

# MASONIC

## DIGEST

9<sup>TH</sup> EDITION



GRAND EDITOR: PM BERTRAM THOMAS, JR. (57)  
GRAND DIGITAL EDITOR: PM JAMES Q. LEACH (107)

**OUR MISSION REMAINS:  
HIGHLIGHTING THE GREAT WORKS & DEEDS  
DONE THROUGHOUT OUR JURISDICTION.**

**[HTTP://MWHGLGA.ORG](http://mwhglga.org)**

*Honorable Primas T. James, 33<sup>o</sup>*

*Most Worshipful Grand Master*

*Jurisdiction of Georgia*



***From the Desk of the Most Worshipful Grand Master***

Brothers and Sisters,

I greet you in the spirit of love and friendship as we enter the New Year. It is with great pride that I extend my congratulations to all the Elected and Appointed Officers throughout the Jurisdiction of Georgia. Leadership demands commitment, dedication, and sacrifice; and I am confident that each of you will excel in your respective roles.

I would also like to take this moment to express my gratitude to the Grand Lodge Elected and Appointed Officers who traveled with me in 2024 to other Jurisdictions for their Annual Sessions. Your dedication to the Craft continues to inspire me.

Youth holds a special place in my heart. This past Christmas, Prince Hall Grand East hosted a Holiday Luncheon for three families from three schools in our community: Church Street Elementary, Heritage Elementary, and Riverdale Elementary. This initiative was supported by the Grand Master, the Grand Worthy Matron, the Grand East Staff, and Brothers and Sisters who generously contributed monetary gifts and toys. My heart was filled with joy and pride witnessing the outpouring of support for these families.

My most fervent prayer is that we continue to support our widows, youth, and communities, ensuring that they always know they are cared for.

I also want to express my heartfelt thanks to all who supported the Districts that were affected by Hurricane Helene. Your resilience in the face of hardship is truly inspiring; and my prayers remain with you as you continue the journey of recovery.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Elected Grand Lodge Officers, Appointed Officers, Past Grand Masters, and Brothers who accompanied me to the Southern Region Conference of Grand Masters, Grand Matrons, and Patrons in Birmingham, Alabama. It was a remarkable conference, and I am thankful for your continued support and dedication.

Brothers and Sisters, thank you for your unwavering support to the Office of the Most Worshipful Grand Master. Together, we will continue to move forward with strength and unity for the betterment of our Jurisdiction and the communities we serve.

Fraternally,

*Primas T. James, 33<sup>o</sup>*

19<sup>th</sup> Most Worshipful Grand Master

**Atlanta Masonic District No. 3 East & West 2025 Worshipful Masters**



**2024 - Prince Hall Grand East Holiday Luncheon**











**The End**



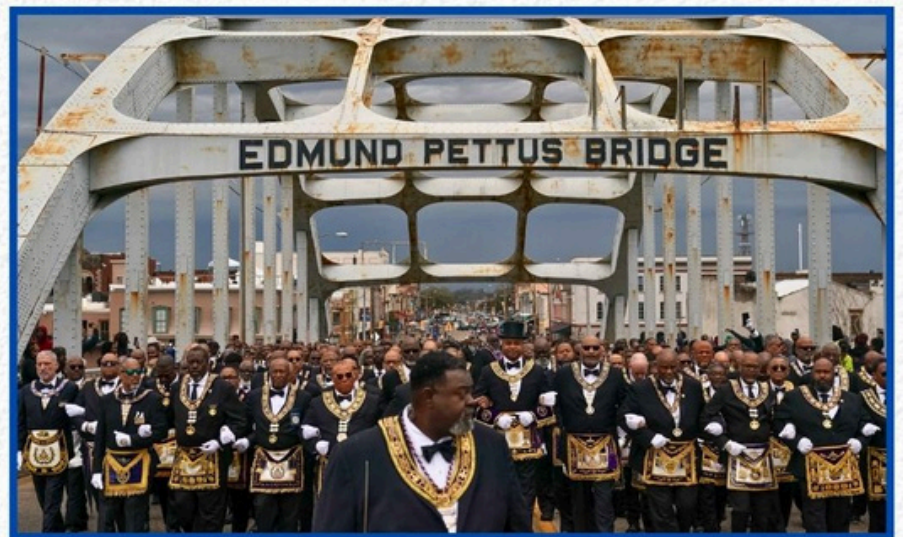
**Prince Hall Grand Chapter O.E.S. Jurisdiction of Georgia**  
*Serving with Joy through Charity, Truth, and Loving Kindness*



## 60th Anniversary of the Edmund Pettus Bridge Crossing

Sisters and Brothers from throughout the Jurisdiction of Georgia came together to pay tribute to the marchers who bravely fought to secure voting rights for Black individuals facing opposition from law enforcement.

*Dr. Sister Sallie R. Mills,  
18<sup>th</sup> Grand Worthy Matron*



***“Voting is the  
foundation stone of  
political action.”***

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*





## Grand Worthy Matron's Corner: A Journey of Joy and Service

Greetings, Sisters and Brothers—

It is with a heart full of gratitude and joy that I share just a glimpse of the incredible journey our jurisdiction has been on since our last update. Through every event, outreach, effort, and gathering, I've been reminded of the strength of our bond and the unwavering commitment we share to serve with purpose, grace, and unity.

### **Season Highlights**

#### **Go Red for Heart Health - February 2025**

This February marked our fifth year of supporting the Go Red for Women Campaign with the American Heart Association. In partnership with the Macon (GA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, our Sisters and Brothers across the state joined together on National Wear Red Day, proudly wearing red and flooding social media with the hashtag #PHGCCAWearRed. It was inspiring to see our collective voice raise awareness and advocate for women's heart health.

