



92nd ANNUAL ADDRESS  
**HONORABLE WILLIAM C. RHEUBOTTOM**  
**M.:W.: GRAND MASTER**

Greetings:

I would first like to extend to each and every one of you a very warm welcome. I am particularly pleased to welcome our distinguished guests, who are visiting from other Grand Lodges and Jurisdictions. We are honored that you have made it your priority to be with us on this auspicious occasion. We appreciate the opportunity to return the hospitality and friendship our representatives have received while visiting your Grand Jurisdiction.

To the Brethren of Prince Hall Lodges in the Jurisdiction of Washington, I am particularly pleased to see you here. We are at the cross-roads of a new era. What we do during the next three days will have a serious effect on the direction this Grand Lodge will take as we approach the twenty-first century.

Brethren, in this 92nd Annual Grand Communication another page must be added in our history book and new dimensions in the development and expansion of Prince Hall Masonry, wherever disbursed around the globe, are due to the successes that were accomplished this year.

The symbolic melting pot has brought together the great minds of our Jurisdiction to plan together through the various committees, boards, departments, and offices to give many new directions in which to improve upon what we have inherited from our forefathers. I say thanks to the great staff of officers, both elected and appointed, who gave their time, effort, finances, and advice to help sustain the program of this administration. There have been many sacrifices by most of our staff in the performance of their duties; they gave the best of what they had to offer and we say thanks many, many times.

It is indeed a pleasure for me to stand here today before you, with much humility, and render to you an accounting of my stewardship. First, I must say thanks to God for allowing me to serve you, my brethren, as your chief executive officer. The bible has always been my guide in my everyday life. This protects me from being robbed of my self-dignity, skills, mental, physical and economic resources by wolves in sheep's clothing. I wish to thank my wife and family for the support they gave me this past year. When the real test came, the bible and prayer were there to give spiritual and physical strength to carry me through.

## 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 filled 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.

### DEATHS 1994 - 1995

**Alton Magee**

Hercules Lodge #17

July 17, 1994

**Wilbon B. Haygood**

Headquarters Lodge #75

(Formerly Mabuhay Lodge #59)

July 27, 1994

**Charles P. Huey, Jr.**

Abiff Lodge #37

August 3, 1994

**David T. Lewis, Sr.**

Hamma Hamma Lodge #35

August 24, 1994

**Charles M. Jackson**

Hercules Lodge #17

August 29, 1994

**Sylvester Cann, Sr.**

Union Lodge #43

September 6, 1994

**Harold P. Augustine**

Abiff Lodge #37

January 20, 1995

**O'Neal Tigner**

Harmony Lodge #2

February 2, 1995

**Samuel F. Brown, Jr.**

Cassia Lodge #5

February 11, 1995

**Lewis (Frank) J. Ward**

Cassia Lodge #5

February 25, 1995

**Alvin O. Burrell**

Cassia Lodge #5

April 12, 1995

**Will McCoy Jr.**

Lee Grant Rogers Lodge #61

April 14, 1995

**William Hall**  
Abiff Lodge #37  
September 11, 1994

**James Prather Jr.**  
Inland Empire Lodge #3  
April 21, 1995

**Chester Arthur Wilder**  
Egyptian Lodge #44  
September 28, 1994

**Samuel Winn**  
Cassia Lodge #5  
April 23, 1995

**Ernest Rowe, Sr.**  
Egyptian Lodge #44  
October 22, 1994

**Russell Thomas**  
Mozart Lodge #69  
May, 1995

**Ernest Davis**  
Harmony Lodge #2  
November 12, 1994

**Lewis H. Page**  
Union Lodge #43  
May 2, 1995

**Robert J. Avery**  
Lee Grant Rogers Lodge #61  
November 13, 1994

**Herman P. Lewis**  
Union Lodge #43  
May 2, 1995

**Morris Degrate**  
Abiff Lodge #37  
November 13, 1994

**Robert D. Washington**  
Hamma Hamma Lodge #35  
May 27, 1995

**James W. Davis**  
Harmony Lodge #2  
January 12, 1995

### **STATE OF THE CRAFT**

All things considered, I am pleased to say, for the most part, all of the lodges are doing well. As most of you are aware, we continue to experience a negative impact on our lodges in Europe, resulting from the draw-down of our military forces. The military structure in Europe has drastically decreased since the end of the cold war. As a result, there are more communities scheduled to close down completely by the end of 1995, affecting New Light Lodge #67, Karlsruhe, Germany; St. John's Lodge #79, Frankfurt, Germany; Jacob Lodge #86, Berlin, Germany; and Perfect Square Lodge #88, Worms, Germany. DDGM Andrew Morgan is in the process of targeting areas to relocate these lodges at other NATO bases within Europe.

