

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge

Jurisdiction of South Carolina

A Charge to keep...

A God to glorify.



2020 ADDRESS

The Honorable

E. Spencer Scott, I 33°

Most Worshipful Grand Master

***Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of F. and A. Masons
Of the State of South Carolina***

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*A charge to keep I have, A God to glorify,
 Who gave His Son my soul to save, And fit it for the sky.
 To serve the present age, My calling to fulfill
 Oh, may it all my powers engage, to do my Master's will.
 Help me to watch and pray, and on thyself rely;
 Assured, if I my trust betray, I shall forever die.*

Good Morning, We give ALL honor, glory and praise to our Lord and
 Savior **JESUS CHRIST**.

Truly we are grateful to the Master, for He has brought us together one more time. And it's NOTHING that we have done so good or so great to merit us this rich blessing. It's because of the mercy and grace of God.

First giving honor to GOD the Creator of us all; to the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Victor C. Major; Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden Lynwood F. Givens; Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden Wayne Davis; Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer Curtis Carter; Right Worshipful Grand Secretary McDuffie Bartelle; Right Worshipful Grand Tyler Leon Harden; Right Worshipful Grand Chaplain Rev. Dr. Lavern Witherspoon; Right Worshipful Grand Trustees, Christopher Major, Silas Williams, Frank Richardson, Ben Carr, Leroy Williams and Leo Murphy;

Grand Masters Rev. Charles Davenport, Lonnie Hosey, Alonzo Haynes, Nathaniel I. Durant, Jr., Curtis W. Mansel, Sr, and Lewis H. Nelson, Jr.; Appointed officers, Worshipful Masters, Wardens, Brethren, Grand Worthy Matron Sister Linda Owens Neal, Grand Worthy Patron Brother Reginald Y. Scott, Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Stars Rite of Adoption, Heads of Concordant Bodies, Officers of Concordant bodies, Members of concordant bodies, all Appendant, Affiliate and Adoptive bodies owing allegiance to this Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the Jurisdiction of South Carolina, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, to ALL God’s children under the sound of my voice;

GREETINGS~

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” Jeremiah 29:11

It is with profound joy and emotion that I present you with this, my Grand Master’s Address as to my stewardship over this Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of South Carolina for the past year. Believe me when I say unto you, “God is Good, ALL the time. He has heard my prayers as well as the prayers of my loved ones and friends. I praise Him as He has brought us successfully through another year.

Now the hourglass has indicated that it’s time for us to review the past, consider the present and plan for the future as I bring to you this report of my activities for the past year which will fold itself into history at the end of this year.

I sincerely thank each and every one of you for the confidence you have reposed in me this past year. The list of names are too numerous to mention, however, I MUST take time to thank the Queen of my Chess Board, your First Lady but MY ONLY Lady, my lovely wife of

of 26 ½ years, Pathenia Renee Young Scott. You've been there with me each day whether it went smooth or not so smooth. You have proven time and time again to have my back. Commend me when I'm right, chastise me when I'm wrong, but always helps me figure it out. To my children, Aaliyah, Ashelynn and my namesake of whom I call Deuce, you ALL have die hardly supported me every step of the way. I thank my father, Honorary Past Grand Master Rev. Milton E. Scott, for without seeing him in this order and being the man that he is, I would have never found interest in this order. And to my mother, Elizabeth Shirley Scott, this year has been a trying time, but you stayed strong in the Lord and still give me great foundational and spiritual advice. To my sister Lori and brother Dr. Ashley Scott, for your undying support, I THANK YOU! And to all my other family members, your love, advice and prayers are heartfelt and I thank you.

To my BROTHERS, GJW Wayne Davis, GSW Lynwood F. Givens and of course MY DGM Victor C. Major for being so supportive and not only understanding my vision, but trying to help me see it through. To the rest of the Executive Board and the Grand Trustees, you have made this transition a much easier one than I expected. The lessons, talks and support that you former Grand Masters have given me. In December 2017, you placed this Jurisdiction in my hands and I vowed to you that not only would I take care of it, but when I pass it on, it will be greater than when you gave it to me.

