

MASONIC BULLETIN – SPRING 2019 EDITION
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of WV, F. & A.M.



OFFICE OF
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Message from the Honorable MWGM Jeffrey Calcote, Sr. 33°

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

Since the last edition of our Bulletin, our jurisdiction has lost a great man and mason. HPGM/RWPGS Ivan C. Richardson Sr. passed away last December. Brother Richardson served this jurisdiction for 60 years, 15 as our Grand Secretary. His health and mobility declined in recent years so he was unable to attend Grand Session. Yet he still had an interest in the affairs of our Grand Lodge. His amazing wit and candor were evident to those who would call him from time-to-time. I want to thank all the brothers who travelled to Columbus, Ohio and Logan WV to perform brother Richardson's Masonic rites. I did a lot of travelling since the Fall. In December I, along with Deputy Grand Master Kelvin Elmore and RW Junior Grand Warden Kenneth Hale attended the Grand Communication of the MWPHGL of MD. MWGM Emanuel Stanley made me an Honorary Past Grand Master. DGM Elmore and RWJGW Hale were made Honorary members of Maryland. They even issued us official membership cards and certificates to make it official. The DGM and myself also attended the Grand session of the MWPHGL of the District of Columbia. MWGM Phillip David also made me an Honorary PGM. Both visitations were a wonderful experience and it would be rewarding for any Mason to attend.

In March, we attended the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Grand Masters, Grand Worthy Matrons, and Grand Worthy Patrons. The MWPHGL of D.C. was the host, but it was held in Arlington, Virginia. That was also a great experience. All the Grand Masters of the Mid-Atlantic region were in attendance. The host Grand Lodge did a top notch job putting on this 2 day event. We were informed that it was our turn to host the next conference. The next Mid-Atlantic conference will be held in Martinsburg, WV. Grand Worthy Matron Angelia Russell and myself have already composed a committee of which PGM Phillip Adams will be the Chairman.

On May 15th thru the 19th, we will be attending the Conference of Grand Masters Grand Worthy Matrons and Grand Worthy Patrons in Nassau, Bahamas. Please pray for safe travels for all us who will be representing WV and all other attendees.

Finally, our Grand session is fast approaching and I hope those who are able will attend. The Embassy Suites in Charleston is a very nice hotel, and to get a suite for \$119.00 is a great deal. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

(The following two articles were submitted by the Honorable Jeffrey Calcote 33° for your information):

The Freemason Test

by R. W. Bro. Gerald Sharpe

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, the story is told of a Mason who always wore his Masonic ring and lapel pin when in public. On some occasions, he rode the bus from his home to the downtown area. On one such trip and when he sat down, he discovered the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter; who would worry about this little amount." Anyway, the transit company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a gift from God' and keep quiet. When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change." The driver with a smile replied, "I noticed your Masonic ring and lapel pin. I have been thinking lately about asking a Mason how to join. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. You passed the test.

Can you tell me how to become a Mason?" When the Mason stepped off the bus, he said a silent prayer, "Oh God, Grand Architect of the Universe, I almost sold you and my beloved Masons out for a mere quarter."

Our actions are the only Masonic creed some will ever see. This is a really almost scary example of how people watch us as Masons and may put us to the test even without us realizing it! Always be diligent, whether it is at the theater, restaurant, grocery, service station or just driving in traffic. Remember, whether it is a lapel pin, a ring, or an emblem on the car, you carry the name of our great fraternity on your shoulders whenever you call yourself a Mason. You never can tell who might be watching!

WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?

A Mason is sometimes asked by a friend, a neighbor, or a business associate, "What do the Masons do?" The question may be worded more generally, "What are the Masons?"

In either case, the Brother is challenged by the realization that there is no simple answer which he can rattle off "from the top of his head," because the questioner is really asking him for a comprehensive explanation about what organized Freemasonry is, what its principles and purposes are, what programs it is engaged in, how it carries them out, and what satisfactions the individual Mason derives from his Masonic membership.

Some of these considerations arouse the fraternal doubt that "you can't tell that," or "that's secret," so that the Brother's reply is marked by hesitation or reluctance to explain.

Puzzled by the difficulty of knowing what facets of the vast subject of Freemasonry the questioner is really inquiring about, the Mason "just doesn't know where to begin, " and too often may avoid a simple statement of facts. He isn't sure of what to say.

Or, knowing that his questioner is a "practical man of affairs" who measures outcomes quantitatively, in materialistic terms, he realizes that Freemasonry's reputation cannot be explained by charts, statistics, or financial statements, because the Fraternity's real worth can be expressed only in spiritual terms, and that is rather difficult to explain to the uninitiated. Masonic

terminology, the most comfortable words with which to reply, seems inadequate or out of place. Masonic "secrecy" gets in the way.

Embarrassment is probably the commonest cause of a Brother's difficulty in replying to the question. He is embarrassed because he realizes that he doesn't really know enough about the Fraternity to give a good simple reply. He knows that there is much more Masonic activity going on in other lodges all over the country and throughout the world, but he has never taken the time to experience some of it or to read about it with real interest. He hasn't given much thought to the subject. He never expected to be asked such a question by a non-Mason outside the lodge. Even though he has experienced Masonry, he has never tried to express in words just what Freemasonry means to himself.

A well-informed Brother, therefore, will prepare himself for the possibility of being asked such a question. Even though no one ever asks the question, he will have the confidence of knowing what Freemasonry means, especially to himself.

First of all, he will determine to give a Masonic answer, one which asserts the real nature of the Fraternity as a spiritual force, as "a way of life" which seeks to improve men morally and spiritually, by associating with other idealistic men who want to improve the quality of life around them by means of a brotherhood which emphasizes the Fatherhood of God.

In an age which derides ideals, absolutes, the concepts of law and order, and advocates relativism instead of standards of excellence, which angrily demands rights instead of responsibility, and which preaches a nihilistic doctrine of individualism (doing your own thing), Masons find it difficult to explain the Fraternity's idealism and its charitable and educational purposes. But it must be done. A Mason must give a Masonic answer to the question, "What are the Masons."

There are really so few "secrets" which a Mason is required to keep, and so much that he should be proud to proclaim to others, that his principal concern in answering questions is probably the doubt that he can give an adequate Masonic reply.

The esoteric parts of the ritual work, the grips and pass-words of the three degrees, these are really the only "secrets" which should be kept inviolate. Because it is impossible to communicate to the uninitiated the joys and satisfactions of brotherhood experienced in "the labors of the lodge," this too becomes a secret because it is inexpressible.