DDGM Morgan also reported to me that he has moved Joseph E. Staton Lodge #71 to Iceland. We must continue to monitor the situation. In the meantime, we must also continue to look for other areas for growth.

During our visit in the Far East we found our lodges to be fairly stable. While District #9 in Europe is experiencing a draw-down, I find that there is a slight build-up in District #10, located in South Korea. D.D.G.M. Kenneth Brown is doing an excellent job in promoting and expanding Washington State Masonry in that area. We presently have four lodges and one U.D. Lodge operating in that District.

We also attended the official Far East District's meeting for Districts #6, #7, #8 and #10. I found that District Deputies Bellanger, Boyd and Brown are doing an excellent job in overseeing their districts. Torii Lodge #46, in Okinawa, will host the official Far East District meeting in 1996.

I would like to welcome the Worshipful Master of the re-chartered Mabuhay Lodge #59, WM Carter.

I am happy to report that our stateside lodges, located on the west side of the state, are experiencing an increase in membership resulting from the reassignment of those effected by the European Military draw-down, and a build-up of military strength in the State of Washington.

Those lodges located in central and eastern Washington are maintaining their strength; this is due to the tireless efforts of D.D.G.M. Edward T. Crumb. The lodge located in Yakima is not active or functioning as a lodge should. We anticipate that with the military buildup at Fort Lewis many more military people will be permanently stationed at the Yakima Firing Center. We are watching this situation very closely.

I am very pleased to report that True Resolution Lodge #16 in District #5 is doing an excellent job in pursuing Masonry in its truest sense, both in ritualistic work and community outreach programs.

Nevertheless, the progress we have under these harsh realities is encouraging. Our plight is no different than any other big business going through a recession of downsizing and/or cutbacks. We just have to make the necessary adjustments while we maintain our high standards. Achieving these goals does not require a massive expenditure of energy. Instead, it essentially requires that we work smarter, work together, set goals and objectives, prioritize, and most importantly, each member must carry out their assigned and inherent duties. We have, in the Jurisdiction, a total of 58 lodges, with a membership of 2,640. We also have two U.D. Lodges, which will be recommended for a charter during this Address. They are Western Corridor Tri-Step U.D., located in South Korea, and James W. Davis U.D., located in Puyallup, Washington.

### **STATE OF THE NATION**

The more I think of the condition of our country, the more I appreciate our Masonic order. Our country is engaged in a wrenching debate about who we are, what we believe in, where we are going, and the role of government (local, regional, state or federal) in keeping our children and our nation healthy. Our streets and jails are teeming with children and young people that nobody wants.

The rates of sexually transmitted diseases continue to grow. We cannot stand by as parents, leaders, teachers and stewards (good Masons are all of these) of our children's' well-being and let them slip away because of ignorance or a failure of courage or commitment.

### **Southern Baptists offer an apology:**

The Southern Baptist Convention on Tuesday, June 20, 1995 repudiated slavery and racism and apologized to African-Americans for the demoralization of segregationists past.

The Resolution read in part: "Be it resolved that we unwaveringly denounce racism, in all its forms, as a deplorable sin; and that we lament and repudiate historic acts of evil such as slavery, from which we continue to reap a bitten harvest.

"We apologize to all African-Americans for condoning and/or perpetuating individual and systematic racism...

"We ask for forgiveness from our African-American brothers and sisters.

We hereby commit ourselves to eradicate racism in all its forms from Southern Baptist life and ministry."