#### **Mid-Winter Meeting & Community Outreach - February 2025**

We held a dynamic and productive Mid-Winter Meeting in Macon that strengthened our focus and fueled our efforts for the year ahead. Shortly afterward, I had the pleasure of supporting our Grand Queen, Sister Brenda Denty, as she led a beautiful community outreach initiative in Atlanta. With support from various districts, we brought encouragement and resources to Hugh Spaulding Hospital and the Boys & Girls Club—extending the love and light of our Order to those who need it most.

#### **60th Anniversary of the Selma Bridge Crossing - March 2025**

In March, I had the honor of standing alongside our Grand Chapter Officers, MWGM Primis T. James, and many members of our Masonic family in Selma, Alabama, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge crossing. Though the skies were gray and the rain fell, the spirit of unity, reverence, and remembrance was powerful. It was a deeply moving moment to reflect on the legacy of the foot soldiers who paved the way for justice and equality.



### **2025 Midwest Regional Conference – March 2025**

Representing Georgia at the Midwest Regional Conference in Alabama was a true privilege. Joined by a strong and engaged delegation from our jurisdiction, we participated in vital discussions on unity, leadership development, and strategic growth. I was so proud to witness our Sisters and Brothers lending their voices, experiences, and ideas in ways that affirmed our leadership and vision.

### **National Conference in Nebraska – May 2025**

This May, I traveled to Nebraska to attend the National Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Matrons, where once again, Georgia showed up strong. Our delegation stood tall among peers from across the country, embodying the spirit of collaboration, fellowship, and progressive leadership. I was especially proud to celebrate our own GAM Kisha D. West, who was named crowd queen—a well-deserved recognition of grace and excellence.

Each of these moments was more than an event—they were movements of love, labor, and legacy. I look forward to sharing photos and more reflections in the next edition of the Digest.

### **Looking Ahead and Beyond: Our 125th Grand Session**

Now, we turn our hearts and our eyes toward a truly historic celebration. We enjoyed a truly memorable 125th Grand Session—a unique time to honor 125 Years of Joy and Service. It was a celebration rich with fellowship, inspiration, and vision for our continued journey.

May we always walk in purpose, uplift one another in service, and hold fast to the principles that make our Order great. I remain humbled and honored to serve as your Grand Worthy Matron.

***Serving with Joy through Acts of Charity, Truth, and Loving Kindness,***

***Dr. Sister Sallie Ruth. Mills***

***18<sup>th</sup> Grand Worthy Matron***

From the Desk of the  
Grand Worthy Patron  
Brother Mike Walton, 32°



## **Greetings Sisters and Brothers,**

It is with gratitude and purpose that I address you in this edition of our Masonic Digest. We are blessed to serve in a fraternity built upon the principles of faith, charity, truth, and loving kindness — values that guide our daily walk and unite us in fellowship.

As we continue our work across the Jurisdiction of Georgia, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting our communities, uplifting one another, and preserving the traditions that have shaped our beloved Order. Each act of kindness, each moment of mentorship, and each hour given in service strengthens the bonds that tie us together.

I encourage every Chapter to continue engaging in meaningful projects that reflect the heart of our mission — whether it be assisting those in need, mentoring youth, or honoring our seniors who have paved the way. The legacy we build today will inspire the next generation of Eastern Stars and Masons to lead with compassion and integrity.

Let us move forward in unity, with clear purpose and unwavering dedication, knowing that our collective efforts create light in every corner of our Jurisdiction. Together, we can ensure that the Prince Hall Grand Chapter of Georgia remains a beacon of excellence, service, and love.

**Fraternally,  
Brother MacArthur Walton 32°  
12th Grand Worthy Patron  
Prince Hall Grand Chapter  
Order of the Eastern Star  
Jurisdiction of Georgia**



## MORRIS BROWN COLLEGE LAUNCHES FIRST COAST GUARD CSPI PROGRAM AT AN ATLANTA HBCU

ATLANTA (August 14, 2025) – Morris Brown College has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement with the United States Coast Guard to officially partner through its College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI).

The CSPI program is a prestigious scholarship and leadership development initiative designed for students who aspire to become Coast Guard officers. It provides a unique opportunity to earn a college degree while gaining valuable real-world experience and a guaranteed path to Officer Candidate School (OCS) upon graduation.

Open to highly motivated students enrolled full-time in a bachelor's degree program at Morris Brown College, the CSPI program is ideal for those who demonstrate strong academic performance and a commitment to service. Selected students between the ages of 19 and 27 will be enlisted as active-duty Coast Guard members with the rank of Officer Trainee and will receive full military benefits including salary at the E-3 pay grade, housing allowance, medical, and dental. Moreover, as part of the program, CSPI scholars will have their tuition, books, and fees covered annually while they complete their degree. Upon graduation, they will attend the Coast Guard's intensive 12-week Officer Candidate School and subsequently begin their careers as commissioned officers. This partnership underscores Morris Brown College's commitment to expanding career pathways for its students and supporting service-oriented leadership.

"We are thrilled to partner with the United States Coast Guard on this groundbreaking initiative," said Dr. Kevin James, President of Morris Brown College. "This program provides our students with an incredible opportunity including a fully funded college education, hands-on leadership training, and a direct pathway to a prestigious career serving our nation. It's a game-changer for those seeking purpose, service, and success."