But there is so much that can be told about Freemasonry, about the particular lodge, about the individual Mason, that the real problem in answering the question, "What do the Masons do?" is to say only enough to satisfy the questioner without boring or distracting him.

He can point out that Freemasonry is an educational organization. By means of the ritualistic ceremonies and other educational programs, Masons learn and teach the truths of morality, justice, patriotism, and the necessity of brotherly love to achieve those universal ideals. Reverence for the Great Architect is inculcated because men are brothers only if they are related to God as the, sons of the Creator Father.

He can explain that Masonic meetings, while resembling the meetings of any organized society, have a distinctly Masonic character.. They are opened and closed with prayer. They are patriotic because the nation's flag is kept in an honored place in the lodge and properly saluted with the pledge of allegiance. They are opened and closed with Masonic ceremonies to remind the

members of the principal purposes of the Fraternity, which are to develop brotherly love and respect for truth, not the truths of scientific facts or history, but the truths which guide a man to live happily and harmoniously with his fellow man.

For that reason Masonic meetings do not permit the introduction of discussions about sectarian religious differences or partisan political opinions. A Masonic lodge, if it is working seriously, teaches its members the principles involved in attaining a universal Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

A Mason is also free to explain that Freemasonry is a charitable organization, which acts to relieve the distress of local individuals who are victims of calamity, and that it has created programs and institutions to care for its needy senior citizens, or to provide scholarship aid for worthy and needy young people in college. Masonic Homes and Hospitals, Grand' Lodge Scholarship Programs, Charity Funds, and the Hospital Visitation Program of the Masonic Service Association are examples of such achievements.

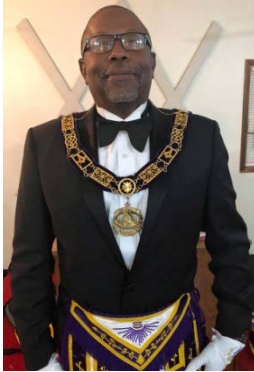
Freemasonry is also, but not primarily, a social organization, which arranges special meetings to which are invited wives, children, neighbors and friends for the purposes of entertainment and sociability. Masons seek the pleasure of associating with other members of the community, hoping thereby to reveal the serious and idealistic nature of the Fraternity's objectives.

There is so much that a Mason can tell about his beloved Fraternity. But the way in which he tells it is more important than what he tells. When a Mason is conscious and proud of the moral and spiritual achievements he has made through Masonry, when he has been inspired to display the beauties of friendship, morality, and brotherly love, when he realizes that his own personal life is the most important evidence he can give to show what a Mason is, he usually finds it very easy to talk about the Fraternity to his non-Masonic friends. When he knows that his lodge is a spiritual force, when it is learning and teaching its members the universal ideals of the Craft, when it is actively promoting charitable programs and pursuing truth, he will tell what Freemasonry is with conviction and enthusiasm.

But he must know what he is talking about. This essay suggests only in general terms what he can talk about. He should be prepared to fill in the details. When he is convinced that he can supply those details, he is ready to answer the questions, "What do the Masons do?" and "What are the Masons?"

When he is asked the question he must then decide on how much or how little to say. A brief but adequate reply is advised, for if the questioner is not satisfied, he will undoubtedly ask for further information. The following answer is only a suggestion.

"Masons are men who voluntarily asked to join a lodge. They were accepted because they were good men who believe in God and hold high ethical and moral ideals. They go to meetings which they call the lodge, in order to learn and to teach what 'friendship, morality, and truth really involve, and to practice on a small scale the reality of brotherhood. They also have meetings open to their wives, children, and friends where they promote an understanding of the serious nature of the Fraternity by entertainment and sociability. Practical programs for charity and relief are planned and executed. The special kinship they feel for each other as a brotherhood is their deepest satisfaction."



RWDGM Kelvin Elmore 32°

First and foremost in my life, I must always give thanks to our Father who resides in Heaven and to his son Jesus, the Christ Child, who died for the pardoning of our sins. I shall remain a servant and one day hope to sit before him and hear the words; “WELL DONE MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.”

To all Masons who belong to this organization, I will now give you words of wisdom that I pray will hold true to your hearts. I want to thank you for still having faith in me to assist our Grand Lodge in traveling into the future. We, as a body, need to stay focused and move continually forward. I have studied Masonry for many years under the tutelage of former Past Grand Masters and Officers, Elected and Appointed. I have studied under Worshipful Masters, Wardens, and Master Masons and I have found that they and I all want the same thing. The thing that we all want is for The Most Worshipful Grand Prince Hall Grand Lodge of West Virginia to grow and for each one of us to learn the true meaning of Masonry. We must strive to place our mark on history to show that the State of West Virginia is a leader in this Masonic Family.

Lately, I have been going over prior Masonic Bulletins and the Minutes from our Sessions. I noticed the pride exhibited in the Brothers from the days of the 1930's into the 21st century. These Gentlemen placed a pride on being Masons that we should emulate at all times. We have one Ritual and each and every Lodge within our borders should be using this one book and none other. We need to be uniform, no matter which District or city that we attend. This alone would do wonders when we assist others in the Entered Apprentice Degree, Fellow Craft Degree, and the Master Mason Degree. Everyone being on the same page would so impress the candidates, hearing the same conversation from all present. PGM James T. Ware was instrumental in creating the Ritual, which was to ensure that all Lodges were functioning under one umbrella. Let us strive to get back to what was implemented in 1957.

Now let's move forward with what we have now. We are once again becoming known throughout the Masonic Family of Prince Hall. Some have walked the walk and talked the talk to bring this recognition back. I have traveled and put our name up front with anyone that I have met. They know that we are doing work here in West Virginia. Our State was once the apex of Masonry in the Mid Atlantic Conference. Those elder gentlemen brought Masons into our State and traveled to others where they laid down those great plans and they were highly respected for their ideas. We are special and should strive to continue what these gentlemen have done before us. They laid down the road in which we are to travel.

I ask that as we continue this growth that we read, learn, take in as much West Virginia Masonic knowledge, and adhere to that learning as it was intended. We can see an increase in numbers by showing our younger men a new direction. No one has ever told you that life was going to be easy and neither is drawing young men to our order. They need to see us and hear about what we are doing and what we are all about. If we have ten young men in attendance and we obtain just one, we have changed someone's world forever. I have been fighting the good fight and I shall continue to fight that war. We have too much to lose.

I want to end by stressing the need for us to have great leaders and not just friends in the head of our organization. It was once explained to me that weak leaders will cause you to fail. In no intent am I saying anyone is wrong, but we have to survive and making good choices will move

us in the proper direction. I also ask that you strive to be the best Mason that you can be. Learn, teach, act and travel as Men and Masons. Let your Light be so bright that no one has to ask, but when they see you, they shall know from whence you came.