-DeFoster

### **FAME AND FATE WHEN ROLE MODELS FAIL**

Should we have as our role models the likes of Mike Tyson, Darryl Strawberry, and some Rap artist whose songs espouse violence. The poet James Weldon Johnson once said: "Every race and every nation should be judged by the best it has been able to produce, not by the worst."

If it is role models we thirst for, then it should be our school teachers and bus drivers. Our grandmothers and grandfathers. Our police officers and postal workers. Our doctors, lawyers and yes, our Mayors.

With the state of our nation as it appears today, there is even a greater need for our Masonic Order to open its doors and become more visible. While much progress has and is being made, racism is still around and doing well. There is much to concern ourselves with today.

To list a few.

- Attack on Affirmative Action programs.
- Attack on Doctor Foster.
- Rising visibility of hate groups.
- Pursuing a quick fix on the welfare system.
- Voting and redistricting issues.
- Health care.
- Social security benefits.
- Housing

And the list goes on...

We cannot and must not become complacent; we must wake up and involve ourselves. We must take responsibility for our own destiny, no one is going to do it for us. We must remember our forefathers and the sacrifices they made in an effort to make things better for us. What about our future generations? Let us together make America a better America for all of its citizens!

## **SIGNIFICANT GRAND LODGE PROGRAMS**

### **Medical Seminars**

A series of informational seminars were designed, sponsored and coordinated by Dr. Clarence Larry of the Grand Lodge staff. The objective of this program was to disseminate to our membership and the community at large regarding changes or pending changes in their medical coverage, particularly Medicaid and Medicare. The information also included medical doctors and dentists of color who are available to address their medical needs. Dr. Larry will render a report later.

### **Roslyn Cemetery Restoration**

This Committee, chaired by PM Berry has done a remarkable job in restoring the Mt. Olive Cemetery, the resting place for our pioneers. PM Berry will render his report later.

### **Membership Committee**

This Committee was chaired by our Deputy Grand Master, James B. Sloan, whose mission was to: Claim, reclaim and maintain our members. The Committee, within a short span of time, has accomplished a Herculean task. Please pay attention to the Deputy Grand Master's report.

### **Increased/Expanded Community Relations**

Our role in this area has really expanded. Grand Senior Warden Miller will discuss this program in his report.

### **Open House/Official Visitations**

During my official visits for Districts #1, #2, and #11, we invited the families of our membership and the community to attend this session. There they observed the host Lodge receiving (the altar disarranged) the Grand Lodge officers and the Grand Master (and giving them public grand honors only). A short program followed, with the Grand Lodge Officers introducing themselves and briefing the audience on Masonic history, the structure of this Grand Lodge and some of its programs.

### **Education (Scholarship - U.N.C.F.)**

This is Grand Junior Warden Troutt's area of responsibility. He has performed his duties in an outstanding manner.

### **Handicap Accessibility**

We are in the process of evaluating bids submitted by several companies to make the Grand East and our building in Tacoma easily accessible for the handicapped. This is a Capital Improvement Project. The Building Chairman's report will reflect this.

### **Scholarship Investment Committee**

This Committee, chaired by PM Parker, has performed its duties in a professional, deliberate, and business-like manner. Wait until you hear their report.

### **Masonic Education**

This is a subject that must be on-going and ever-present if we are to increase and expand the Masonic education of our membership. Grand Senior Warden Miller and Grand Lecturer Anthony have done an excellent job in administering these programs. Further details will be provided in the Grand Senior Warden and Grand Lecturer reports.

### **Properties**

Your Trustees have had a very busy and productive year. I am extremely proud of their accomplishments. Please listen intently to their annual report.

### **Expanded Fraternal Relations**

We have petitioned the United Grand Lodge England for Recognition status. More information will be provided in a section of this report.

### **Youth Enhancement**

Progress in this area will be presented in Grand Junior Warden Troutt's report.

## **THE CONFERENCE OF PRINCE HALL GRAND MASTERS**

I attended the 1995 Prince Hall Grand Masters' Conference in Milwaukee and it was a whopping success; the members of the Wisconsin Jurisdiction, Grand Master Marshall E. Tharpe and certainly the Buick (car) Company, went all out to insure our comfort was at its best, and it was!