Senior Executive Service member, Scott Lanum, Director U.S. Coast Guard Civil Rights Directorate, emphasized the significance of the partnership, "The CSPI program is crucial for recruiting the best and brightest talent into our future officer ranks. By investing in educational initiatives and career pathways now, we ensure that our future leaders are well-prepared to meet the challenges of tomorrow. Our partnership with Morris Brown College exemplifies our commitment to nurturing future talent and enhancing our service."

Morris Brown College, founded in 1881 at Big Bethel AME Church by freed slaves, is a testament to African American resilience and empowerment. It remains the only college in Georgia founded, funded, owned, and operated by African Americans. After nearly 20 years of dedicated efforts, the college regained full accreditation through the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) on April 26, 2022, marking a pivotal moment in its history.

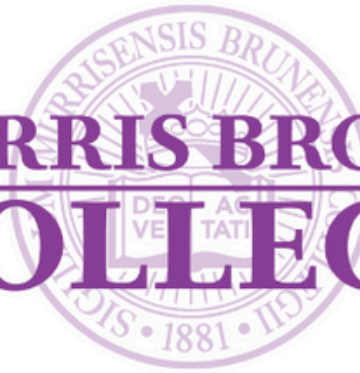
### About Morris Brown College

Morris Brown College was founded by formerly enslaved religious leaders at Big Bethel AME Church in 1881, and it is the first college in Georgia to be owned and operated by African Americans. The iconic Fountain Hall and the current Morris Brown campus are where Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois wrote *The Souls of Black Folk* in 1903. Notable alumni include Alberta Williams King, mother of Martin Luther King, Jr., and James Alan McPherson, the first Black writer to win a Pulitzer Prize for Fiction.

# NOW ENROLLING

MORRISBROWN.EDU/ADMISSIONS

MORRIS BROWN  
COLLEGE



## APPLY TODAY!

### BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMS

- B.A. General Studies
- B.S. Psychology
- B.S. Organizational Management and Leadership
- B.S. Global Management and Applied Leadership
  - ESports Performance Concentration
- B.S. Hospitality Management
- B.A. Music
  - Vocal Performance Concentration
  - Music Production Concentration
  - Church Music Concentration

### CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Certificate in Nonprofit Management
- Certificate in Entrepreneurship
- Certificate in ESports Performance/Drone Technology
- Certificate in Hospitality

\*Bachelor's Degrees = 120 credit hours

\*Certificate Programs = 24 credit hours

Financial Aid and VA Benefits Now Available!

To learn more about our fully-accredited, affordable degree programs, visit our website at [www.morrisbrown.edu/admissions](http://www.morrisbrown.edu/admissions).

# So Doctor, you said I have what?

**PM Machion D. Bray**  
**Carrollton Lodge No. 57**

On April 19th, 2020 my life changed as I knew it. Nothing could prepare me for the news and I didn't ever think it could happen. Ever since I lost my father in 2006 to prostate cancer I was a big advocate for men to check and be checked. If you can find it early your chances of beating it improves greatly. Every year I had my annual visit with my doctor and tests done so I'm feeling great about my chances. So when I had a small injury to my chest trying to carry out an old recliner I would never have thought that the diagnosis would be Stage 3 Breast Cancer. Yes, that's what I said... Breast Cancer.

What's not often mentioned in many advertisements or promotions for Breast Cancer is that men are also subjected to it. There is very little shown or told about men's Breast Cancer because it's normally found in women and it's a top killer to them. I also believe that men refuse to seek help for so many health issues so why spend the money on getting the information out for something that affects only 1 in every 833 men? But wait, Breast Cancer in men is more fatal than in women. This is due to a lack of adequate treatment and later diagnosis were just part of the factors. It was also found that differences in clinical characteristics (e.g., tumor type and stage, age at diagnosis, type of treatment) accounted for 63% of the mortality disparity. Let's say this... Men don't check for Breast Cancer.

What percentage of men survive breast cancer?

The five-year relative survival rate for men with breast cancer overall is 84%. This means men with breast cancer are 84 percent as likely to live five years beyond their diagnosis as men in the general population. When the cancer is localized, the five-year survival rate is 96%

What Are the Symptoms?

A lump or swelling in the breast.

Redness or flaky skin in the breast.

Irritation or dimpling of breast skin.

Nipple discharge.

Pulling in of the nipple or pain in the nipple area.

"So Doc what's next for me?"

Because of the cancer's stage and aggressive growth a radical chemo treatment was recommended. This consisted of 4 powerful drugs administered by an artery port and several shots and pills at home. This immediately changed my body chemistry. It was hair loss and I couldn't hold food. Many days I wanted to give up but I had the best therapist I could get, my wife's, and my daughters checking on me daily both inspiring me to keep going. Then there was the surgery where I had to have a complete mastectomy and removal of 21 lymph nodes from my left side. All this and now Radiation every day for 6 weeks where my strength declined. Oh yeah, just to add, this started in June 2020 during the pandemic and I still attempted to work every day because just sitting around would have done me worse. I can't continue without saying Thank you to my Brothers of Carrollton Lodge #57 and some co-workers who supported and checked on me often. I missed many of my Masonic meetings and although it wasn't understood by everyone I missed the fellowship.

Me now, well I continue to fight this Cancer and do not plan on ever just giving in to it. There is a daily regimen of over 12 pills needed for continued pain and prevention. The meditation and daily prayers give me strength and keep my mind strong. And the hope to hear that all is good and live. But mostly I plan on telling my story so others can learn and have a better understanding of Men and Breast Cancer.

## Resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/men/index.htm>

<https://voice.ons.org/>

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/>

# K.O.P. Back-to-School Pool Party

**Brother Corey Robinson**  
**James R. Laster Council No. 36**

The James R. Laster Council #36 of the Knights of Pythagoras kicked off the school year with a splash at their annual Back-to-School Pool Party, held at the home of Past Master Cheyenne Fields. This fun-filled event was held in conjunction with the Sons of Solomon Motorcycle Club, who generously supported the gathering and helped make it a memorable day for all involved.

The young Knights enjoyed an afternoon of swimming, games, and laughter, surrounded by brothers and mentors who continue to support their growth and success both in and out of the classroom. Great food, music, and fellowship filled the day as everyone came together to celebrate the start of a new academic year.

Events like this reflect the mission of the Knights of Pythagoras: to build strong, respectful, and community-minded young men. As always, we thank our volunteers, supporters, and especially PM Cheyenne Fields and the Sons of Solomon for helping us create such a positive and encouraging environment for our youth. Here's to a successful school year ahead!



# Youth Chapter Shines Through Service

**PDWM T. Joy Roberts**  
**Minnie M. Ponder Youth Chapter No. 112**

Minnie M. Ponder Youth Chapter No. 112 has been actively engaged in a series of events designed to foster fellowship, promote community service, and develop strong leadership skills among its young members.

## **Family and Friends Day Celebration – February**

The youth chapter proudly participated in the Family and Friends Day Celebration, joining with Beulah Chapter No. 116 and Western Star Lodge No. 65 members, relatives, and the community to strengthen bonds and celebrate shared values of unity and service.

## **Grand Youth Session – Columbus, GA – March**

Youth members traveled to Columbus, GA, for the Grand Youth Session, an enriching experience filled with fellowship, learning, and recognition. The event brought together youth from across the state to celebrate accomplishments and gain valuable insight into the principles of the organization. Members of the youth chapter received accolades in the reading contest for elementary, middle (2<sup>nd</sup> place), and high school, along with 3<sup>rd</sup> place in writing for middle school. Cassidy Roberts also placed 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up in the Queen's Contest and CJ Roberts placed 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up in the King's contest.

## **County Soup Kitchen –April**

The youth chapter also joined forces with their parent chapter, Beulah Chapter No. 116, to assist at the Screven County Soup Kitchen. The youth helped prepare over 100 meals and helped with delivery.

## **Queen Contest and District Tea - May**

The OES chapters showcased class and poise during the Queen Contest and District Tea. This event highlighted confidence, character, and grace. The youth king and queen participated in this event among the adult chapters. Members participated with enthusiasm as they indulged in good food, fun, games and fellowship during the tea.

## **St. John's Day Celebration – June**

Continuing their commitment to faith and tradition, the youth joined in the St. John's Day Celebration, in supporting the lodges within Millen District honoring the historic legacy and spiritual foundation.

## **Back-to-School Prayer Breakfast & School Supply Giveaway – July**

In preparation for the new school year, the youth assisted in hosting a Back-to-School Prayer Breakfast, offering prayers and encouragement to students and families. They also helped distribute free school supplies, ensuring that their peers start the year with the spiritual and physical tools they need for a successful school year.

## **Grand Youth Leadership Retreat – July**

Grand youth officers capped off a season of service and celebration with the Grand Youth Leadership Retreat in Atlanta, GA. Grand youth officers Cassidy and CJ Roberts participated in workshops and activities designed to develop leadership skills, teamwork, and personal growth.

Through these meaningful experiences, Minnie M. Ponder Youth Chapter No. 112 continues to build a legacy of service, fellowship, and leadership, preparing today's youth to become tomorrow's community leaders.



# Youth Chapter Shines Through Service (Cont'd)

**PDWM T. Joy Roberts**  
**Minnie M. Ponder Youth Chapter No. 112**



# 48<sup>TH</sup> GRAND YOUTH SESSION

## IMAGES



# Chapter Engages Community with Spirit of Service and Fellowship

**PDWM T. Joy Roberts**  
**Millen District No. 16**

Beulah Chapter No. 116 of the Order of the Eastern Star has embraced a season of fellowship, celebration, and community service, hosting and participating in events that bring members, families, and the wider community together.

## **Family and Friends Day Celebration**

The chapter recently hosted a Family and Friends Day, welcoming members, loved ones, and guests to share in a day of fellowship and unity. The event celebrated the bonds that strengthen the organization and recognized the support of those who contribute to its mission.

## **County Soup Kitchen**

As a team effort with Western Star Lodge No. 65, and Minnie M. Ponder Youth Chapter No. 112, the chapter prepared and delivered 100 plates throughout Screven County. This is a yearly event that the chapter is dedicated to performing twice a year for the community.

## **Participation in the Grand Session**

Members proudly attended the annual Grand Session, joining Eastern Star chapters from across the jurisdiction. Members from within the chapter had the honor and privilege to be a member of the Chapter of Sorrow team, which performed at the Grand Session. This yearly gathering serves as an opportunity to share ideas, celebrate accomplishments, and plan while honoring the traditions of the Order.

## **Support of St. John's Day Celebration**

Continuing their commitment to fellowship and faith, the chapter supported the lodges within Millen District for the St. John's Day celebration. This time-honored observance brought together Masonic and Eastern Star families as well as the community to celebrate this great event.

## **District Workshop Community Service**

Beulah Chapter showed outstanding support in the District Workshop Community service project. Following a day of education, the chapter donated school supply items for teachers. This community service was particularly special as the recipient was Youth Assistant Director, Sister Cynthia Wilkes. Sister Wilkes was surprised, thankful and overjoyed with tears. She is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in Burke County.

## **Back-to-School Prayer Breakfast and Supply Giveaway**

In preparation for the upcoming school year, the chapter hosted a Back-to-School Prayer Breakfast, offering encouragement and blessings to students and their families. During the event, free school supplies and breakfast were provided to ensure children are well-equipped and supported for a successful academic year.

Through these events, Beulah Chapter No. 112 continues to demonstrate its dedication to fellowship, faith, and service, strengthening both its membership and the community it proudly serves.



# Uniting for Fellowship, Service, and Community Impact

**PDWM T. Joy Roberts**  
**Millen District No. 16**

The Masonic Lodges and Order of the Eastern Star Chapters within Millen District No. 16 have demonstrated exceptional unity and commitment to service through a series of events and community initiatives that reflect their shared values of fellowship, charity, and personal growth.

## **District Meetings and Workshops**

Members have worked together to attend and support district meetings and workshops, strengthening collaboration and promoting the principles of their respective organizations.

## **Grand Youth Session & Grand Session**

Representatives proudly supported the Grand Youth Session and participated in the Grand Session, joining members from across the jurisdiction to celebrate tradition, share ideas, and prepare for future endeavors. Millen District Chapters had the honor of performing the Chapter of Sorrow as the designated Chapter of Sorrow Team for the Grand Session. Millen District No. 16 also placed 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up in the Platinum Category for the Queen Extravaganza. PDWM Shirley Carlyle represented the district with poise and grace. The district also received accolades as District Worthy Patron, Brother Willie Avery was awarded District Patron of the Year for Zone 1.

## **Esther Day & St. John's Day Celebrations**

The district came together to observe Esther Day and St. John's Day, honoring the historical and spiritual significance of these occasions with reverence and fellowship.

## **Family and Friends Day & Lodge Anniversary Program**

Family and Friends Day brought members and loved ones together for a joyful celebration of unity, while Lodge Anniversary Programs recognized years of dedication, growth, and service to the community. Light of Hiltonia Lodge No. 433 celebrated 107 years of dedication and service.

## **Community Service Initiatives**

In keeping with their charitable mission, members organized and participated in numerous service efforts:

- AMIKIDS Outreach – Light of Hiltonia Lodge No. 433 showing support to the local youth through mentorship, guidance and providing lunch for the youth and staff.
- Back-to-School Supply Giveaway – Providing essential school supplies to students and families. Various chapters and lodges that hosted this community service event included Beulah Chapter No. 116, New Marion No. 381, New Aurora No. 60, Western Star Lodge No. 65 and Aurora Lodge No. 54.
- Teacher Supply Assistance – Equipping educators with resources to enhance classroom learning. This was a district community service event in which all chapters donated items. The recipient was one of our very own, Sister Cynthia Wilkes, Assistant Youth Director and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in the Burke County School District.
- Water Donation to High School Football Camp – Promoting youth athletics and wellness by Aurora Lodge No. 54.

## **Honoring Past Leaders and Investing in the Future**

Gough Lodge No. 419 presented the Prestigious Pioneer Citizen Award to PGWM Belle S. Clark for her service and leadership. Scholarships were awarded to students pursuing higher education, reinforcing the organizations' commitment to investing in future generations. Aurora Lodge No. 54 awarded recipients' scholarships as well as all chapters within the district.

Through fellowship, celebration, and service, the Eastern Star Chapters and Masonic Lodges of Millen District No. 16 continue to strengthen their bonds and positively impact the communities they serve.

# Uniting for Fellowship, Service, and Community Impact (Cont'd)

**PDWM T. Joy Roberts  
Millen District No. 16**



# Caring is Sharing

**Worthy Matron Cassandra Mcfadgen**  
**New Marion Chapter No. 381**

During adopt a teacher week New Marion showered teachers with coffee, doughnuts and gift cards from Dunkin Donuts to show how much they are appreciated. In addition, at the beginning of the summer, New Marion Chapter gave out free fans, hot dogs, chips, and drinks to the community.



# Celebrating 226 Day at the State Capitol

**Brother Brian Hampton**  
**Butler Lodge No. 226**

Butler Lodge No. 226 is dedicated to serving the Taylor County Community. Our service efforts consist of awarding scholarships to graduating seniors, supporting the local school system, and helping numerous distressed senior citizens and veterans. This body of work has earned us, the 2023 Lodge of the Year and 2023 Worship Master of the Year. With the creation of our new youth program, we are expanding our service to make an even bigger impact.

During its 120th Anniversary, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Butler Lodge No. 226, celebrated 226 Day while being recognized on the 26th Legislative Day of the House of Representatives morning session at the State Capitol in Atlanta, on Monday, February 26th, 2024. A proclamation was read by State Representative Pattie Marie Stinson commemorating the occasion. 226 Day is a day of service recognition and celebration, mainly created to show appreciation to past lodge leadership, fellow organizations, churches, and the citizens of Taylor County.



# Career Event at Local Boys and Girls Home

**Brother Joseph House**  
**Cave Spring Lodge No. 306**

Cave Spring Lodge No. 306 was honored to be a part of the career event at our local boys and girls home in Cedartown, Georgia. We were proud to provide the students with the first step in pursuing their dreams. Giving them academic and enrollment criteria to pursue a sustainable livelihood in Trade and Craft has proven to be of great interest for the upcoming graduates. We are thankful for our District Congressman in Pursuit of the Dalton District for his support in providing for all children of Georgia to have an equal opportunity for success.





# Supporting the Local Blood Drive

**Worshipful Master Aaron Prater**  
**Dalton Lodge No. 238**

The brothers of Dalton Lodge No. 238, Dalton, Georgia (PHA) along with Dalton Lodge #105 F&AM (Grand Lodge of the State of Georgia) worked together to make a blood drive successful in Dalton, Georgia. The event took place on July 29th at the Mack Gaston Community Center. It is an example of how mutual recognition can bring two organizations together for common causes.



SUBMITTED

From left are Brother John Nelson, Brother Lemuel "Speedy" Laster, Brother Charlie Mariney, Brother Larry Gross, Brother Craig Raper, Brother Joe Bonds and Brother John Hill.

## Masons enhance the blood supply

**BY JIMMY DENSMORE**

Dalton Lodge  
No. 105 F&AM

On July 29 an historical masonic event took place on a hot day in North Georgia. Two local freemason lodges came together with a local blood drive authority that provides blood to local hospitals and first responders, Blood Assurance.

This event, displaying unity within the community, was held at the Mack Gaston Community Center in Dalton. Masonic brethren from Dalton Lodge No. 105 F&AM and Dalton Lodge No. 238 F&AM

PHA (Prince Hall Affiliated) came together to conduct this blood drive as an opportunity for brotherly love and fellowship.

At this inaugural event, the donations made will help to save the lives of 36 people in the local community. This three-hour enterprise was made possible by District Deputy to the Grand Master and member of Dalton Lodge No. 105 Brother R. Cris Lynch and Brother Joe Bonds of Dalton Lodge No. 238. Guidance and encouragement for this event was greatly appreciated by Brother Craig Raper of Tunnel Hill

Lodge No. 202, who is the blood drive chairman for the masonic district that these lodges reside in.

"The blood drive is a direct reflection of our commitment to service and our dedication to the well-being of our community," stated Raper. "We urge all eligible members of the public to join us in this life-saving effort. A single donation can make a profound difference."

The goal of this event, and others like it moving forward, is to help, aid and assist in the missions of the blood donation centers of Georgia while promoting

partnerships within the community and hometowns. Freemasonry is a benevolent fraternity taking good men and making them better. This event displayed a sense of unity that is sorely needed, and it shone a light on how we can come together to make an impact and a difference. Keep an eye and an ear out for more of these events in the future. Come join us and let's make a difference together.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." — Psalm 133:1



# Reflecting on my time as WM

**PM A. Alonzo Alston-Bey**  
**Friendship Lodge No. 20**

In December 2019, Friendship Lodge #20 elected me to serve as WM for the year ensuing 2020. I demitted into this lodge in 2018 and was elected Junior Warden for 2019. Since I was already a Past Master, having served as WM at Silver Leaf Lodge No. 457 in 2012 and 2013, I was happy to bring my experience to the role and assist. It was surreal to be Elected WM and become one to serve in that role in two different lodges. My Agenda was simple, "The Building." I initially had a vision of gradually fixing up the lodge where it was needed, BUT GOD had other plans. In March of 2020 we were in a Pandemic and to add insult to injury a storm caused our ceiling to fall in. I learned the ceiling had fallen in because my DDGM called me and told me that a Past Master in my Lodge saw fit to let him know before letting me know. This was the jolt I needed to get going so I was not upset by the misstep, and I am sure everyone thought they were doing what needed to be done. The same PM would later buy \$1600.00 worth of sheetrock so we could make the necessary repairs. I am grateful he did that and I am also grateful that the sitting Grand Master decided to significantly reduce the Grand Lodge fees due to the pandemic. We were able to replace the roof, pressure wash and paint the outside, and repair the inside ceiling. We also repainted the interior, installed new trim, and installed new lighting. When the work was complete, the building looked brand new.

By the end of 2021, my second year as Worshipful Master, I was ready to end my tenure; however, the nomination came, I accepted, and was re-elected. We reopened the Lodge hall after having been closed for 2 years, except for our bi-weekly Zoom calls, and got right to work in the community to make a difference. I would be re-elected two more times for a total of five times and when it was all said and done, I had made fourteen new Master Masons and received four demits for a total of eighteen new members on my watch. I have never felt so accomplished or confident that I made a difference and left my mark. Five years sounds like a long time, but I am here to say that it flew by because my Brothers made it easy to be me. My Brothers were always there to encourage me when I needed encouragement. My Brothers made it a pleasure to be their Worshipful Master. That is when I knew like Jay-Z said, that it was the "...perfect time to say goodbye..." because the final lesson all leaders should show is how to move aside and let progress happen. All Good Leaders know it was never about "me," but it has always been about "Us." I thank the Brothers of Friendship Lodge #20 PHA F&AM for allowing me to learn lessons that I didn't realize I needed to learn. Seven total years as WM has caused some to call me a Glutton for punishment and all I can say is that...the places I served, I had GOOD Brothers, it NEVER felt like a punishment. Shout out to the Brothers of Silver Leaf Lodge No. 457.

# Reflecting on my time as WM (cont'd)

PM A. Alonzo Alston-Bey  
Friendship Lodge No. 20



# Expanding Impact Through Community Foundation

**Worshipful Master Brother Jerome Bright**  
**H.R. Butler Lodge No. 23**

The Lodge's charitable reach is amplified through the H. R. Butler Community Foundation, Inc. This Foundation works tirelessly to support the broader community. In collaboration with Walmart, the Foundation is approved to solicit donations from patrons entering and exiting the store. These funds and grants from the government and other funding entities are directed toward programs that assist youth, the needy, and the elderly.

The Foundation's commitment to securing resources ensures sustained support for those most need it. We have also had several Brothers of the Lodge receive the United States of America President Joe Biden Community Service Award for 2024 (Brother William Gay, Past Master Chris Abraham, Brother Author Hollis, Brother Neville Smith, and Brother Jerome Bright.) Other notable recipients were Julian Bonds Atlanta community leader and the Honorable Reverend Jesse Jackson.



# A Legacy of Service and Community Impact

**Worshipful Master Brother Jerome Bright**  
**H.R. Butler Lodge No. 23**

H. R. Butler Lodge No. 23 has been a beacon of hope and support in the Atlanta community for the past two years. Every second Saturday of the month, the dedicated Brothers come together to make a difference. Partnering with Atlanta Feeding Families ensures that over 200 families receive essential food supplies. Their monthly deliveries to the Oasis Community, a senior living apartment complex in Atlanta, have become a cherished tradition. Residents eagerly anticipate the Brothers' arrival with fresh bread, fruits, vegetables, and sweet snacks, bringing nourishment and joy to their lives.



# Strengthening the Community

**PDWM T. Joy Roberts**  
**Millen District No. 16**

Western Star Lodge No. 65 continues to make a meaningful impact by supporting the district, youth and community through a series of events and initiatives rooted in unity, service, and leadership.

## **Family and Friends Day Celebration**

The lodge joined with the members of Beulah Chapter No. 116 and Minnie M. Ponder Youth Chapter No. 112 to celebrate fellowship and strengthen bonds with the community.

## **Back-to-School Supply Drive & Soup Kitchen Service**

Demonstrating a commitment to service, lodge members helped provide essential school supplies for local students and supported the community soup kitchen, ensuring meals for those in need.

## **St. John's Day Celebration & Community Fish Fry**

Members also participated in the St. John's Day Celebration, honoring tradition and faith, and hosted a community fish fry to promote fellowship and unity among members, families, and neighbors.

## **Youth Mentorship – Roosevelt Culver Knights of Pythagoras**

The lodge proudly announced the formation of the Roosevelt Culver Knights of Pythagoras, a youth mentorship program dedicated to guiding young men toward leadership, personal growth, and positive community involvement.

Through fellowship, charitable work, and mentorship, Western Star Lodge No. 65 continues to uphold the core principles of Masonry—brotherly love, relief, and truth—while supporting the next generation of leaders.

# Strengthening the Community (Cont'd)

**PDWM T. Joy Roberts**  
**Millen District No. 16**



# Sponsoring Haircuts and Providing Encouragement

**District Deputy Grand Master LM Pierce Jr.  
Louisville & Butler Districts**

The brothers of St. Andrew Lodge No. 32 of Sandersville, Ga. sponsored haircuts to over 32 young men and gave them words of encouragement before the 2025 school year. All the parents in attendance were very appreciative.





# Joint Anniversary Celebration

**District Deputy Grand Master LM Pierce Jr.  
Louisville & Butler Districts**

St. Andrew Lodge No. 32 and Shiloh Chapter No. 8 celebrated their 140th and 120th Anniversary to unity. It was well attended by the brothers and the sisters along with the State Grand Queen, District Deputy Grand Master LM Pierce Jr., and Brother Steve Williams, Assistant District Deputy Grand Master of the Butler District in attendance.



**MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA**

**Honorable Primus T. James, 33<sup>o</sup>  
Most Worshipful Grand Master**



**PRINCE HALL GRAND CHAPTER  
Order of the Eastern Star - Jurisdiction of Georgia  
Prince Hall Affiliated**

**Sister Dr. Sallie R. Mills  
Grand Worthy Matron**

**Brother Mike Arthur Walton, 32<sup>o</sup>  
Grand Worthy Patron**

**Sister Janice Harper  
Worthy Matron**

**Brother Curtis Reese  
Worshipful Master**

**Brother Terry Brookins, 32<sup>o</sup>  
Worthy Patron**

*Joint Anniversary*

**St. Andrew Masonic Lodge No. 32**

**Shiloh OES Chapter No. 8**



*Sunday, August 10, 2025 at 2:00pm*

**Mt. Olive Baptist Church**

**9123 Highway 15 N  
Warthen GA, 31094**

**The public  
is invited**

**Sister Vivian D. Pierce, District Worthy Matron  
Brother Anthony Howard, 33<sup>o</sup>, District Worthy Patron  
Brother L.M. Pierce, Jr., 33<sup>o</sup>, District Deputy Grand Master  
Brother Steve Williams, 33<sup>o</sup> Asst., District Grand Master**

# Community

Thursday  
August 7, 2025



The Canton Messenger



L-R: Aldric Little, Lavoniah Sanders, D'Zavius Pennamon, Kyan Pennamon, Marion Jackson, Leo Johnson, Marquez Pounds, and James Gorley attended the inaugural Knights of Pythagoras black-tie event last month in Charlotte. CONTRIBUTED

## Local youth attend Knights of Pythagoras conference

The Martin Luther King Jr. Council of the Order of the Knights of Pythagoras No. 2 attended the inaugural conference of the Council of Grand Masters (COGM) Knights of Pythagoras, July 24-27 in Charlotte, N.C.

The conference was hosted by Grandmaster Daniel L. Thompson and led by COGM Knights of Pythagoras

President Michael Simms and the executive board. The conference was centered on fellowship, educational development, and self-awareness, offering workshops that provided training for youth, mentors, advisors, and parents.

There were 290 youth and 50 mentors in attendance from 21 jurisdictions throughout the country, including Georgia,

which had a huge impact on the conference with 114 attending. Under the leadership of Grandmaster Primus T. James Sr., everyone was able to make the trip to provide youth a chance to learn, network, enjoy outdoor recreation, participate in a quiz bowl, and attend a black-tie banquet.

Martin Luther King Jr. Council No. 2 was represented

by five youth knights and two sir knights including: Master Knight D'Zavius Pennamon, Knight Kyan Pennamon, Knight Marquez Pounds, Knight Marion Jackson, and Knight Leo Johnson. Sir Knight Lavoniah Sanders and James A. Gorley served as chaperones for the event.

The Knights of Pythagoras is a youth mentoring program

for boys ages 7-21 sponsored by the Prince Hall Masons. The program focuses on youth development, community involvement, and empowering the next generation of future leaders. Any young man can join the program at no cost by contacting Lavoniah Sanders at 706-473-0916 for more information.

— Contributed



# GAME

## MASONIC CROSSWORD PUZZLE

*HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND ?*

G	M	O	C	E	J	W	M	E	P	G	A	N	V	X
S	Y	L	C	H	M	C	S	L	Y	R	I	W	N	N
P	E	Y	D	B	A	E	I	L	W	A	G	S	P	O
S	A	O	F	Y	S	P	I	A	F	N	R	F	A	I
Z	I	R	B	S	H	M	T	R	L	D	O	H	D	T
K	Y	S	I	X	A	J	E	E	D	M	E	W	E	C
M	T	O	T	H	O	E	P	T	R	A	G	B	G	I
B	N	C	P	E	M	E	O	G	Z	S	V	H	R	D
R	X	D	Q	A	R	G	K	U	C	T	C	X	E	S
O	M	J	S	R	Z	D	U	M	N	E	M	E	E	I
T	V	O	M	A	S	O	N	R	Y	R	X	D	S	R
H	N	R	O	G	I	L	N	O	R	T	A	M	W	U
E	P	R	I	N	C	E	H	A	L	L	T	R	H	J
R	D	Z	S	N	P	G	R	N	O	R	T	A	P	R
N	L	B	H	T	C	I	R	T	S	I	D	T	I	L

FREEMASON  
DISTRICT  
SESSION  
MATRON

JURISDICTION  
PHAMILY  
GEORGIA  
SISTER  
OES

GRANDMASTER  
CHAPTER  
BROTHER  
DEGREE  
KOP

PRINCEHALL  
MASONRY  
PATRON  
LODGE

# Editor's Corner: Lodges and Chapters Promoting Unity Through a Shared Vision of Service to the Community

To the Brothers and Sisters of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge and Chapter of Georgia, our brothers of the Grand Lodge of the State of Georgia, and all our Prince Hall Brothers and Sisters worldwide:

This ninth issue of the Masonic Digest is our first issue of 2025, highlighting the winter, spring, and summer community service and social activities that are the foundation of our lodges and chapters in which the Brothers and Sisters have engaged. We welcome historical articles and articles that focus on health and wellness. This year has been action packed as the jurisdiction celebrated 250 years of Prince Hall Freemasonry in Georgia State Capitol and in the Atlanta City Hall which included a proclamation being issued and read by Atlanta Mayor Brother Andre Dickens. Brothers and sisters of this jurisdiction also traveled to Selma, Alabama for remembrance and reenactment of the Selma Bridge crossing. Lastly, this ninth issue features the Grand Master's and Grand Worthy Matron's Corner of the 19<sup>th</sup> Most Worshipful Grand Master Honorable Primus T. James and our 18<sup>th</sup> Grand Worthy Matron Dr. Sallie R. Mills. It also includes the Grand Worthy Patron's Corner from Grand Worthy Patron MacArthur Walton.

As you continue to support your lodge and chapter endeavors, please remember to encourage your members to visit their Primary Care Physicians at least once per year for their health and wellness. The most effective time to make this wellness visit is at the beginning of each year (January or February). This will provide you with the necessary information to adjust your lifestyle and will encourage healthy living habits. This doctor's visit will also inform your other specialists of any health changes as a preventive measure. Prevention is less costly than clinical treatment once an illness occurs. Keep in mind that National Mental Health Awareness Month is in May, and National Men's Health Awareness Month is in June. Also, keep in mind that although the flu season is ending, the COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing. Please obtain your necessary vaccines for the safety of you and your family and follow the guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and your local health department.

Please continue to support the "But God Initiative" as it continues to perpetuate the financial stability for our Grand Lodge. We want to thank all the brothers and sisters who continue to embrace the long-range vision of our past and current leadership regarding the financial future of this jurisdiction.

All members are requested to continue to support the efforts of Morris Brown College to provide a quality college education. Morris Brown College, Georgia's first and only Historically Black College founded, funded, owned, and operated by Black people, announced a partnership with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia to offer its members in good standing and members of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Chapter of Georgia in good standing the opportunity to be automatically admitted to the college. Please take advantage of this unique opportunity to further your education. Most recently this month, Morris Brown College signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United States Coast Guard to officially create a partnership through its College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSPI). This initiative provides a unique opportunity for students to earn their college degree while securing a guaranteed path to Officer Candidate School (OCS) upon graduation. Morris Brown College is led by one of our brothers, President Dr. Kevin James.

Please submit all pictures as separate files outside the articles instead of embedding them within the article. Please submit only in Word format and not PDF format. Continue highlighting your youth activities and your lodge and chapter functions as we strive to include all articles and will publish all according to our layout space. Your articles will be published in a subsequent issue for those that did not make it into this issue. Thank you for supporting the Masonic Digest, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, and the Most Worshipful Grand Chapter of Georgia.

Fraternally,

Worshipful Dr. Bertram Thomas Jr. (57), Grand Editor

Worshipful James Q. Leach (107), Grand Digital Editor



**THE  
MASONIC  
DIGEST**