy Grand Master, Brother Roland R. Rainey and Brothers and Sisters of District 6. No Heads of State of any country could have enjoyed a warmer welcome and greeting than we Prince Hall Masons received. Prior to this, the delegation, likewise, had greeted Brother Russell S. Gideon, Grand Minister of State, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, who joined our group at this time. We were all treated royally and our every desire was fulfilled, The agenda included a Thanksgiving Service, a beautiful banquet, a superb banquet followed by a dance,

a lovely after-party at the home of Special District Deputy Grand Master Lawrence Staton and Sister Staton who were gracious hosts, an exciting golf game with "Big Jack" Jackson as my host, and a relaxing evening of fun and entertainment at the Club in Zama. Meeting the fine families of our Brothers was a high point of my visit. I find that the zeal and enthusiasm of our Sisters match that of their husbands, our Brothers.

The Conference was most constructive and informative. We had a fine representation of the entire District. We have grown to a membership of approximately 350, most of these attending our Annual Conference of the Far East. At the meeting, I saw a Raising (3rd Degree) which was most Impressive and done in an excellent manner.

Anyone who has been fortunate enough to have journeyed to the 6th District in the Far East can attest to the fact that here is where Masonry lives, breathes, and has its being. There are many reasons why this is so.

There are two important factors that I feel contribute to the success we are having in the Far East Command. One is that we have a group of dedicated, young and aggressive Masons who are ready to go forward there. They plan, work hard, and are willing to contribute generously of their finances, traveling great distances to carry on the work. Secondly, we have been blessed with a District Deputy Grand Master, Brother Roland R. Rainey, who has the strength and wisdom to counsel, motivate and inspire the members in District 6. The names of Mabuhay 59, Eureka 41, Cherry Blossom 42, Marianas Travelers 49, Toni 46, O'Misawa 54, Pride of the Orient 55, Mandarin 57, Craftsmen's 58, and Beehive U.D. will long live in the annals of Masonry.

Because of the expansion and growth of our Craft in the Far East as well as the great distances between Lodges, I felt that we were in need of Special District Deputy Grand Masters who could give the services to which the Lodges were entitled. Therefore, upon the recommendation of District Deputy Grand Master, Roland R. Rainey, I appointed two Special District Deputy Grand Masters. They are: Special District Deputy Grand Master, Lawrence Staton whose area will include Eureka 41, O'Misawa 54, Pride of the Orient 55, Marianas Travelers 49, and Craftsmen's 58; and Special District Deputy Grand Master, Freddie L. Bradley, whose territory includes Toni 46, Mandarin 57, Mabuhay 59, and Beehive U.D.

My heartfelt thanks goes to all of the Masonic family who made this 4th Annual Convention such a major success.

### **THE YOUTH PROGRAM**

Because of the vital roll youth plays in the perpetuation of our Masonic family and in the world as a whole, the time has come where we must give more of our finances and of our concerted effort and attention to our Youth Department supporting their work. I am announcing that I shall be appointing a committee to be under the leadership of our Junior Grand Warden, Brother Carlton B, Tucker. They will be asked to bring to the Grand Lodge their findings on new plans and ways and means of financing the programs.

## OFFICIAL VISITS

I have made official visits to the following Districts: District 4 — May 5, 1972; Inland Empire Lodge 3, Perfect Ashler Lodge 40. District 3 — May 9, 1972, Guiding Star Lodge 6. District 2 — May 18, 1972, Cassia Lodge 5, and Egyptian Lodge 44, Hamma Hamma Lodge 35. Vancouver Lodge 47 — May 20, 1972. District 1 — June 17, 1972, Olympus Lodge 45, Abiff Lodge 37, Union Lodge 43, J.C. Logan Lodge 53, Hercules Lodge 17, and Harmony Lodge 2.

I found the Brethren and the Officers sincerely dedicated, with a willingness to work for the improvement and progress of their Lodges. They truly inspired me and they have made my task lighter. They have been the backbone of our Jurisdiction.

**IN DEEP APPRECIATION:** In using your wisdom and excellent judgment, you, my Brethren, elected one of the finest slate of Officers our Washington Jurisdiction has ever had. No Grand Master could have asked for more support or more excellence among his staff. Also, my appointive Officers have, likewise, been outstanding and hard, sincere workers. All Grand Officers have been motivated and inspired to give their very best. For this, I am grateful to you all.

My special thanks goes to: Brother JAMES W. DAVIS, Deputy Grand Master, who has been everything to me and to Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of Washington. This wonderful Grand Session is a tribute to him and his hard work as well as the toil and devotion of the Grand Entertainment Committee. Brother JASPER R. WARREN, Grand Secretary, whose outstanding ability and devotion to the work is second to none. We are fortunate to have such an efficient officer. Brother JIMMY SIMMONS, Senior Grand Warden for his fine work on the Northwest Conference.