The Buick people opened up a new area for us as they sponsored Jerry Butler, the Iceman, and his troupe, and did they put on a show! Especially after a very scrumptious meal of barbecue and fish. Bro. Butler is serving as Master of North Star Lodge #1 in Chicago.

The Conference voted to adopt PGM John Howard's recommendation to print Prince Hall Masonic Directories every three (3) years and sell them for \$10.00 each. The next printing will be this year, 1995.

N.A.A.C.P. and Legal Defense Fund. Letters were sent out to both organizations inviting them to our Session. The Legal Defense Fund responded and Ms. Elaine Jones, Director Counsel, was present and spoke at the General Session and in the Grand Master's meeting. She was very dynamic. She also gave us a transcribed copy of the press conference that Thurgood Marshall held on May 12, 1956, thanking the Prince Hall Masons for donating \$100,000 for the past five years.

The N.A.A.C.P. did not respond. The Conference of Grand Masters directed the chairperson, MWGM Woods, to send a letter to the Special Projects Board to voice our concern and, hopefully, the relationship we once knew can be re-established again.

The Milwaukee Conference gave the chairman of the Steering Committee (M.W.G.M. Howard Woods, of Arkansas) the authority to speak on behalf of the Conference on matters for the common good of Freemasonry and the good of people in general, as long as they are non-controversial statements.

I was asked by Grand Master Woods to make a "How Is It Going" presentation to the Conference, regarding mutual recognition that exists between the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington (P.H.A.) and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Washington, F. & A.M. My briefing document, used for the presentation, was prepared by our hard-working Grand Senior Warden, Jesse Miller. The presentation was well received.

Following my presentation the Conference Committee on Recognition made the following recommendations:

1. Make a strong statement that Prince Hall lodges are sovereign and legitimate within themselves.
2. If a Prince Hall Grand Lodge is proposing to discuss recognition with their counterpart, they should
  - Seek not to give up anything,
  - Be sure that the benefits are equal on both sides.
3. No Master Mason of any jurisdiction should enter into any agreement and/or contract which could result in Masonic recognition;
4. Benefits -- the ability to negotiate together on a common project to the benefit of both, such as IRS.

I was present when our Grand Junior Warden, James Troutt, gave his excellent report to the Conference of the Knights of Pythagoras. He received a standing ovation. Congratulations R.W. Troutt, for a job well done. R.W. Troutt was accompanied by PM Harris.

### **FRATERNAL RELATIONS**

We have established a very good relationship with most of our sister jurisdictions throughout 45 Prince Hall families. Our ties to these bodies and my personal relationship with Grand Masters have been a wonderful experience for me. I have gained personal friends whom I feel I can call on at any time, to assist this Grand Lodge in any worthwhile endeavor.

I am pleased to report that relations within the Washington jurisdiction are good; all bodies are working together harmoniously. I have enjoyed working with Grand Worthy Matron Dorothy Archibald and Most Ancient Grand Matron Jeannette Jackson.

I have had an enjoyable working relationship with the now deceased Deputy of the Orient, Ill. James W. Davis. I am now experiencing an excellent working relationship with Ill. Deputy of the Orient Frank Russell. I also have similar working relationships with the Deputy of the Desert, Billy V. Morris, and Most Excellent Grand High Priest Cleophus Chatman, of the Holy Royal Arch Masons.

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington and Jurisdiction now shares and enjoys a harmonious and productive relationship with the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Washington, F. & A.M. Contrary to some beliefs and/or perceptions, Prince Hall Masonry has maintained its uniqueness, customs, traditions and its proud heritage. There has not been any attempt from either Grand Body to merge, change, or infringe upon each other's sovereignty and I seriously doubt that there ever will be. We are also enjoying a harmonious working relationship with the Grand Lodge of Idaho, who, in my view, are trailblazers in their own right.

#### **(RECOGNITION (UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND))**

On December 14, 1994, the United Grand Lodge of England approved the Board of General Purposes' recommendation that notwithstanding its usual formation, the "Prince Hall" Grand Lodge of Massachusetts should now be accepted as regular and be recognized. The recognition applies only to the "Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts." Applications for the recognition of other "Prince Hall" Grand Lodges may follow and each must be considered on its merits.

