



**89th ANNUAL ADDRESS OF
HONORABLE DANIEL L. LUNSFORD
M.:W.: GRAND MASTER**

Greetings:

Knowing that only through his Grace, I give thanks to God for allowing me to stand before you today, as well as the opportunity to serve this august body. It is a distinct honor and pleasure as Grand Master of Masons for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M., Washington and Jurisdiction, to welcome each of you to this our Eighty-Ninth (89th) Annual Communication.

I want to take this opportunity to thank this Grand Body for allowing me the great honor of serving our Grand Jurisdiction by bestowing on me the highest honor possible, by electing me as its Most Worshipful Grand Master. I pray that I have not disappointed nor disgraced you as I attempted to provide good leadership to our Masonic Family as well as representing our Grand Jurisdiction in a manner that would properly reflect our great order throughout my many travels.

Before proceeding further, I would be remised not to thank my family for their understanding, strength and support rendered me this past year. For without that understanding and support the successes that we enjoy surely would have been negatively impacted.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all Elected and Appointed Grand Lodge officers, and all Past Grand Masters for the great support rendered me this past year. However in fairness to those who gave 100% and more, I must say that in my opinion, some officers fell short in their expected team role, as well as the responsibilities of their position. This however can and probably will be remedied through appointments made by the next administration.

Again, I must say a Grand Master could not have more proficient, dedicated, supportive and team-oriented line officers than those I have had the privilege of working with these past two years. To each of you I say thank you for your strong and much appreciated support.

Deputy Grand Master, Victor S. Baxter, you were always there when I needed you, including those last minute notices to attend meetings and being assigned special projects to resolve. Not to mention your responsibilities as chairman for the Grand Entertainment Committee; and I must not forget your sacrificed Saturdays working with our Masonic choir knowing it was a frustrating experience.

Grand Senior Warden, William C. Rheubottom has provided excellent leadership in the organization of our annual Spring Workshop and has continued to produce and improve our Masonic Community Monitor publication, and continues to address other special projects assigned as well as his responsibilities on the Grand Entertainment Committee. Bill also represented us this past year by accepting an assignment to be guest speaker for a lodge in Victoria, B.C.

Grand Junior Warden, James B. Sloan is a Work-A-Holic, once he set his direction there's no looking back. The work he and his staff have accomplished this past year with our youth has been simply outstanding. Both the youth and adult memberships have increased as well as more youth and adults attending meetings. Many of our young boys cannot wait to attend the next meeting. Although I have no direct involvement, I've had parents contact me and say what an excellent job we are doing with the youth, also they can recognize positive changes in their behavior. Some youth are boasting in their schools about their involvement with the Knights of Pythagoras.

I heard many positive comments made by members of our communities when the two councils in district #1 and #2 were invited and served as ushers at the two events held at the Tacoma Dome, (Banquet Honoring Jack E. Tanner, Federal Judge and the Annual Martin L. King, Jr. Annual Recognition Award and Celebration). I also had the honor of being received in the first, to my knowledge, Grand Conclave held by the Knights of Pythagoras in Washington Jurisdiction. All are to be congratulated; it was a site to behold. R.W. Sloan and his committee for Scholarship Enhancement continues to do great things, you may recall what they accomplished last year. In fairness to him, I won't mention anything at this point that might take away from his report. I am confident you will be well pleased.

The Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, what can I say other than Job Well Done. The performance of brothers Timmes and Archibald, respectively has been simply outstanding. In carrying out their responsibilities, to observe them it would appear to be effortless, however we all know this is not the case. We can feel assured that our finances and records are well maintained by these two responsible individuals.

Grand Lecturer, Jesse P. Miller, continues to amaze me, he is everywhere. Before the recognition between the Grand Lodge of Washington and our Grand Lodge, it was a challenge for a Grand Lecturer to travel and service the lodges within our jurisdiction. This brother has not only met that challenge but also meets the requests made of him to visit and address lodges of the Grand Lodge of Washington. We could not have elected a better ambassador. In addition to his regular duties he was given a special assignment, that of chairing a committee appointed by the Grand Master and has done an excellent job. I will allow him to present this project at a later time. Your Grand Lecturer is proficient in his work, thank you Grand Lecturer Miller.

There are many others that are worthy of mention and you know who you are, however time will not permit. I will just say to all of you on behalf of myself and the craft, thank you for your efforts and your contributions.

- NECROLOGY -

Grand Architect of the Universe, creator of all mankind, grant us thy peace at this moment Bless us in thy Holy name. We mourn, not for our departed brothers but for us who remain behind and shall not see them for a while. Our hearts are full by the memory of those whom God in his infinite wisdom has taken on the Journey to eternal rest. Let us pause for a moment in tribute to those brothers who have departed this troubled earthly world, who are now with the Grand Master of the Universe for beyond the sky.

Charlie R. Smith	Cassia #5	June 29, 1991
Charlie Jennings	Evergreen #9	June 29, 1991
Isaac Mitchell .	Guiding Star #6	August 8, 1991
Willie Rolax, Sr.	Abiff #37	August 28, 1991
Talbert D. Fowler	Lee Grant Rogers, #61	October 3, 1991
David H. Dudley	Harmony #2	October 19, 1991
David Dawson	Hercules #17	November 3, 1991
Roland D. Minnis	Olympus #45	November 8, 1992
Earl Blackshear	Cassia #5	November 9, 1991
James E. Lockhard	Harmony #2	November 20, 1991
George Gaston, Sr.	Martin Luther King Jr. #65	November 25, 1991
Albert Ratcliff	Hercules #17	December 7, 1991
Nathaniel Brannon	Harmony #2	December 9, 1991
F.C. Prosper Smith	Martin Luther King Jr. #65	December 12, 1991
Obera Edward, Jr.	Cherry Blossom #42	January 17, 1992
Samuel G. Rembert	Hamma Hamma #35	February 18, 1992
James D. Hall	Mabuhay #59	March 9, 1992
Leon T. Nolan	Lee Grant Rogers #61	June 11, 1992

-STATE OF THE CRAFT-

There has been a great deal of activity within our jurisdiction this past Masonic year, some negative and some positive.

From a negative perspective, many of our lodges have been impacted by the downsizing of our U.S. Military forces. The greatest impact being felt by our European Lodges. At last report it has caused three lodges, one of which was a U.D. to be completely eliminated and another to be relocated. All remaining lodges were affected by the lose of members.

With the withdrawal of all military forces from the Republic of Philippines, I made an unpopular decision and issuance for the closing of one of our largest active, productive and supportive lodges, Mabuhay #59, effective July 12, 1992.

Another negative is the non-compliance by many lodges to the twenty-five dollar Education Assessment approved by many of you at our 88th Annual Communication, that became payable on or before June 20, 1992. Some lodges have attempted to pay, some have requested extensions, while others have done absolutely nothing. Those lodges failing in these categories will be confronted and asked their Intentions toward the compliance of this obligation.

Also impacting our Craft negatively are those who are only content when they are busy creating havoc and confusion, or seeking revenge. It is said that when we seek revenge, we administer slow poison to ourselves. They are the ones who throw rumors and lies as if they were stones and stand innocent with their hands in their pockets, and like bats they operate only from darkness. These individuals have long forgotten the principles and tenets of the order, not to mention the obligations they swore to uphold. They are not difficult to identify, because they are usually the ones nearest you looking like the cat who swallowed the canary and are usually the ones doing nothing for the good of the order.

From a positive perspective, even with the downsizing of our armed forces, we have four U.D. lodges being recommended to receive charters, one from mainland Japan and three from Germany. I want to commend D.D.G.M. Leslie Jones, District #6 and D.D.G.M. Andrew Morgan, District #9, for their insight, hard work and dedication.

Excluding the members of the U.D. Lodges, from the 2755 members reported during this same period last year, our current membership is 2925, an increase of 170 members. This can be attributed to the continuous efforts of many of our lodges, as well as those lodges who traditionally were not so aggressive in their actions or visibility.

With the downsizing of the military forces in other areas, we are experiencing a build-up of military forces within Washington State. Many of our lodges are now reaping the benefits of this change.

As for those who are content with destroying and creating confusion, slowly they are being exposed and as well as eliminated. Their numbers are two and getting smaller with each passing day. Some however, are very difficult to expose, but I am confident that in time, Good will cast a light so Bright that they too will be exposed and eventually eliminated. Meanwhile, until this occurs, we must be ever mindful of their presence, knowing the devil is always busy.

Also from a positive note, with much of the revenue coming from our most recent quarterly reports, we have now received better than 66% of our Educational Assessment. We can now put the committee in place to address the intended usage of these funds. Those of you who have complied with the assessment are to be commended.

- STATE OF THE NATION -

It has been said that sometimes the best way to get attention is to ask a question. My question to you is how do you view the nation, particularly as it affects African Americans? If you think this is two questions combined, then you are absolutely correct.

History has shown over and over again that there are two separate agendas, one for African Americans and one for other races of people.

We have been inundated by the news media of the Rodney King travesty in Los Angeles and the truck driver incident. The system and the news media has given the message that it is OK for an African American to be beaten mercilessly, but it is not OK for a Caucasian to be beaten, even though the proof was on tape in both situations.

When Haitian refugees risk their lives and that of their children trying to escape political tyranny in their country, they are forced to return home because the powers that be in this country say they are fleeing Haiti because of economic reasons. These people in power, positions and wealth have never felt the pains of hunger or lived under such conditions that these Haitians live under and yet struggle to survive. Our country has never been to war with them.

When refugees enter this country from the former Soviet Bloc countries they receive totally different treatment. They are welcomed, honored and given different amenities. At one time our country viewed these people as our enemy. We built bomb shelters and fought wars against them. Many African Americans served the government in these wars and political battles, and came home to live under different agendas.

Today we are no longer living in an isolated society. Our community is a world or global community. Can you remember when we did not have restaurants featuring Mexican, Chinese, Korean or other ethnic food choices? Look around, today they are everywhere. In our African American neighborhoods there was usually a Barbecue Stand or a Cafe. Those people worked hard, gave good food and service, but they did not grow. Why? Two separate agendas?

Today, Ross Perot is running for President. He has never served in a major political capacity. Yet he is seen as the great white hope for this country, a leader that is noted for the times. When Jesse Jackson vigorously sought the presidency, received the popular vote after registering and motivating thousands of people, they said he is not ready yet, he has not held a major political office. Why? Two separate agendas?

Now to get to where you live, in your neighborhood, where you work, where you worship, are there two separate agendas? Look around. The invisible insidious cloud that prevailed over Los Angeles and moved across the country, is everywhere. When any people are continually oppressed and mistreated it brings about an eruption that cannot be contained. Situations must be addressed. Our unborn babies, our youth and our elders must be protected. We all want to live, work, grow and thrive in this global community in an atmosphere where the air is clean, jobs are available and people are treated with dignity and respect regardless of their conditions.

Again I say to you, How do you view the nation, particularly as an African American. What are you doing to make this world a better place? There can be many answers and solutions. Think about what you can do.

Perhaps a very sound and profound answer is found in the Old Testament of the Bible in the Book of 11 Chronicles, Chapter 7, beginning at verse 14.... (The Lord and Solomon are having a conversation) "O If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. This is a good chapter to read for your further enlightenment. God heard Solomon's prayer, and we can believe that he will also hear our prayers.

As we move forward into a new environment, a new year and a new agenda, let us be more creative, innovative, motivated, and dedicated. We can and we must work our own agendas, together.

- CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS -

This past May I had the great privilege of attending the 73rd Conference of Grand Masters, held in Nassau, Bahamas, hosted by Most Worshipful Grand Master Charles B. Sands. The conference was exceptionally enjoyable in that the 111th Annual Session for the United Supreme Council, A.A.S.R. of Masonry, Northern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., Inc., was held at the same location immediately following the Grand Master Conference. It was truly gratifying to see so many sisters and brothers from the Washington Jurisdiction in attendance.

As I recall, with the exception of three, all Prince Hall Grand Masters were in attendance for the Conference.

There were many issues addressed during the Conference of which I will share just a couple. One point discussed, which has been ongoing, was the respect and protocol given Grand Masters by Appendant Bodies. Another was the establishment of uniform protocol throughout all Prince Hall Jurisdictions; and the enhancement of our youth program, Knights of Pythagoras.

There was also information shared concerning some of the Jurisdictions having joint agreements with their counterparts within their Jurisdiction for recognition and Rights of Visitation. It would appear for those who have entered into such agreements, the benefit and relationship are very positive. However, we are not home free, there are still those from both sides who are opposed to the relationship. It was also revealed that other Jurisdictions are pursuing similar agreements. However, many of the hard core Jurisdictions who from the very beginning openly opposed such relationships, once again reconfirmed their positions.

Also noteworthy, for the first time ever to my knowledge, was the opening of the United Supreme Council, when the Grand Masters were received (approximately 22) each was regaled as a Grand Master.

- FRATERNAL RELATIONS -

Once again I am pleased to report that peace and harmony exist between our Grand Organizations of the Prince Hall Family of Washington.

I have experienced pleasant working relationships with both Grand Worthy Matron, Bennie Sue Wright, Prince Hall Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Stars and Most Ancient Grand Matron, Rubye McCullar, Prince Hall Grand High Court, Heroines of Jericho.

The good working relationship that has been established with Grand Inspector General, James W. Davis and myself continues. Although he is probably not present today due to illness, I wish to thank him for his support and wish him a speedy recovery. Also I wish to thank Grand Inspector General Frank Russell for his support and positive working relationship.