Grand Worthy Matron Linda Owens Neal and Grand Worthy Patron Reginald Y. Scott, working with you has been an honor and I pray our continued relationship to keep growing. To my sisters, mothers and daughters of the Order of Eastern Star Rite of Adoption, I thank you for your prayers and concerns. To All of Concordant and Appellate Heads and Officers, I thank you for keeping the peace and leading your respective houses in a manner that is right and just.

I extend a world of thanks to the District Deputies, Special Deputies and ALL Appointed Grand Lodge Officers and Worshipful Masters for carrying out the plans and wishes of this Grand Lodge this year.

I cannot end my recognitions without giving thanks to the Grand Lodge Staff. Sis. Rose Nelson, Sis. Marie Bartelle, Bro. Louis Turnipseed and Sis. Gillia Robinson for ALL you do

in helping run this Grand Lodge business daily. Sis. Gillia Robinson you have proven to be Fairest Among Thousands Altogether Lovely. And to ANYONE who feels you are not included in my thanks please take that mistake from the head and not my heart as it is NOT intentional.

NECROLOGY~

So when the corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

This past year, the angel of death has called home many brothers and removed them from our rolls. The Lord moved His hand in a significant way taking home some of our best members; But we know God knows best and we have to lift our eyes unto the hills from whence cometh our help. Because our help cometh from the Lord, which made Heaven and Earth, because He promised to send us a Comforter. How will these brothers and sisters be remembered by their families? By their neighbors? By their working associates? By their community? By their churches? By their Lodges and chapters? Above all, how will God their creator remember them? Remember now the Creator, in the days of our youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them. Though many deaths has been blamed on Covid-19, we must understand Job 14:5, Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass; Psalm 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom; Therefore, we must live that when the summons is called, to join the innumerable caravan that our prayers can be answered affirmatively, "Remember me, O my God, for good"

Each of these brothers and sisters will be missed by their families, friends and by us. But we have that blessed assurance, that we will see them again, because Jesus said I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whoso ever lives and believes in me shall never die. For I know my Redeemer lives.

STATE OF THE NATION~

Racial division, police brutality, what we see as unnecessary killings, Covid-19, marches in many cities across this nation, an unprecedented Presidential Election that has seemingly moved 46 minus 1 from his high horse, a President-Elect of Mr. Joe Biden and Vice-President Elect Kamala Harris, the first woman and woman of color elected to that high office, has highlighted this year of 2020.

We still have shootings of our young black men and women even though it has seemed to not be broadcasted as much. But as this Nation turns into a brown Nation, we must be ready to take our place as leaders and be that beacon for our people that Prince Hall set the stage for us to be. I believe we have finally reached that curve that we have lived so hard to get to in America, but we need not rest and get complacent. We proved that we as a people matter and our voice need to heard and adhered to.

STATE OF THE STATE~

We are proud to have many brothers and sisters serving in key positions as council members, commissioners, judges, House Representatives, and other key positions throughout this state. They have served and are serving in those positions because many of you have supported them. We tried this year to continue with the turning of that racial curve in supporting Mr. Jaime Harrison for US Senate. We fell short, but we showed up and we showed out and I believe if we keep pushing, we will get over and around that curve. We registered to vote and we voted. Still we do not have 100 percent, but we are seeing that voting allows our voices to be heard.

STATE OF THE CRAFT~

For the first time during OUR lifetime, a National Pandemic, Covid-19, has caused us to close down our state. On March 16, 2020, after consultation with the other leaders of our state, I made the hard decision to close down our masonic activities in this Jurisdiction. Trust me when I say it was a hard but needed decision, Many didn't agree with that decision at first but as we are now eight months into what we never imagined, most if not everyone final see that I was only looking out for the members of this jurisdiction, It is still my DUTY as Conservator

to make the decisions for this jurisdiction as led by God. I thank the craft for accepting but we still were able to carry some of the unseen and somewhat needed business of the Grand Lodge during this time.

The Craft of South Carolina, my Brothers and Sisters, has grown and it's because of the new attitudes each of you have and the willingness to embrace the changes that have come forth. But there is still work to do. We must first keep our God first and foremost and remember that the only thing that really matters is that we do the right thing. What is the right thing you ask? It is clear in Micah 6:8 "Do justly, and love mercy and walk humbly with thy God".