Brother CARLTON B. TUCKER, Junior Grand Warden, for his untiring efforts on behalf of our youth and for the excellent showing of our youth at the Northwest Conference. My District Deputy Grand Masters, who have done such an exceptionally fine job of carrying on the business of this Jurisdiction in their Districts. The Past Grand Masters for their help, their counsel, and their support. All our committee chairmen and committee members who have worked so diligently and meticulously to carry on the important work of our Order. All of our Brethren for their devotion to our Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of Washington and its Jurisdiction and for their endeavors to make this Jurisdiction second to none, I give my heartfelt thanks.

## PROCLAMATIONS AND OFFICIAL ACTS

1. To observe the mandatory celebrations of St. John the Devine, Prince Hall Day, and St. John the Baptist.
2. Proclamation convening the 69th Grand Lodge Communication.
3. All dispensations requested by the District Deputy Grand Master were granted.
4. Dissolution of Eureka 41, with all members and assets consolidated with Cherry Blossom 42 — April 15, 1972.

5. Dissolution of Craftsmen's 58, with all members and assets consolidated with O'Misawa 54 — April 15, 1972.

**APPOINTMENTS:** Special District Deputy Grand Master, Lawrence Staton of District 6; Special District Deputy Grand Master, Freddie L. Bradley of District 6; Special Liaison to Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Past Grand Master E.A. Douglas; and Special District Deputy Grand Master, Ernest J. Mouton of District 2.

To you, Worshipful Masters and Officers, who have served your Lodges the past Masonic year of 1971—1972, I give my sincere congratulations for a successful administration for I know you have taken advantage of your opportunities for service — the kind which has made this one of the best years in our Masonic history. I deeply appreciate the support which you have given me.

Yours has been a position of high trust, one to which you were selected by your own members who felt confident of your ability to serve then capably and conscientiously. As officers of your Lodge, you fully appreciated the responsibilities that became yours with the assumption of your position, and I know it was pride in your Lodge and in our whole Masonic Order that inspired you throughout the year to give your very best so that your community would truly become a better place in which to live.

Bearing in mind that progress demands that each succeeding year must be better than the last, you have worked to make your year successful, to expand your activities and goals so that your Lodge would be of utmost possible service to your community. Your Lodges have taken an active part in carrying out, not only the local programs of our Order, but also those of the Grand Lodge as well.

At the beginning of my term of office, I urged you all to avail yourselves fully of the services and opportunities for guidance and leadership found in the Grand Lodge and in your District Deputy Grand Master in your own District. I feel sure you have taken this advice and by doing so, your Lodge has grown in service, in worthwhile programs, and in planting the seeds of good deeds wherever you reside.

It is my hope that the Wardens and Officers have been in close touch with the committee chairmen, trustees and Past Masters of your Lodge so that there could be free flow of discussion and ideas regarding your administration's program; and so that there has been a coordinated effort to assure its completions. Also, it is hoped you have reviewed each item of your programs and have laid plans for the attainment of those goals which might yet be unfulfilled. I am pleased to report that in my visits in the several districts, I found you have been making every effort to follow these suggestions.

In the past, I have charged you to make your Lodge so vital that the best men in your community will be attracted and will seek memberships in our Order so they, too, might engage in these activities,

We must make our program so varied and vital that each member will be attracted to service in some area of activity which will meet a special interest of his own.

I am sure you have appointed committeemen who have been actively aggressive in the promotion of their particular assignment and who have had the leadership ability and talent necessary to command the respect and support of the membership. In talking with Brothers all over our Jurisdiction, I find that there has been concerted effort to do this.

To you, my Brothers, who do not at this time hold an office in your local Lodge, I must give my congratulations, for it is obvious you have given your Officers and your Lodge the support which is so vital and necessary for a successful program, we are grateful for your interest in the affairs of your Lodge. Your input has been necessary in making our leader a strong, viable organization. While your membership and charitable contributions of themselves has been essential, of equal importance has been the value of your efforts, guidance, and your opinions.

In the beginning of the year, the farmer prepares the soil and sows his seed. I hope we, as Masons, have emulated the farmer in our endeavors, Our Lodge is the soil and our activities are the seed. If our Lodge has been healthy and well organized, it has been a fit place in which to sow the seeds of good deeds — a fit place in which to nurture the seeds so that they will have grown and multiplied — FOR AS THE MASONS SOW, AMERICA REAPS.

Sixty-nine years ago, on April 13, 1903, the brave and dedicated members of three lodges met in the City of Seattle, Washington and decided to determine their own destiny by organizing their own Grand Lodge, known as the Grand Lodge of Washington and Oregon, A. F. & A. M. The lodges I am speaking of were Enterprise Lodge 47 of Portland, Oregon; Washington Lodge 49 of Seattle; and Inland Empire Lodge 53 of Spokane, Washington. No one at that time could possibly have predicted or dreamed of the impact Masonry would have upon the Black citizens of the Washington—Oregon Jurisdiction.

Beginning in the humblest way, two lodges in Washington and one in Oregon with small memberships, set out on a monumental task we might call “an impossible dream,” which has grown into a large, Impressive Jurisdiction. We now have lodges in the State of Washington; in Vancouver, B.C., Canada; Alaska; in the Philippines; Guam; Taiwan; Okinawa; and Japan. Furthermore, our Masonic family has expanded to include the Order of the Eastern Star, the Consistory, the Shrine, and the Heroines of Jericho.

Today we must be proud of Prince Hall Masonry, proud of the past and of our heritage. The life source flows on from those who have founded our Order and have gone on before us leaving us to carry on the heritage. Our thoughts should tune into two directions; toward the past with reverence and gratitude and toward the future with hope and renewed dedication. This thought reminds me of an adaptation of a verse from the poem ‘Heritage’ by Gene Lindberg:

“Their dreams, deep-rooted in the past  
Must never die! Though now, at last,  
Part you play, has just begun.  
Their dreams are yours – a trust

to keep – where they have planted,  
you must reap; Must hold the goal they  
sought to win. Where their trail ends,  
your trails begin.”

The torch that they lit and passed on to us must now be passed on by us. Each must add its might to help oil the wheels of progress.

Today we are living in a new era - an era of advancement and progress. It is an era of change; of new ideas; of new ideas, concepts, and technology. We must not fall into the human error of taking things for granted, to ignore the trot that hundreds of years of human development lie behind us; and to these generations, we owe our present civilization. Progress does not come overnight, but it is like a snowball that grows as it rolls down a hill of fresh-fallen snow. Such is man's progress; each day adding something new, each day accomplishment becoming possible because of something we experienced the day before. Likewise, no age is independent of the age which preceded it.

Even before the dawn of civilization, the world has been changing constantly. During the untold ages, the mountains, valleys, streams and coastlines have changed hundreds of times. The seas have covered the land and mountains have pushed their heads up out of the water. The waters, mountains, and valleys are truly the handiwork of the Grand Architect of the Universe. Therefore, if what the Infinite God hath wrought has changed down through ages, it would seem to me that the customs and usages of finite man are insignificant as the wheels of time grind on and certainly they can be changed, too. The day has come when we must realize that we, also, must make changes in order to advance and to cope with our society of today.

Never before in the history of Masonry have we been under as severe and increasing strain as we are today. In spite of the fact that Masonry was well designed and instituted to meet the simple needs of early times, today we find our fraternity ill-suited to cope with the new burdens and responsibilities imposed on us by a complex society. Adaptation to change has been so slow and so reluctant that the future role of our Masonic institutions seems threatened by our own reluctance to progress with the times.

The necessity and urgency of keeping abreast of the times has been recognized by every administration from Past Grand Master J.C. Logan to our immediate Past Grand Master Frank Russell. They have all felt that our Movement should be forward.

This was vividly brought out by Past Grand Master Louis R. Solomon in his 1968 message when he said, “Today we, as Prince Hall Masons, must take stock of the fact that every facet of our lives in this great nation of ours is expanding and changing so rapidly that we are as a group, apparently unable to keep up with the ever-changing condition. Masonry must move with the times. It must also show advancement in the application of its principles.”

We must have vision, dedication, and fortitude to devise new solutions and make vigorous change in order that old functions can be replaced with new techniques. Only in this way can we attract youth.

In taking a new look at youth and surveying our membership, we are compelled to note the absence of youth in our Order, Black and White. This should make us be concerned about the future of our Craft. In order to attract the youth of our time, we must become relevant in the community. We must become involved in our problems of today: housing, employment, education, equal treatment in the courts, civil rights, etc.

We can no longer afford leadership which clings to the past because of fear of the future. Today, above all we must be flexible. We must have remarkable agility of heart and mind to cope with the constant and unpredictable changes that will surely come in the course of our lifetime. We must do many jobs well, if we are to meet the challenge of tomorrow. We must accept our responsibilities of today.

I close now with a poem by Kalidasa for I feel it expresses so well the thoughts I have tried to convey:

“Look to this day!  
For it is life, the very life of life.  
In its brief course  
Lie all the verities and realities of your existence:  
    The bliss of growth  
    The glory of action  
    The splendor of achievement,  
For yesterday is but a dream  
And tomorrow is only a vision,  
But today, well lived, makes every yesterday  
    a dream of happiness  
And Tomorrow a vision of hope.  
Look well, therefore, to this day  
Such is the salutation to the dawn.”

**JAMES E. CHASE**  
**Most Worshipful Grand Master**