God bless you.

FIRST DISTRICT

Steve Holmes 32° 1st DDGM

Gail Rhodes 1st DDGWM

The First District is doing well. Brothers of Harmony Lodge #42 have brought in seven new brothers, and Star Lodge #1 has brought in three.

Star Lodge #1 Senior Officers for the current year are as follows:

Worshipful Master - Miguel Greer; Senior Warden - William Bailey; Junior Warden - Tyler Payton; Treasurer - PGM Harold Stewart; Secretary - PM/Grand Trustee Steven Hill; Chaplain - George Jackson.

Three newly raised brothers have been appointed to positions.

Three Star Lodge #1 personnel are Grand Lodge officers:

Past Grand Master Harold Stewart - Grand Secretary; Past Master Robert Holmes 33° - Grand Marshal; and Past Master Steven Hill - Grand Trustee.

Star Lodge has three Past Grand Masters:

PGM James Tolbert 33° (deceased); PGM George Rutherford 33°; and PGM Harold Stewart 32°

**** Past Master Charles Ferguson 33**** is the only Brother in the First District to serve as Worshipful Master of two First District Lodges. He was Worshipful Master of the former Mt. Pisgah Lodge #3 and Star Lodge #1. He is a member of the Order of Eastern of Star, along with his wife Sister Evelyn Ferguson of Deborah #38. PM Ferguson is the oldest member of the First District and possibly the MWPHGL F & AM Inc., of West Virginia at the age of 95. He is a retired United States Air Force Veteran. Thank you sir, for your service to our country, and the Masonic order.

****Star Lodge #1** continues to be active in the community by assisting in the relocation of homeless personnel to various churches on weekends. They had a food project conducted during the Thanksgiving Holidays. They have a Christmas Project as well.

Star Lodge #1 Community Service

Jefferson County Community Ministries (JCCM) provides several services to the needy in Jefferson County including food, clothing, money for prescriptions, lodging, etc... The community is very generous with their donations to JCCM. In 2004 it became apparent that JCCM could not handle the volume of clothing received and Goodwill had stopped taking the excess clothing. Bro. Harold Stewart serves on the Board at JCCM, has a pickup truck and was asked if he could dispose of the overflow of clothes. The Rescue Mission in Martinsburg, WV about 15 miles away said they would accept the clothes. Bro. Harold Stewart brought it before the Lodge to make it a community service project for the Lodge and the Lodge agreed and

started removing the clothes and cardboard on a regular bases in the spring of 2004. As an example what this involved, in 2018 the lodge removed 1064 bags of clothes, undetermined amount of cardboard and food that had reached the “Best if Used by (date)” and could not be given to the clients. Using the IRS mileage rate of \$.55.5 per mile for the 1260 miles used transporting the bags and cardboard equated to a \$700 in-kind donation not counting the 65 hrs. of manpower. In 2016 the lodge removed 1201 bags of clothes, undetermined amount of cardboard and food that had reached the “Best if Used by (date)” and could not be given to the clients. An outlet was found for this food and it was not just taken to the dump. Using the IRS mileage rate of \$.55.5 per mile for the 1740 miles used transporting the bags and cardboard equated to a \$966 in-kind donation, not counting the 89 hrs. of manpower.

Homeless Shelter



Jefferson County does not have a permanent shelter for the homeless. Different churches in the county volunteered to give them shelter on a weekly basis. This is also coordinated through JCCM. Star Lodge volunteered to assist with these moves with manpower and trucks to make the moves weekly from November through March each year since 2014. The brothers turned out to make the moves every Saturday morning, rain, snow or cold they were there.

DINNERS FOR NINE FAMILIES



Thanksgiving 2018 the Lodge took the opportunity to provide 9 families with complete dinners, including turkey and all the trimmings. This was done through individual donations from the lodge brothers.

Coat Drive

In December of 2018 the Lodge donated \$1,015.00 to the Potato Hill Reunion Committee for their annual coat drive for the needy. Sections of Charles Town were given different names by, I don't know who. One of those sections is Potato Hill and they have an annual reunion. Dog Town and Big End are other names given to sections of the town.

Brothers of Harmony Lodge #42

The Brothers of Harmony continue to function as required by our constitution. They recently raised seven new brothers into the Masonic order. The current officers are as follows:

Worshipful Master: Keenan Puller 32°; Darryl Young 32° Senior Steward; Senior Warden: Marty Brown; Junior Warden: Silas Brown 32°; Senior Deacon: Calvin Burke; Junior Deacon: Curtis Taylor; Tiler: Paul Rosario 32°; and PM/Grand Trustee John Stevenson continues to serve in the capacity of Lodge Secretary, a position he has held for 20 years or more. He is assisted by Master Mason Arturo Gales.



**PM Clarence Branson is the Lodge Chaplain, and member of the Grand Lodge Ministerial staff. He is also the Assistant Treasurer of BOH #42.

** PGM Phil Adams 33° has the honor of serving as the Brothers of Harmony Lodge #42 first ever elected MWPHGL F & AM Inc., Grand Master. He continues to serve as the BOH #42 Treasurer for over twenty years. BOH #42 has 10 or more 32nd Degree Masons and Past Masters.

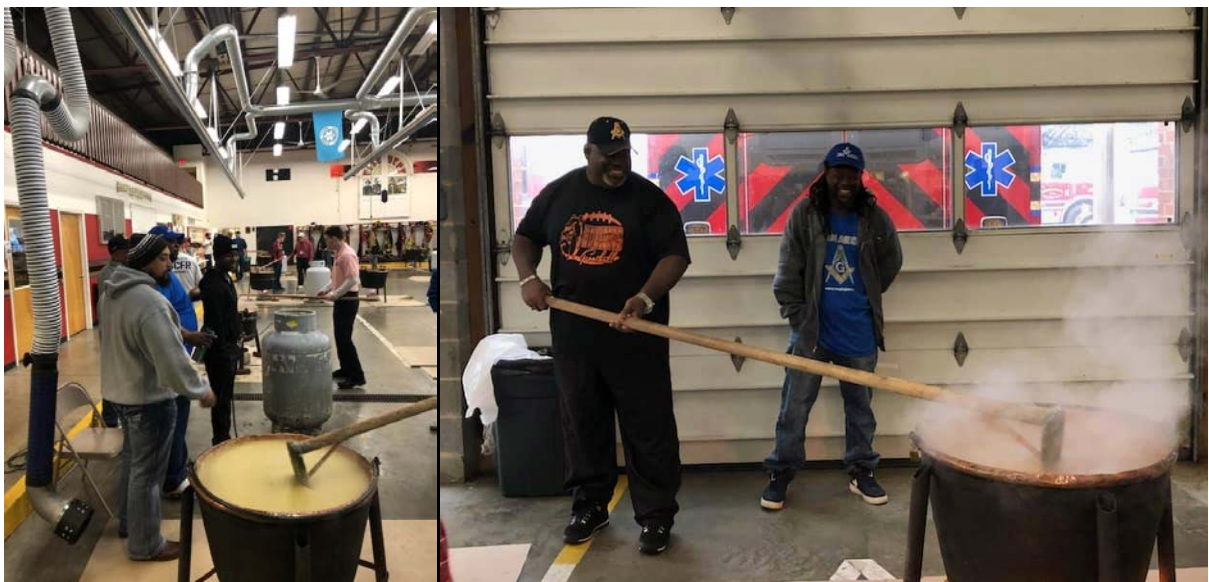
The First District lost a great pillar in PGM James Tolbert, and BOH #42 lost PM Edgar Kidrick in December 2018.

BOH#42 Grand Lodge Officers:

PGM Phil Adams 33° PGM's Council; Grand Trustee John Stevenson 32°; Grand Trustee Michael Branson 32°; Worshipful Grand Chaplain's Staff - PM John Birkhead 32° Grand Senior Deacon; Grand Trustee - Chris Brown 32°; First District Deputy Steve Holmes 32° - Chairman of Jurisprudence Committee; Grand Tiler - Charles Kidrick 32°; and Grand Junior Deacon - John Johnson 32*

The First District Subordinate Lodges wish to thank the entire Jurisdiction for their love and support of bereavement, illness, and other special situations during the year.

Brothers of Harmony Making Apple Butter at the Fire House





THIRD DISTRICT

Dr. Ronald Jones 3rd DDGM
Cora Hairston 3rd DDGWM

On December 16, 2018, Williamson Crown Lodge #16 and the Third District hosted the St. John's Dinner, with RWDGM Kevin Elmore as the guest speaker. RWDGM Elmore was described as a man on Fire. He did an awesome job representing the Grand Lodge of WV and the Jurisdiction. Sister Dionne Brown GAC Naomi #10 of Montgomery WV represented the O.E.S., PGWM Juanita Hooks and WM Eileen Bell are recognized for their assistance with the Dinner. Rev. Gerald Dotson for allowing the use of the Church Social Hall at Logan Street First Baptist. PGM George Childress; PM Henry Moore; Bro. PJ Wright; PM Carl Johnson; PM Tim Cunningham; and PM Thomas Tolliver were also recognized for their assistance.





Brothers and Sisters who attended the St. John's Dinner



Brothers attending the Masonic Rites for RWGS Emeritus/HPGM Ivan C. Richardson, Sr. 33°

FOURTH DISTRICT

Sidney George 4th DDGM

Lydia Joyce 4th DDGWM

34 years of service: Retiring Judge Booker Stephens fondly remembers time serving McDowell
by GREG JORDAN Bluefield Daily Telegraph – March 17, 2019



Eighth Judicial Circuit Judge Booker T. Stephens of McDowell County sits at his office desk on Wednesday. Stephens sent a letter to Gov. Jim Justice in late December announcing his plans to retire on May 31, after serving 34 years on the bench

Stephens' office walls are decorated with the many plaques and awards he has received during his prestigious tenure serving the people of McDowell County.





WELCH — His office’s walls are covered with photos of family, photos of friends, and certificates representing the memories accumulated during long years of serving his community as a lawyer, a state delegate and as a circuit court judge. In a few weeks, those memories will come off those walls as he embarks on the next stages of his life.

In late December 2018, Eighth Judicial Circuit Judge Booker T. Stephens of McDowell County sent a letter to Gov. Jim Justice announcing his plans to retire on May 31 after serving 34 years on the bench.

Now 74, Stephens was born in Bluefield and grew up in McDowell County. He graduated from West Virginia College in 1966 with a bachelor’s degree in political science and Spanish, and in 1972 from the Howard University School of Law. Stephens served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968 and practiced law in Welch from 1972 to 1984. He was an assistant prosecutor from 1976 to 1977 and a member of the House of Delegates from 1978 to 1982.

During his years of service, Stephens has received many awards such as Outstanding Judge of the Year in 1993 and 2016; the Governor’s Living The Dream Award, Martin L. King, Jr., Holiday Commission in 2003; West Virginia Bar Foundation Fellow in 2003; and Layman of the Year in 1995 from the West Virginia Baptist State Layman’s Auxiliary.

Stephens took time after presiding over some hearings to speak about his career and plans for the approaching future.

“Well, I was elected in November 1984 and I took the oath of office Jan. 1, 1985,” Stephens recalled after sitting down at his desk. “So you can do the math, it’s going to be 34 to 35 years. I became licensed to practice law in West Virginia in 1972, and I started practicing here in 1975.” Even back in high school, Stephens knew that he wanted to become an attorney.

“I had set that as a goal when I was in high school and fortunately I was able to bring that to fruition.” He said. “I always wanted to be of service to people and I saw that as a way of doing it; and ironically enough, I’m just so proud after I finished law school and came back here, that there were actually some teachers who had taught me in elementary, junior high and high school who came to me as clients for different little matters; and it made me feel so good to do something for them who had helped me tremendously growing up and becoming an adult.”

His childhood home is not far from the courthouse where he has practiced law for years. His parents, Robert and Estella Stephens, had traveled to the coalfields to start a new life.

“I’m from a little place called Warrior Mines, which is one mile from War, W.Va. That’s where I was raised and had very good people there,” he said. “My dad was a coal miner for 25 years and my mother did domestic work for others in the community, washed clothes for them and ironed their clothes. Made cakes and pies and sold them so my brother and I would have a little extra money when we went away to college.

“My parents had migrated from Alabama. My dad came up to work in the coal mining industry with two or three of his other brothers who came with him, and that was the drawing card for them to leave Alabama and come up here,” Stephens said. “And I was born in ’44, my brother was born in ’40, so they must have come up here I’m saying late 1930s or mid-30s, 1930s.”

A picture of his brother, Robert L. Stephens Jr., hangs near his desk. It’s immediately apparent that his brother is wearing an Army uniform.

“He’s a retired brigadier general, United States Army,” Stephens said. “Very proud of him.” Both the Stephens brothers did well in their chosen careers, and they credit their parents for giving them the support they needed to succeed.

“I tell you, our parents were third grade graduates, didn’t complete high school, but had a strong belief in their children and just taught us that they felt education was the key to success,” Stephens said.

He smiled. “And my brother and I were foolish enough to believe that. They wanted us to get the very best education we could get, and obviously like most parents I hope even are today, they wanted us to have a better life than they had. And they just felt if we got the good education and then put forth the effort that opportunities would open up and we would be able to succeed; and they supported us and loved us and sacrificed for us in order for that to be accomplished.”

People who watch as Judge Stephens presides over cases at the McDowell County Courthouse often see how he carefully watches jurors and notices when the strain of following testimony and attorneys’ arguments are starting to tire them. He often urges them to stand up and stretch, and even allows a smoke break if necessary. These breaks help ensure that justice is being served.

“Everybody’s entitled to a fair trial and keep it in mind, jurors sacrifice tremendously to come here and serve and do their civic duties,” he said. “I’ve always been partial to them for that sacrifice because we take them away from their homes, their employment, their families, but they answer the call and they come in and do a tremendous job for the judicial and legal system. “The reason I monitor them and check on them periodically is to make sure they are still paying attention, listening and observing. Sometimes if we don’t take appropriate breaks, they will become a little tired and restless; so I do it on purpose and make them move around sometimes, ask them to stand up and stretch,” he stated. “I do it on purpose to make sure they are paying attention and listening to the evidence and everything that’s going on to make sure they can make sound and just decisions. That’s the primary reason for that.”

The court has been the scene of many cases. Each case is important to somebody, Stephens said.

“All cases are important cases to somebody, but we’ve had some high profile case, high profile and noteworthy type cases I’ve had the honor of presiding in,” he recalled. “Unfortunately some were murder cases where people lost their lives, and some of them are worse than others.”

However, there is at least one day every year when the courtroom’s filled with smiling students and the walls are covered with posters featuring elements of United States law and the legal system. It’s a day when students learn about the law and receive recognition for their efforts. That day is Law Day. Every year, Stephens and Judge Rudolph J. Murensky II sponsor contests featuring a Law Day topic chosen by the American Bar Association.

“Around 1993 I became the representative from the West Virginia Judicial Association to the American Bar Association, so I would go to the American Bar Association’s annual meetings during those years. That’s how Law Day came about because the American Bar Association was promoting that and so I came back and in 1996 I said, ‘I think I’m going to start Law Day in McDowell County,’” Stephens said. “My primary reason for starting that was to give our young people, the students in McDowell County, an opportunity to show their talents and to make them have some self esteem and feel good about themselves for projects they engaged in.

“As a result, we would give them awards for their accomplishments, and it also involved not only the students, but it gave the parents and grandparents and family members a chance to see their children doing something positive. Teachers in the education system got very involved in that because they had to make sure the students did the projects and did them well. I just saw it as a very positive atmosphere where young people would not put themselves in the position where they felt less than anyone else, but could actually show the county and the state just how bright they were and how much they could accomplish,” Stephens said.

“And, of course, the bottom line was to make sure that they understood what the rule of law was. It’s always based on the rule of law, the theme is. So that’s what the projects would be designed around, the theme. That was the reason we started it here,” he stated.

Law Day has been hosted at the McDowell County Courthouse for years.

“Coming up May 1, it will be our 23rd consecutive year doing it and we have the biggest and best – I always say that and I boast about it a little bit – we have the biggest and best Law Day celebration in the entire state. And I’m very proud of that. Not for any personal aggrandizement, but I get so much enjoyment out of seeing our young people feel good about themselves and to be able to show just how talented they really are. That brings joy to my heart,” Stephens said. Students participate in contests with essays, posters, video competitions and other examples of their work. And by competing in these contests, the students can feel better about themselves and feel good about what they can actually accomplish.

“We want them to understand the rule of law, and the other part of it is we’re certainly are glad to see them in that setting rather than as a juvenile charged with a crime or something like that,” Stephens said.

Stephens is still planning for his future after retirement, but he hopes to keep working with Law Day.

“I don’t know if I’ll participate every year, but I’ll certainly participate in the future. I’m confident that Judge Murensky and whoever replaces me will continue it. I certainly hope to be

around for some of them in the future,” he said. “I don’t know if I’ll be around for all of them. For some of them in the future, I hope to come back and share in the enjoyment of it and see that the young people are still doing the right thing.”

Besides helping with future Law Day celebrations, Stephens has other plans after he leaves the bench. Working with his wife, Gloria, is one part of his plans.

“My wife has a law office here and I’ll do some work with her and I’ll do some mediation,” he said. “And we have our first grandson (Sebastian) I’ve told people, who’s 10 months old. We hope to do some traveling; he’s in Los Angeles. We’ll be doing a fair amount of traveling in my retirement. I’ll be going to Florida periodically.”

He could also put his experience to work by returning to the judge’s bench from time to time. There are times when a judge must recuse himself or herself from a case because they worked with a defendant in the past or know a defendant personally.

“I might do some senior status judge work. That’s a possibility also,” Stephens said. “And you know that happens; say in Mercer County if all the judges were to recuse themselves (from a case), they call on judges who are on senior status to do a particular case. I might do some of that also.”

Stephens had advice for people who want to consider a career in the law. Even people who are in their 50s or 60s can consider becoming an attorney.

“I would tell them there is no greater profession than being a lawyer because you get an opportunity to be of service in many ways to people. I would tell them to prepare themselves, to do well in school, to read a lot and you have to be able to write pretty well also,” Stephens said. “I used to think you had to have a degree in political science or criminal justice, something related to the law to become a lawyer, but that’s not the case.

“Anyone can become a lawyer. It doesn’t depend what your major was in college or anything like that,” he stated. “It helps to have a legal background, certainly, but there’s just so many facets of the law that engages you to be of service; and if that’s a key component in a person’s life, that they want to be of service, then I know of no greater profession than being a lawyer.”

FIFTH DISTRICT

Thomas Conner III 32° 5th DDGM
PGWM Jacqueline Hornbuckle 5th DDGWM

On December 1, 2018 Naomi #10 held their elections with the following results:

Worthy Matron – Patrice Williams; Worthy Patron – Raleigh L. Collins, Sr. 32°; Associate Matron – Dionne “Dee Dee” Brown; Associate Patron – Joel Acey; Conductress – Leahgreatta Chiles Hairston; Associate Conductress – Sinette Reynolds; Secretary – Lilly Collins; Treasurer –Paulette Brown

Naomi’s Annual Valentine’s Day Party at Montgomery Elderly Care



On February 14, 2019 Naomi spent Valentine’s Day celebrating the residents of Montgomery Elderly Care. They enjoyed light refreshments and gifts provided by chapter members. Before the day’s festivities commenced a King and Queen was crowned! Some of the residents do not receive visitors, therefore this annual event is very special for all able to attend. Naomi’s relationship with the nursing home extends beyond this day as Sis. Paulette Brown is a regular volunteer providing musical selections for the residents.

The “Cover-Me-Up” 2018 Clothing Drive

Naomi #10 and Bright Hope Lodge #9 teamed up for the 2018 “Cover-Me-Up” Clothing Drive, it was a huge success. Items received this year were donated to Pastor Robin M. Davis of The First Baptist Church of Gallagher. Donations are still coming in and being distributed to various charitable organizations in Kanawha and Fayette Counties.





Christmas Tour taken by Sisters of
Naomi Chapter #10

Nazarene #20, O. E. S. 2018 Elected and Appointed Officers Election held Saturday, December 8, 2018:

Worthy Matron – Suzanne Smith; Associate Matron – Pinkie Claytor; Worthy Patron – Ray B. Woods, Jr. 32°; Associate Patron – Hughlen J. Jones, Jr. 32°; Conductress – Brenda Williams; Associate Conductress – Carol J Cyrus; Treasurer – Cadaris B. Woods; Secretary – Annette W. Jones; Adah – Doris Claytor; Ruth – Thelma Blanks; Esther – Annabelle Smith; Martha – Margaret A. Williams; Electa – Alice Nabors.



Members of Nazarene
Chapter #20 Ringing Bells
for the Salvation Army:
Associate Patron Ray B.
Woods, Jr.; PGWM
Cadaris B. Woods; Worthy
Patron Hughlen J. Jones,
Jr. and Conductress
Annette W. Jones. Not
pictured are Worthy
Matron Suzanne Smith;
PM Alice Nabors; and PM
Pinkie Claytor

Washington Lodge #4 & Nazarene Chapter #20 held their Annual Christmas party on Saturday, for the children and adults at the Orchard Manor Housing Complex Switzer Center. Nearly 100 Christmas gifts were distributed by Santa Claus (aka SW Joel Acey of Bright Hope #9) to the children. Pizza, hot dogs, soda and ice cream with sprinkles were served. See photos.



Nazarene #20 selling hot dogs to fund scholarships



LISTENING TOUR VISITS INSTITUTE



CHRIS DORST | Gazette-Mail

Kenny Hale of Charleston talks with Julie Palas, director of the state Catastrophic Illness Commission and director of the West Virginia Women's Commission, during a stop on the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs' listening tour at West Virginia State University Tuesday. The Office of Minority Affairs is traveling the state to hear the concerns and issues of various communities.

RWGJW Kenneth L. Hale, Sr. 32° participated in the Listening Tour sponsored by the Herbert H. Henderson Office on Minority Affairs.

Alexander Freeman Lodge #2 is doing very well and steadfast in their efforts to mold our men and reflecting the change we want and desire in our community.

Elected Officers:

Worshipful Master: Willie F. Kates; Senior Warden: Keenan Rhodes; Junior Warden: Berry Westmoreland; Treasurer: Charles Newsom; Secretary: J.C. Kelly

Sickness and Distress:

PM Thomas Kincaid Jr.; PM Lionel Hope Jr.; PM Donald Simms Sr.; PM Detroit Lewis; PM Edmond Hornbuckle; and PM Keelon Hinton

Deaths:

PM Bishop Medcalf, Jr

Community Services/Upcoming Events:

Regularly visitation of brethren, widows, and community members who are ill;

Help Boys Club with back to school party food for children;

MWGM visit (September 2018);

Help Boys Club with Halloween Party (October 2018);

City Mission Donation (November 2018);

Ring the bell for the Salvation Army for Christmas (December 2018);

50/50 Raffle (June 2018);

Juneteenth Celebration AD Lewis (Fish Fry);

Pancake Breakfast for Noni Beauty Salon (December 2018);

Fish Fry (date to be determined);

2 Brothers were brought in for their Initiation, First and Second Lecture in 2018 in the 1st Degree;

Currently one person is going through the 1st Degree (Derek Robinson);
 Currently two people are going through their 2nd Degree;
 Communicate with STARS for more events (Meetings are scheduled); and finally:
 Most of the event pictures are attached.

Respect to our Sisters:

Alexander Freeman has always taken pride in maintaining our relationship with our Sisters of Evergreen Chapter # 43. We would like to thank them for their tireless effort. Also in helping aid and planning events to heal our community.



Christmas Pancake Breakfast at the Marie Redd Center sponsored by Noni Salon AF making pancakes.



Ringin bells for The Salvation Army 2018 with the Order of Eastern Star and an Entered Apprentice



Salvation Army 2018



Halloween Party 2018



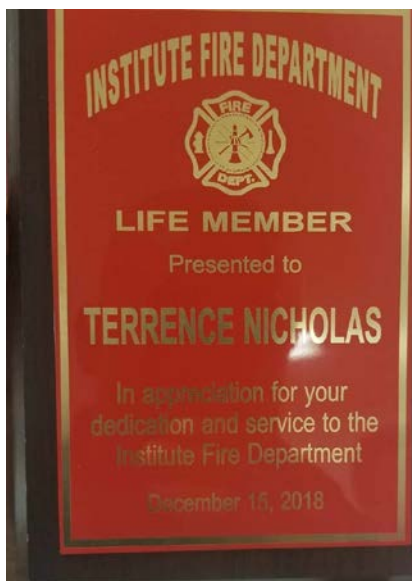
Halloween Party 2018



Halloween Party 2018



Halloween Party 2018



Congratulations are in order for PM Terrence Nicholas of Morgan Lodge #10 for his designation as a “Life Member” of the Institute Fire Department



Brothers attending the Fifth District Meeting on April 28, 2018



DDGM Conner Visit to Bright Hope #9



Congratulations to Brother Jean-Paul (DJ) DeJarnette of Washington Lodge #4, for his recent promotion to the rank of Major with the WV Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation. He supervises 5 adult temporary holding facilities throughout the State of West Virginia.

Brother DeJarnette previously served as a Lieutenant with the WV Division of Juvenile Services.

FOCUS ON A BROTHER



James P. Estes Sr. attended Dunbar Elementary, Cabell Jr High and graduated from Garnet High School in 1947.

After working several jobs, in late 1949 James enrolled in West Virginia State College Vocational in the course of Brick Masonry.

In early 1951 he was employed by the Sherman R Smoot Co, a Minority Mason Masonry Contractor, as an apprentice bricklayer affiliated with the Bricklayers International Union #55 of the State of West Virginia.

In late 1951, James was drafted into the U S Army. After completing basic training in Indiantown Gap, PA, He was sent to Leadership School located at the Gap. After graduating from Leadership School, James had earned the rank of PFC.

In early 1952, The military was just beginning to intergrate the units, James was assigned to Troop B, 15th Constabulary Squadron located in Weiden Germany.

In mid 1952, James was sent to attend the Seventh Army NCO Academy located in Munich, Germany. James attained the distinction of being selected as Honor Graduate Number 3 of class Number 31, Seventh Army NCO Academy. PFC Estes competed with 195 students for this honor. James earned the rank of Corporal.

James was separated from the army in September of 1953, and resumed his employment with Sherman R Smoot Company. After a few months, James was made a foreman, then superintendent.

The Smoot Company worked in cities from Charleston, WV to Parkersburg, WV, North along the Ohio river to East Liverpool, OH, West to Lima, OH, Flint, MI, Cleveland, OH, and Columbia, MD. In 1976 The Sherman R Smoot Company began working as a General Contractor and a Joint Venture Partner.

James was named a Vice President of The Sherman R Smoot Company in 1976. James was the quality control officer of a project in Baltimore, MD for the Social Security Department that consisted of one Twelve Story and one Sixteen Story buildings. The exterior of both buildings consisted of Precast Brick Panels, Eight Feet in Height and some as long as Eighteen Feet Long. It was the first time Precast Brick Panels of this large had ever been used on buildings this size.

James and his brother John left the Smoot Company in 1986 and started a Company of their own. The John James Estes and Associates, Inc.

James retired in 1993.

James was married in 1962 to Joyce, his current wife and purchased a home in Columbus, OH.

James has served on several Boards of Directors. He is currently serving on the Board of Directors of LifeCare Alliance since 1984. He held the position of President in 1990 and 1991 and in 1993 was named a Lifetime Honorary Member.

Brother Estes was Raised in Washington Lodge #4, F. & A. M. in 1955 and continues to be an active supporter of the Lodge and its activities. His father, PM John Estes #4, was the Lodge Secretary for 42 years.

SIXTH DISTRICT

Michael Lee 6th DDGM
PGWM Angelina Calcote 6th DDGWM

Truth Chapter #2 held its Annual Steak Fry in Wheeling, WV to support Breast Cancer



A few of the “Stars” of Truth Chapter #2 pose for the camera.



Sis. Sheila McGhee presenting \$500 check



Sisters and Brothers grillin' steaks



Brothers of King Solomon Lodge #5 supporting Truth Chapter's Annual Event



MWGM Jeffrey Calcote speaks



RWDGM Kelvin Elmore addresses the crowd



The Brothers of Mt. Moriah Lodge #11 held another successful Back Pack Drive for children in the Morgantown area

The Members of The Cacerus Club PHAmily servicing our community. Providing service and extending charity toward others helps us overcome our own difficulties and make them seem less challenging. Just completed the first of TWO drop offs for this year's Annual Toy Drive. "We make a living by what we get..... but we make a Life by what we give." Next drop off will be to the Boys and Girls Club.

#MtMoriah11 #SeasontoGIVE#Welovewhatwedo #PHA



Truth Chapter #2 preparing Stocking Stuffers for the Community



King Solomon Lodge #5 and Truth Chapter #2 Christmas Party. Truth Chapter made baskets for sick and shut-in members!!!!





Thotmas Temple #113 attending Coloconda Temple #24 Annual Charity Ball



Brothers supporting Rising Sun #34 Annual All-Red dance. Having a great time.



King Solomon #5 sponsored a Comedy Show to support MWGM Jeffrey Calcote's trip to the Conference of Grand Masters Conference in the Bahamas



Brothers attending a 6th District meeting



Congratulations to 6th DDGM Michael Lee for winning Ohio County Service Personnel of the year. Brother Lee is described as being kind, compassionate, and attentive to the needs of all students at Triadelphia Middle School.



MWGM Jeffrey Calcote 33° (2nd from rt.) with the Mid-Atlantic Grand Masters in March 2019



GWM Angelia Russell addressing the Mid-Atlantic Conference



WV Delegation



RWDGM Kelvin H. Elmore 32° representing the Jurisdiction of WV at the Jurisdiction of Michigan Grand Session in April 2019



Worshipful Master Kelvin Robinson and RWDGM Kelvin Elmore at The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Michigan. He is the Worshipful Master of Capstone #30 in Detroit, MI. He is the Brother of Past Master Devrix Robinson of Meridian Lodge #17 of Fairmont, WV.

2019 Conference of Grand Masters/Grand Worthy Matrons/Grand Worthy Patrons in Nassau Bahamas.



MWGM Jeffrey Calcote



GM Calcote & PGWM Angelina Calcote



GM Calcote & GWM Angelia Russell



RWDGM Elmore/GM Calcote/GWM Russell/PGWM Calcote



RWDGM Kelvin Elmore & GM Calcote



GWM Russell & PGWM Calcote

Sickness & Distress

MWPGM Homer H. Davis #4
 PWM Daisy Richardson #8
 PM Lacy L. "Coach" Smith #21
 PM Curtis McGhee, Sr. #5
 MWPGM Nash Cunningham #33
 PWM Julia Downing #38
 PM Thomas Kincaid #2
 PM Donald Simms #2
 PM Gilbert Johnson #33 (103 y o a)
 PM Ralph Edwards #5
 PM King Basking #34
 PWM Lula Murrell #49
 Sister Lashone Robinson #37
 PM Sylvester Smith #4
 PGWM Cadaris B. Woods #20

PM Keelon Hinton #2
 PM Aaron Smedley #13
 PGWM Betty C. Smith #8
 PGWP Edmond L. Hornbuckle III #2
 PM Antonio M. Williams #10
 PM Charles Newsome #2
 PM Detroit Lewis #2
 PM Lionel Hope, Jr. #2
 Sister Sandra Edwards #2
 PM Keith Robinson #17
 PM Lawrence Claytor #10
 PM Gerald Johnson #13
 MWGM Jeffrey Calcote #5
 PGWM Jacqueline Hornbuckle #43
 PM Ronald L. Jones #21

IN MEMORIAM



IVAN C. RICHARDSON SR., age 90, formerly of Logan, W.Va., passed away December 16, 2018, at his home in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. A graduate of Aracoma High School in Logan, Ivan worked for Guyan Distributing Company for 32 years and Mingo Bottling Company for another 23 years. He was a 33rd degree Grand Inspector General Mason, F&AM PHA, Inc., and a member of New Salem Baptist Church. Preceded in death by his parents, Lovell and Ozell Richardson, and son, Michael T. Richardson. Survived by his wife of 69 years, Daisy Richardson; children, Anita Brooks, Ivan Richardson Jr., and Vincent Richardson; brothers, Lloyd, Armande, Wilbur, Raymond and Bernard; sisters, June Marie and Jackie; three

grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Home Going Celebration, 12 noon, Friday, December 21, 2018, at New Salem Baptist Church, 2956 Cleveland Ave., Columbus, where his family will receive friends from 11 a.m. until the start of service. Interment Forest Lawn Cemetery in Pecks Mill, W.Va. Arrangements entrusted to Diehl-Whittaker Funeral Service, 720 E. Long St., Columbus.

Brother Richardson was elected by the MWPHGL of WV, F & A M, Inc. as the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary Emeritus for his meritorious service. In addition, he received the designation as a Most Worshipful Honorary Past Grand Master, with all the rights and privileges.



Maggie White
March 20, 1923 – December 18, 2018

Sisters and brothers gathered in Northfork, WV to pay respect and give final OES rites to our dear sister Mrs. Maggie White (Past Grand Officer and Member of Marie Chapter #49).

Grand Officers attending the spiritual celebration of life include: GWM A. Russell; GWP R.L. Collins Sr.; D. Brown; S. Reynolds; L. Collins; S. Washington-Smith; P. Claytor; W. Weaver. Sisters from OES Chapters #12 & #42 assisted with the service: L. Joyce; V. Anderson; L. Dyer; L. Smedley; P. George; R. Gravely; and G. Stephen. Brothers in attendance: J. Collier, R. Redd, L. Parker, A. Smedley.



Celebration of Life for Bishop "Brick" James Medcalf, Jr. was held January 19, 2019 in South Point, Ohio. No one giving words of comfort could keep their remarks within the "2 minute limit," which speaks volume of the well respected life he lived. Resolutions from Gov. Jim Justice and Alexander Freeman #2 were among the many read during the service.

Brothers & Sisters in attendance: 5th DDGM Thomas Conner III #4; MWPGM Calvin Washington; PM J. C. Kelly #2; and Grand Associate Conductress Dionne "Dee Dee" Brown #10.



Heaven has gained another angel with the transition of Sis. Joyce Floyd, Naomi Chapter #10. Service will be 2:00 p.m. Saturday, February 23 at the St. John Missionary Baptist Church, 119 Morris Drive, Montgomery 25136.

Sis. Floyd is the sister of the late W. Grand Junior Deacon William Russell and sister-in-law to GWM Angelia Russell. In this time of sorrow, we find comfort in knowing our dear sister is resting in the arms of her Lord and Savior no longer in pain.

Please keep the family, community and friends in prayer.

Upcoming Events

June 26, 2019 – June 29, 2019 – Annual Grand Session in Charleston, WV at the Embassy Suites. Rates are \$119.00. Included in your rate, Charleston's only all-suite hotel offers:

Not just a standard hotel room, every guestroom is a two-room suite featuring a king size bed or two double beds with a separate parlor room. The "living-room" includes a sofa (which pulls out to a queen sleeper) and chair, wet bar, microwave, mini refrigerator & coffee maker. Each suite also features two televisions and two telephones for the use of your guests.

Complimentary full cooked to order breakfast is included for all of our guests. Breakfast is served daily in our beautiful atrium. ~Valued at \$11.00/person

Guests are invited to the evening Manager's Reception in the atrium lounge area.

Complimentary beer, wine, soda and cocktails are served with hors d'oeuvres each evening from 5:30p.m. – 7:30p.m. ~Valued at \$13.00/person

Complimentary use of fitness center, whirlpool and indoor pool with outdoor patio sunning deck

Complimentary USA Today & Wall Street Journal available in lobby.

Complimentary shuttle service to and from Yeager Airport

Complimentary Wi-Fi in suites (Valued at \$9.95/day)

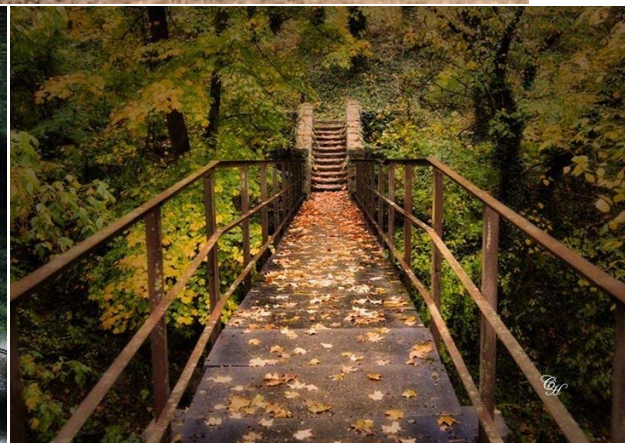
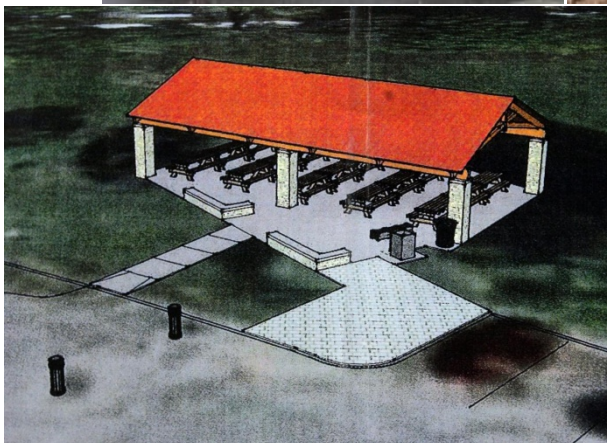
As a proud member of the Hilton Family of hotels, all guests of the property can earn points and miles by signing-up for the Hilton Honors rewards program. For more information, please go to www.hhonors.com.



June 1, 2019 - King Solomon #5, Tuscan Club will be holding their Annual Steak Fry. Come on through and fellowship with us. Always a good time.

July 13, 2019 – Fifth District Cook-Out

Ritter Park is in a beautiful area with a brand new playground for children to enjoy (see attachments). So I am asking that we bring the children and grand children to make this a wonderful family event. Let's all come to fellowship and enjoy life. I am looking forward to breaking bread and talking Masonry with all of you. God Bless! 5th DDGM Thomas Conner III 32°





Masonic Bulletin Submissions

If you have email, please send your articles in electronic format as a Microsoft Word (.doc) document or as a notepad (.txt) document. The Masonic Bulletin will be published two times a year.

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