The fraternal relationship between the Grand Lodge of Washington, F. & A.M., and our jurisdiction continues to thrive, the growing relationship and exchanges of visitation is extremely gratifying. Brothers are becoming more and more relaxed with one another and feel they are all brothers as it should be. I'm sure that individuals like Past Grand Masters, William H. Upton and George R. Bordewick of the Washington Jurisdiction and Past Grand Masters James E. Chase and Jimmy Simmons, who have left us, as well as others, are smiling, to look upon such a positive change within the Masonic community and the world. We must continue to move forward in this vein, and remember, We Do It Because Its The Right Thing To DO.

Also noteworthy, is that the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington has been requested and have consented to conduct the Open Air Degree at the Masonic Park, at Granite Falls. Grand Lecturer Jesse P. Miller has been assigned coordinator for this event which is scheduled to occur on August 7, 1993.

Along with my wife and many of the elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers, I had the pleasure of attending a portion of the 135th Annual Communication for the Grand Lodge of Washington, F. & A.M. We were received and treated royally. The communication was held in Wenatchee, Washington. The then Deputy Grand Master, George Leslie, was elected to the office of Most Worshipful Grand Master. Due to other obligations, he is unable to be with us today. However he did send his Junior Grand Warden as his representative.

Our relationship with our sister jurisdiction on our southern boarder continues to be an enjoyable one. Accompanied by the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Secretary I attended the 32nd Annual Communication for the Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M., of Oregon, held in Boise, Idaho. Again we were treated royally; my personal thanks to M.W. Grand Master Hampton W. Wright and the members of his staff for their hospitality. In as much as the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oregon and the Grand Lodge of Idaho have an agreement between their Jurisdictions for Right of Visitation, we had the distinct honor of sitting with the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Jurisdiction of Idaho, along with Past Grand Masters and members of his craft Another historical event.

- CONCLUSION -

In my message last year I stated that those of us who were elected as heads of our organizations must remember that leadership is an action, not a position.

That we must plan activities for our lodges, focusing on the principles and goals of freemasonry. I believe that some of you heard and understood, and it is reflected in the success of your lodges.

Again we can see that progress has been made this past year, yet we can also see that much more remains to be accomplished. We have demonstrated what can be accomplished when just a few are working in harmony. Can you imagine what we could accomplish if all were working in harmony.

We can easily see and many of us are experiencing the impact from the social diseases that are destroying our communities. The increasing numbers of the homeless, drugs and related activities, youth gangs and related crime, teenage pregnancy and prostitution to name a few.

The Bee-Hive speaks of industry, and suggest the practice of that virtue to all created beings, from the highest seraph in heaven to the lowest reptile of the dust. It teaches us that, as we are rational and intelligent beings, we should be industrious, never sitting down contented while our fellow-creatures around us are in want, especially when it is in our power to relieve them.

A freemason is encouraged to do his duty first to his God through his faith and religious practice; and then, without detriment to his family and those dependent on him to his neighbor through charity and service. Freemasons believe that the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth represent a way of achieving higher standards in life. I challenge you to ask yourself the question and answer honestly, Are You A Freemason?

Let us rededicate ourselves to the principles and teaching of freemasonry, through friendship, morality, and brotherly love. Let us make a serious commitment to building our organization and being providers of services to our communities. Remembering that great discoveries and improvements involve the cooperation of many minds.

To aid us in our deliberations let us remember the two following guides: "Lord, grant me the strength to change those things I can, the serenity to accept those things I cannot, and the wisdom to know the difference (Serenity Prayer); and "in all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy path (Proverb 3:6).

- RECOMMENDATIONS -

Recommendation #1 Lodges that have not paid the required Education Assessment be granted extensions not later than March 30, 1993.

Recommendation #2 Lodges that have not paid the Education Assessment by the newly established deadline will not be permitted to vote at our next Annual Communication.

Recommendation #3 That Past Grand Master F. Benjamin Davis, who served this jurisdiction as Most Worshipful Grand Master, from the period 1951 - 1952, be granted life-
Membership.

Recommendation #4 The report and recommendations coming from the committee on life-Membership be adopted and those brothers recommended be granted life-Membership.

Recommendation #5 That the following four (4) U.D. Lodges be chartered at this 89th Annual Communication: Genesis Lodge U.D., Japan; Haile Selasse Lodge U.D., Germany; Booker T. Washington Lodge U.D., Germany and Unity Lodge U.D., Germany.

Fraternally Submitted,

Daniel L. Lunsford

M.W. Grand Master

F. & A. M., Washington and Jurisdiction