We have also established a weekly prayer call which takes place EVERY TUESDAY morning at 8:00 AM. You are welcomed to join us in prayer. All we ask that IF you log on AFTER 8:00, please make sure your phones are muted so that everyone can clearly hear the prayer. The number to call in is (978)990-5488 and the code is 523874#. We look forward to you joining us.

FRATERNAL RELATIONS~

I am proud to say that the Jurisdiction of South Carolina has a GREAT relationship with all jurisdictions in the Conference of Grand Masters as well as all appellate and concordant bodies.

The Mid-Atlantic Conference of Grand Masters as well as the Conference of Grand Masters, Grand Matrons and Grand Patrons were also cancelled due to the pandemic. It also hindered a lot of inter Jurisdictional travels and experiences, however, our relationships have still grown. We were able to do some travels in the first quarter which was highlighted by the visit to the Grand Lodge Session of Arkansas followed by the trip to Selma, Alabama for the 55th Anniversary of the Voting Rights March. Although at that time, we had no idea that we may have been in harms way of the virus, but God had His arms of protection around us in our travels.

Since then, as quiet as our masonic world has seemed to slow down, we have been contacted by The Grand Lodge of Lebanon in the Middle East in order to sign a Treaty

of Amity between their Grand Lodge and ours. We, the leaders of this Grand Lodge have decided to move forward with this treaty and we now have a signed Treaty of Amity between South Carolina Prince Hall Jurisdiction and The Grand Lodge of Lebanon in the Middle East.

Also, most may not know our history, but in 1900, Grand Master C. C. Johnson became our 7th Grand Master in Charleston, SC. In 1910, he moved our Grand Lodge to Columbia, SC and we existed in a building on Washington Street, He was our Grand Master until 1927. We moved to our current address at 2324 Gervais Street in 1963 when our 10th Grand Master Prince Riley was our leader. We have done several things to our building to modernize it and make it look attractive to include painting the building this year during the time we were away.

In 1974 under the leadership of Grand Master Rufus Foster, we entered into a 50- year lease with our property on Washington Street. The year of 2024 is fastly approaching us and after searching and finding the original lease we researched and found that we should have been receiving more money than we were getting. After a calculated negotiations with the bank who holds the lease we negotiated a selling price of \$500,000.00 clear and free. That transaction should be completed by the end of December 2020 and those funds will be deposited and decided where to apply the proceeds by the Executive Board. We WILL make the best decision for the organization. As you will tell by the look of our financial report, we are sound financially and on our way to our goals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.) I recommend that every lodge work closely with your District Deputies as they run their districts under the leadership of the MWPHGLSC.
- 2.) I recommend that we continue to give to charity and other charitable organizations and be more visible in doing so, so the world will KNOW that we are truly an African American Charitable Organization we say we are.
- 3.) I recommend that the Grand Lodge grants to every Subordinate Lodge having lost its charter by fire or other acts of God.

4.) An official letter about how we as a Jurisdiction will move forward in 2021 will be sent to each lodge and Head of House within the coming weeks.

So ends my official acts:

Now, my brothers, you are the judge and jury. My record rests before you however I'm mindful of the fact that while no organization can entirely rise above its leadership, it is equally true that no leader can become truly effective without the complete cooperation and wholehearted support of its officers and members.

So I close this 2020 year by saying, Be blessed my brothers, be blessed my sisters, be blessed wherever this life leads you, we might be hurting, we might be crying, and yes, we might be worrying and frustrated too. But I have a vision, I see us in the future and we look better, I see us walking in favor and prosperity too. So let me encourage you with a word or two, let me speak life to you, we can depend on God to see us through and you can depend on me to pray for you. I'll pray for you and you can pray for me and let's watch God change things. And as Jacob and Laban made a covenant with each other up on a heap, I make the same with you and I say unto you. May the Lord God watch between me and thee while were absent, one from another, until we meet again. From our house to each and every one of your, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a most prosperous New Year.

Respectfully submitted, E. Spencer Scott, I, MWGM.

NOTES