On April 5, 1995, I sent a letter to the United Grand Lodge of England, Attention M.B.S. Higham, Grand Secretary, formally requesting recognition of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington from the United Grand Lodge of England. On or about June 8, 1995 the External Relations Committee of the United Grand Lodge of England Board of General Purpose met and considered my application/request for recognition.

On June 16, 1995 I received a letter from the Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England stating that the Board of General Purpose felt that it was ". . . undesirable to recommend to Grand Lodge that recognition be granted to your Grand Lodge until such time as applications have been received and considered from the Prince Hall Grand Lodges from which you descend." The letter further stated:

'There is sadness about this, as we too are anxious to make further process, but anything you can do to encourage the Grand Lodges from which you descend, to apply to us for recognition, will of course help to speed the process.'

I will turn the matter over to the Prince Hall Commission for their analysis and recommended course of action.

## **HOLY ROYAL ARCH MASONS**

I appointed a special committee to review and recommend to me a course of action in response to the Resolution, dated June 20, 1994, submitted by members of the Holy Royal Arch Masons, operating within the Jurisdiction of Washington.

The Committee completed its assignment and made specific recommendations regarding administrative matters that needed to be addressed, prior to my final decision. As of the date of this report, I have not received the requested information.

## **MASONS ON SIGHT**

On April 26, 1995,, while visiting District #6 in Yokota Air Force Base, I made two candidates Master Masons on Sight. Additionally, on May 21, 1995 in Seattle, Washington, I made ten (10) candidates Master Masons on Sight. This was performed consistent with, my authority as stated in Landmark Number Eight in our Masonic Code Book.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

I recommend the following:

1. Northern Corridor Tri-Step Lodge, F. & A.M., U.D.'s request for a charter be granted and given a number.
2. James W. Davis Lodge, F. & A.M., U.D.'s request for a charter be granted and given a number.
3. That the 1995 third-year audit of the Grand Lodge's financial records by an outside group (C.P.A.) be rescheduled until 1996. Outside audits conducted in the past only included the Secretary's and Treasurer's records. It is my firm belief that in order to get a comprehensive look at this Grand Lodge's financial integrity, the scope of the audit must be expanded to include the records of: the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer, the Grand Entertainment Committee, Management Boards of the Building Projects, and any/all committee raising funds for any causes using the Grand Lodge's tax identification number.
4. The adoption of a membership committee and that this committee be added to the list of standing committees.
5. Adoption of a Grand Lodge Short- and Long-Range Planning Committee, whose task is to conduct feasibility studies regarding our properties for development, renovations, maintenance, and purchase.
6. That the Grand Lodge be primarily responsible for the maintenance of the Roslyn Cemetery Project, effective the close of the 92nd Annual Session.

7. That the Grand Lodge authorize the Grand Master to form a committee to review the Grand Entertainment Committee's financial records for the past seven (7) to ten (10) years. With these records the committee would be able to study and analyze past and present record-keeping procedures and practices, in order to prepare a set of standing operating procedures that would 1) cover all phases of the Grand Entertainment Committee's operations and 2) be used perpetually by the Grand Entertainment Committee.

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, I would like to again say "Thank you" to a fine staff of officers who have worked diligently throughout the year. To the Executive Staff members of the Grand Cabinet and the Special and District Deputy Grand Masters, your loyalty and support throughout the year has been immeasurable. I compliment each of you for giving unwaveringly of your time, money and dedication.

Masons are taught to divide their time properly, to labor cheerfully, to make generous provisions for their families, to cultivate order and to labor for peace, to strive for justice, to oppose usurpation by the church or state, to respect others' opinions as assiduously as they hold to their own and never begin any great undertaking without invoking the aid of the deity. And so, we say, without reservation and with enthusiasm, Freemasonry is a teacher of tolerance. God bless Freemasonry everywhere and make all Masons what Masons ought to be — Good men and true, tolerant of the opinions of others, lovers of their families, loyal to their country and faithful to their fellowman. So shall their white lambskin aprons remain ever unvarnished to the end.

My brothers, the power in which you entrusted and turned over to me at the close of our 91st Session, I now return to you.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Fraternally Submitted

**/s/WILLIAM C. RHEUBOTTOM**

**Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons**