

# The Sublime

April 2024  
Volume 2

Jackson  
Consistory #117  
Centennial  
Celebration

Who Is  
Gwendolyn Ware ?  
In-depth interview  
with the  
State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler

Rolling Fork  
Tornado Relief  
Fraters and Loyal Ladies  
Extend Help

Mission  
Accomplish  
Orient of Mississippi  
1st Place Large Orient Ad  
Sales Award



# The SUBLIME

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**L.L. Gwendolyn Ware**

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## Article Submission Criteria

### **Article Submission Deadline:**

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All articles should be submitted in Microsoft  
Word and should be 600 to 1,200 words and  
whenever possible, relevant high-resolution  
images with proper credits should be included.

These items should be emailed to:  
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ORIENT OF MISSISSIPPI**

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## The Cover Photo

ILL. Deputy DeJohn Hampton and State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler Gwendolyn Ware attending the United Supreme Council 's 137th Annual Session.

**11**

## **Who Is Gwendolyn Ware ?**

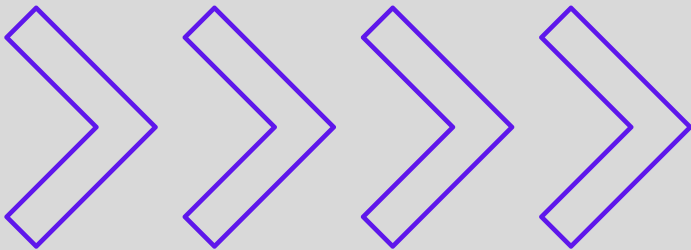
LL Alicia Arrington-Thomas



# LETTER

*From the*


# EDITOR



The Official Magazine of the Magnolia Council of Deliberation, Orient of Mississippi, is produced exclusively to detail our history and the progress made throughout each year. Each issue disseminated will be filled with enlightening and thought-provoking articles and stories from the fraters and loyal ladies within the Orient of Mississippi. The true meaning of the word sublime is the quality of greatness, whether physical, moral, or intellectual. “We hope you enjoy this issue of the magazine. It’s packed with interesting articles and inspiring stories.”

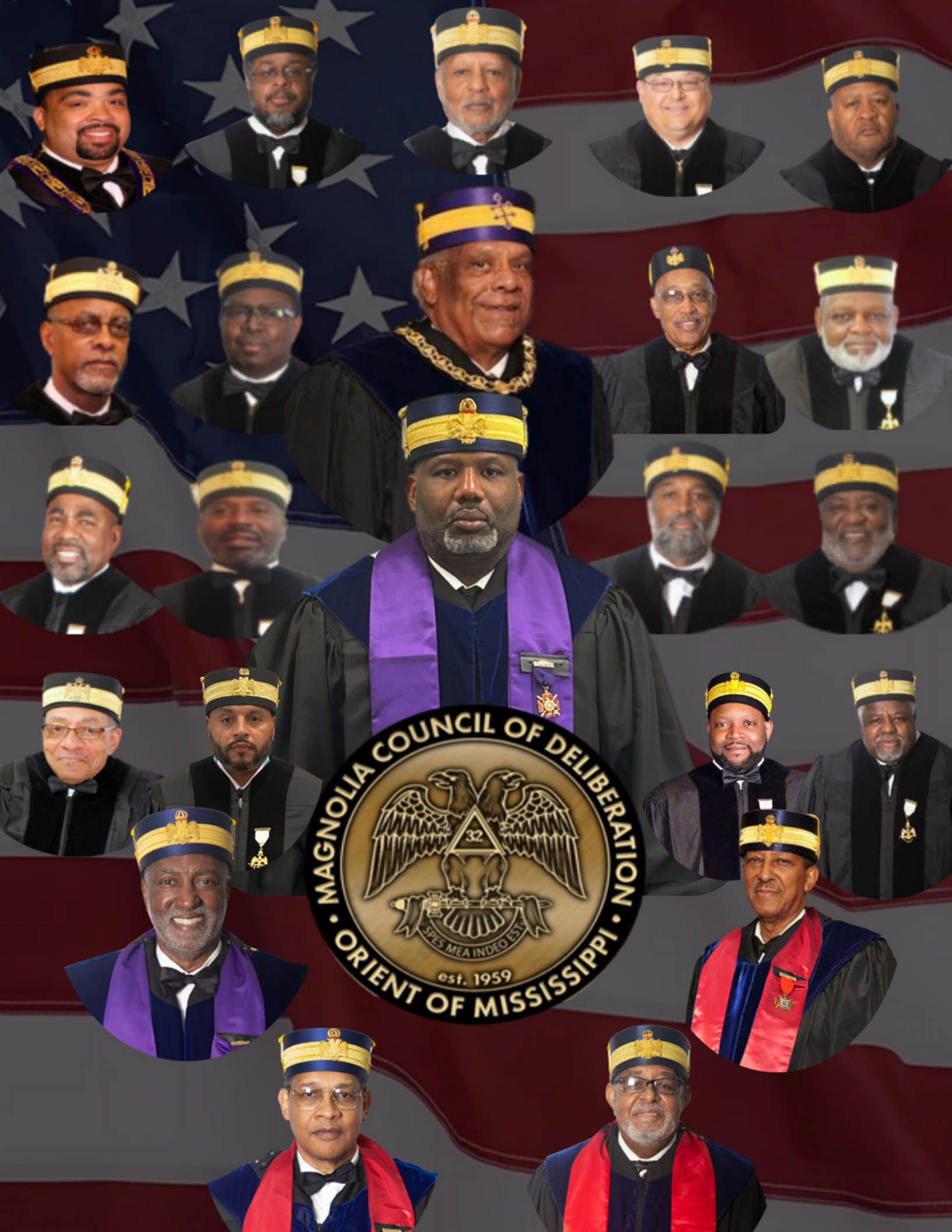
***“The true meaning of the word sublime is the quality of greatness, whether physical, moral, or intellectual.”***

We hope that everyone enjoys its content, and I am most proud of the hard work and dedication of the members of this committee. Their contributions allow our Orient to continue to thrive in the future with technology and innovation for all those that come behind us.

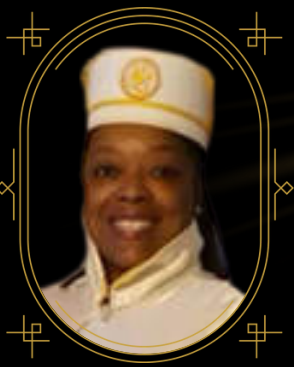
# *Dejane K. Hamilton* 

Deputy for the Orient of Mississippi

*Carrying the Scottish Rite Banner Since 1886!*



*Magnolia State Grand Assembly*



# THE MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM TRAIL MARKER

## REMINDS US WHERE WE ARE TODAY

The wife of Civil Rights Activist, Medgar Evers, remembered, “In the front of the Masonic Temple Building, where Medgar’s office was, there were always two or three squad cars. Officers sat and watched, noting names and descriptions and license numbers on their pads. Arrest of Negroes for minor traffic violations-and for no violations at all-soared” (Myrlie Evers, from For Us, the Living)

The Commemoration of the Unveiling of the Mississippi Trail Unveiling at the MW Stringer Grand Lodge located at 1072 JR Lynch Street in Jackson, MS was an emotional day for so many who lived during that time who fought for equal opportunity for blacks and for those who are still fighting today. However, the meaning of Marker to the M.W. Stringer Grand Lodge has many significant ties that will continue to fight for equality for blacks in the future.

On June 4, 2023, the Honorable Maurice F. Lucas Sr. welcomed members of the community. He mentioned some important events that happened at the Grand Lodge. To name a few, in 1955, the Masonic Temple served as a vital meeting place for civil rights activists, the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party Convention, the offices of the NAACP included President Aaron Henry and Field Secretary Medgar Evers, and the funeral of Medgar Evers in 1963. He felt overjoyed to highlight some events that impacted the temple at M.W. Stringer Grand Lodge by being the pivotal location of historic change due to the actions of the civil rights movements.



Other noted speakers also gave insight into the Mississippi Freedom Trail. “Expanding the Mississippi Freedom Trail to include the M.W. Stringer Grand Lodge is a significant step in preserving and honoring our state’s civil rights heritage,” says John Spann, MHC program and outreach officer. “We are not only recognizing the pivotal role the Lodge played in the Jackson Civil Rights Movement but also ensuring that future generations can learn from and be inspired by the brave men and women who fought for equality and justice. Jackson Advocate News, June 2023



By L.L. Sheila Stewart  
Staff Writer



JOSEPH B. HENDERSON

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**Souvenir Journal Ads for the United Supreme Council**

The Magnolia Council of Deliberation solicits your ad for the 138<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the United Supreme Council, 33<sup>o</sup> Souvenir Journal Ad Booklet. Deputy Hampton has instructed the Orient of Mississippi to send all ads and payments to the appointed ad committee.

For the United Supreme Journal Souvenir Ads, Ill. Steven Crawford, Ill. Steven Lockhart, Ill. Terence Parker and Ill. Patrick Morgan, are the chairpersons of the Souvenir Journal Ads Committee. All Souvenir Journal Ad payments of **\$125.00** should be mailed to:

**Magnolia Council Deliberation**  
**Attention: USC 2024 Ad Committee**  
**P.O. Box 856**  
**Jackson, Ms. 39205**

**Souvenir Journal Ads Checklist**

- DEADLINE TO HAVE ALL ADS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE IS THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024.**
- Complete the ad contact form and proofread your information
- Make sure your picture is clear and save it in a user-friendly format
- Send all Ads electronically by email as an attachment to:  
**magnoliacodsjads@gmail.com**
- Make checks or money orders payable to the: Magnolia Council of Deliberation
- Mail Ad contract and payment to:

**Magnolia Council Deliberation**  
**Attention: USC 2024 Ad Committee**  
**P.O. Box 856**  
**Jackson, Ms. 39205**

For any questions or concerns, please contact Ill. Steven Crawford (Chairman) at 769-229-1277 or Ill. Steven Lockhart (Co-Chair) at 205-242-9518.

# JACKSON CONSISTORY #117 TURNS 100 YEARS OLD



By ILL. Steven Crawford  
Managing Editor

Photos Courtesy of  
ILL. Herbert Knight

On Saturday, August 5, 2023, at 6:00 pm, Jackson Consistory #117 held its Centennial Celebration at the Two Museums of Jackson, located at 222 North State St., Jackson, Mississippi. This celebration was held to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Jackson Consistory #117. The Guest Speaker for this auspicious occasion was none other than our very own Sovereign Grand Commander, Ill. Dr. Corey D. Hawkins Sr. 33°. The theme for the celebration was, "Through the Test of Times".

On August 20, 1923, the United Supreme Council, 33° of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliated, Southern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., issued a charter to the bodies of Scottish Rite Masonry in Jackson, Mississippi, which birthed Jackson Consistory #117. It is a Prince Hall Affiliate of the M. W. Stringer Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, Jurisdiction of Mississippi, which is currently under the leadership of Grand Master Maurice F. Lucas Sr., 33°. Scottish Rite Masonry being another choice of Masonic Progression, Past Grand Master H.M. Thompson once stated, "As one progresses, more is learned and deeper insight gained. One's whole outlook or philosophy of life changes because of the lessons which Masonry teaches."



***"Under the exceptional leadership of Jackson Consistory #117 Past Commander – in - Chiefs, the Consistory has continued to demonstrate its commitment to the principles of Faith, Hope, and Charity, which are vital attributes to Freemasonry."***

Jackson Consistory #117 had a solid foundation with its first group of official officers being composed of well-respected individuals. Namely, L. M. Thomas, L. H. Brown, Eli Crawford, L. S. Rogers, H. M. Mason, B. V. Dennis, M. L. Rogers, and E. J. Griffin. Their leadership helped establish Jackson Consistory #117 as a respected fraternity of Scottish Rite Masons and a cornerstone within the community.

Commander-in-Chief Ill. Willard Spires, 33° stated in his message to the Fraters during the Centennial Celebration, "This time allows us to reflect on the challenging and triumphant times over the last century. Our founders forged through some difficult days and the darkest times in our history."

Throughout the years, Jackson Consistory has upheld the established customs and practices of Freemasonry by extending aid to those brethren and their families who may be in distressed situations, as well as to the wider community. Jackson Consistory #117 has made efforts to positively impact the lives of individuals and families in need, regardless of whether or not they are affiliated with Freemasonry. Most notably during the holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Consistory endeavors to assist the local homeless shelters by providing nourishing meals and personal supplies. Further, to nurture outstanding leaders of tomorrow, the Consistory donates academic scholarships to deserving high school students.

Under the guidance of T. C. Almore in the 1960s, followed by Wiley Spence in the 1970s, Jackson Consistory has augmented its membership to over 200 Fraters, thereby becoming the largest Consistory in the Orient of Mississippi. Jackson Consistory #117 has played a contributing role in shaping some of the most well-rounded leaders of our fraternal organization. It has produced three Deputies for the Orient of Mississippi, Ill. Dr. David J. Hickman, 33°, 1969 – 1981; Ill. Dr. Allen Stewart, Sr., 33°, 1986 – 2022, also served as the Chairman of the Charitable Foundation for the United Supreme Council, 33°; Ill. DeJohn K. Hampton, 33°, 2022 – Present, currently serves as the Chief of Security for the United Supreme Council, 33°. Jackson Consistory currently has two members that serve in positions of distinction for the United Supreme Council, 33°, Ill. Lucious Turner, III., 33°, currently serves as the Class Organizer for the elevation to Grand Inspector Generals and Ill. Cedric Morgan, 33°, currently serves as the Assistant Grand Treasure General to the Holy Empire. Their legacy remains an important part of the organization's history.

**References:**

<https://www.jacksonconsistory117.org/history/>  
*A History of the Most Worshipful Stringer Grand Lodge Our Heritage is our Challenge copyright 1977 – by: Alferdeen Harrison*

Under the exceptional leadership of Jackson Consistory #117 Past Commander – in - Chiefs, the Consistory has continued to demonstrate its commitment to the principles of Faith, Hope, and Charity, which are vital attributes to Freemasonry. Jackson Consistory #117's commitment to leaving a lasting impression for future generations is likely to inspire and encourage future Fraters to continue the Scottish Rite mission of making a positive impact on the world. By setting an example of dedication, determination, and commitment to the principles of Freemasonry, Jackson Consistory #117 hopes to ensure that the fraternity's legacy and impact will continue for many years to come. This commitment to making a difference is intended to create a sense of purpose and a desire to serve others in future generations of members who may join the organization.

**PAST COMMANDER - IN - CHIEFS**



T. C. ALMORE  
1960's



WILEY SPENCE  
1972-1981



ALLEN STEWART  
1982-1986



JOHNNY HARPER  
1987-1990



GLENN JOHNSON  
1991-1992



ALCEE STALLING  
1993



MANUEL SAMUEL  
1994-2001



GLENN M. WILKERSON  
2002-2006



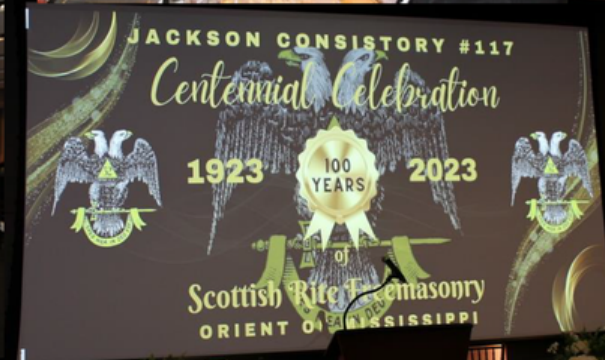
CEDRIC MORGAN  
2007-2011

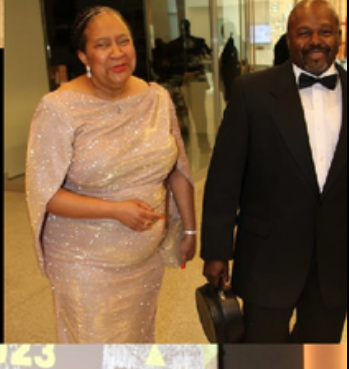


WILLARD SPIRES  
2012-2023



MICHAEL HARRINGTON  
2024-PRESENT





Who is



By L.L. Alicia Arrington-Thomas  
Staff Writer

# GWENDOLYN WARE?



On April 22, 2023, during the 64th Annual Session of the Magnolia Council of Deliberation and the 49th Annual Session of the Magnolia State Grand Assembly, Deputy for the Orient, SGIG Dejohn K. Hampton 33°, appointed a new State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler to the Order of the Golden Circle, which is the Auxiliary to the United Supreme Council, 33° here in the Orient of Mississippi. That new appointee is none other than Loyal Lady Gwendolyn B. Ware.

Born and raised in the small town of Quitman, Ms. SGLLR Ware is no stranger to the Masonic Family here in our jurisdiction. She has served in multiple positions throughout the Ladies Auxiliaries and most recently the State Grand Loyal Lady Associate Ruler for the Magnolia State Grand Assembly.

The Sublime Magazine had an opportunity to sit down with the new State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler and ask her some questions about her and her new appointment:

## Masonic Experience

- MABLE O'LOTT CHAPTER OF STARKVILLE. MS SERVED AS MATRON FOR 16 YEARS.
- MAURICE F. LUCAS. SR. GRAND CHAPTER. OES SERVING AS GRAND ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS
- RISING STAR COURT # 30 HEROINES OF JERICHO OF STARKVILLE. MS SERVING AS JUNIOR MATRON
- CAZIMI COURT #187 AUXILLIARY TO THE AEAOMNS
- SERVED AS ILLUSTRIOUS COMMANDRESS FOR 10 YEARS AND DEPUTY OF THE OASIS OF COLUMBUS FOR 5 YEARS.
- ROYAL WEST POINT COURT #17 ORDER OF THE CYRENE SERVING AS ROYAL MARTHA
- MAGNOLIA STATE GRAND COURT. ORDER OF THE CYRENE SERVING AS THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY
- BOYD COURT #4 PHA OF FREDRICK K. WILSON GRAND COURT LOCOP SERVING AS ASSOCIATE CONDUCTRESS



**The Sublime Magazine:** First, congratulations on your new appointment! What were your thoughts when Illustrious Deputy Hampton told you of your new appointment to the position of State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler?

**SGLLR Ware:** When the Deputy for the Orient, DeJohn Hampton chose me to serve in the position of State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler, I was in awe. I felt humbled but at the same time honored and privileged to serve. Three days following the appointment, a multiplicity of thoughts ran rapidly through my mind. I attributed the position that was bestowed upon me to the fact that I had served as State Grand Loyal Lady Associate Ruler for two years. I can truthfully say that honor was not because I campaigned or undermined anyone to receive it. I have and always will believe that whatever is for me is for me.

**The Sublime Magazine:** Tell the readers about your beginnings.

**SGLLR Ware:** I was born and raised in Quitman, Mississippi to the proud parents of the late L.C. and Emma Brown. I graduated from high school in 1972 from Quitman Consolidated District High School in Quitman, MS. I continued my education at Mary Holmes Jr. College in West Point, MS with an Associate of Science Degree and continued with a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Education from Mississippi State University.

**The Sublime Magazine:** What about your family and professional occupation?

**SGLLR Ware:** I am the mother of Lekeshon and Lamar Barju Ware and proud "Ganny G" of Lennox Lamar. I began my teaching career at Maben High School in Maben, MS, and taught there for 20 years, at Armstrong Middle School for 9.5 years in Starkville, MS retiring in May of 2009. I was also honored to work at the Diamond Grove Center in Louisville, Mississippi for 7 years.

**The Sublime Magazine:** Are you affiliated with any other organizations or serve in any other positions outside of Masonry?

**SGLLR Ware:** I am a member of 16th Section M. B. Church where I serve as a Sunday school teacher and youth director. Secretary of the Mount Olivet District/Congress of Christian Education. I am a Silver Life member of the NAACP, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, and an advisor to the Mayor's Youth Council of Starkville High School.

**The Sublime Magazine:** What would you say are your top three goals for the Magnolia State Grand Assembly at this point?

**SGLLR Ware:** My top three goals for the Magnolia State Grand Assembly are:

1. To learn more about the History of the Order of the Golden Circle and incorporate training.
2. To increase membership throughout the Magnolia State by adding additional Assemblies.
3. To work and collaborate closely with the Magnolia Council of Deliberation to serve the community.

**The Sublime Magazine:** How do you believe you can best achieve these goals and how can the Loyal Ladies of the Magnolia State Grand Assembly help?

**SGLLR Ware:** I believe I can achieve these goals by working closely with the elected officers, appointed officers, Loyal Lady Rulers, and Council of Deliberation disseminating love and knowledge. It is important to respect the ideas, talents, and knowledge of each Loyal Lady. I can visit other Grand Assemblies and get ideas that will help the growth of the Magnolia State Grand Assembly. We as the Magnolia State Grand Assembly should be ready to adapt to change in this ever-changing world through technology.

**The Sublime Magazine:** Outside of your top three goals, what are some of your future plans for the Magnolia State Grand Assembly?

**SGLLR Ware:** I plan to grow the Assembly by working closely with the Magnolia Council of Deliberation by having successful programs within the communities by enhancing membership and generating funds. We will continue to have joint Mid-Winter Board meetings. When we all work together harmoniously in Christian love, we can accomplish great things. There are no words that can adequately express what God will do for us and with us. I look forward to the future with great expectation and excitement. This journey includes all elected, appointed, Loyal Lady Rulers and Loyal Ladies working for one common goal love, peace, unity, and growth.

**The Sublime Magazine:** Do you foresee any challenges in obtaining your goals?

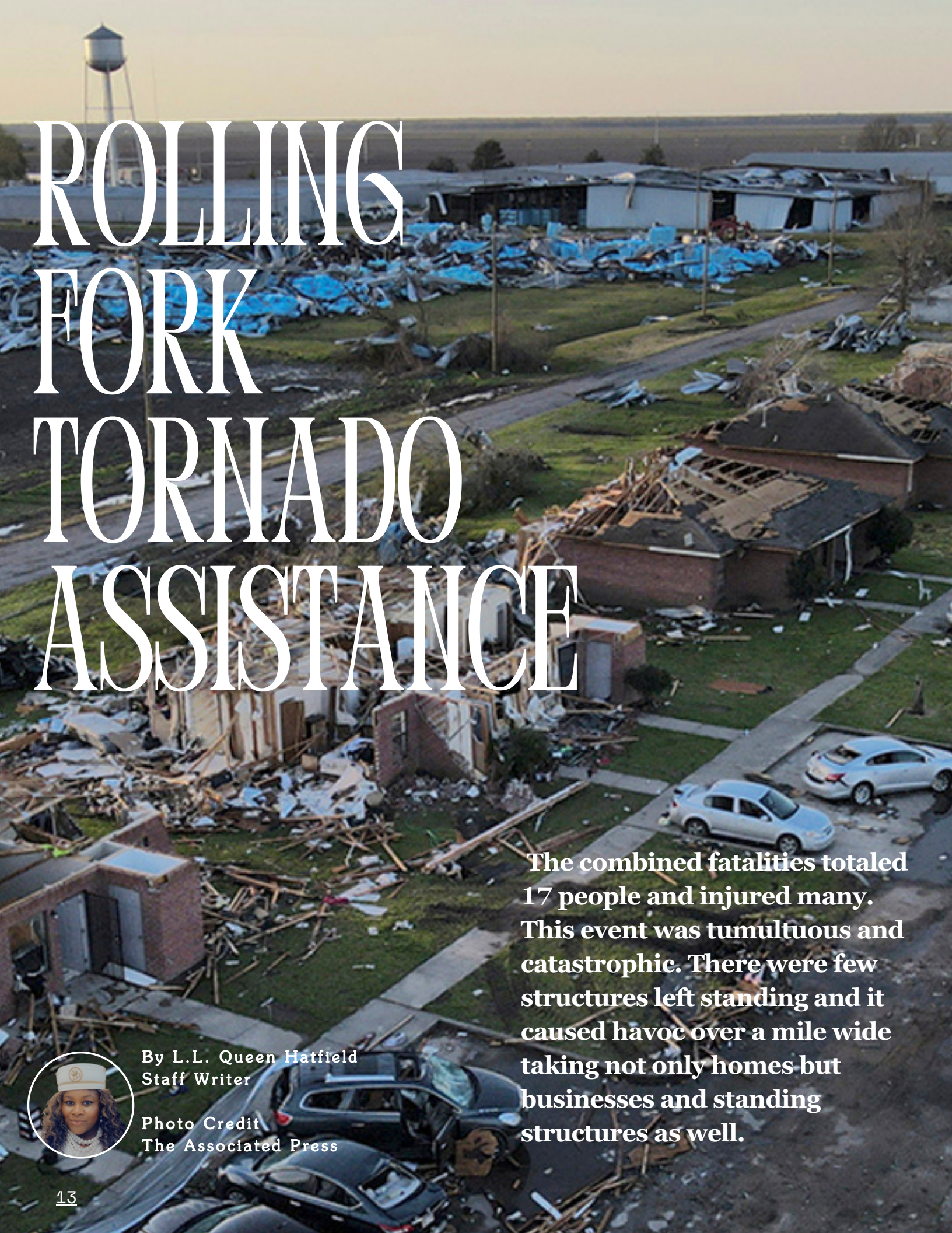
**SGLLR Ware:** Challenges are sure to come; therefore, we must keep the faith. Doubt can cause you to waver and become an enemy for reaching success. Communication is essential for the success of the Assembly. Love and understanding are needed to promote sisterly and brotherly love.

**The Sublime Magazine:** What are you most proud of in your first year as the new State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler?

**SGLLR Ware:** I have been honored to have the full support of our past State Grand Loyal Lady Ruler, Jennifer Daniels. We have been privileged to add additional Assemblies and Loyal Ladies to the Magnolia State Grand Assembly. I had the opportunity to fellowship, and attend the United Supreme Council, 33° in Huntsville, AL. in October 2023, and attended the R.T. Butler Council of Assemblies in Chattanooga, TN. We were able to have our first-ever mid-year virtual workshop, which was very well attended. All of these things have been great but what I am most proud of is the love and support from the Loyal Ladies of the Magnolia State Grand Assembly. It has truly been a blessing to witness. The Magnolia Council of Deliberation has also shown amazing support by assisting, sharing, and helping where needed. I cannot forget the in-state Head of Houses being very supportive and accessible to the cause.

**The Sublime Magazine:** Is there anything you would like to leave with the Fraters and Loyal Ladies of the Orient of Mississippi?

**SGLLR Ware:** I am forever thankful for the Past State Grand Loyal Ladies that have paved the way for me, especially PSGLLR Jennifer Daniels. Special thanks to our Illustrious Deputy for the Orient of Mississippi DeJohn Hampton for his trust and confidence in me and to my amazing elected and appointed Officers of the Magnolia State Grand Assembly. I look forward to working with everyone as we continue to work in peace and unity. In the scripture, Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." I am a firm believer in prayer and having faith in Jesus Christ is the key. This will allow us to overcome any obstacle that comes our way because Jesus Christ will be our strength. I will strive in every way to be worthy of your confidence and to fulfill my duty the best I can.



# ROLLING FORK TORNADO ASSISTANCE

**The combined fatalities totaled 17 people and injured many. This event was tumultuous and catastrophic. There were few structures left standing and it caused havoc over a mile wide taking not only homes but businesses and standing structures as well.**

By L.L. Queen Hatfield  
Staff Writer

Photo Credit  
The Associated Press





On the night of March 24, 2023, a large and destructive tornado struck the communities of Rolling Fork and Silver City, Mississippi (Wikipedia, 2023). The combined fatalities totaled 17 people and injured many (Wikipedia, 2023). This event was tumultuous and catastrophic. There were few structures left standing and it caused havoc over a mile wide taking not only homes but businesses and standing structures as well (Simmons, S. & Tisme, C., 2023).

Mississippi is known as the hospitality state, so the Magnolia Council of Deliberation and the Magnolia State Grand Assembly wanted to contribute to help provide disaster relief for the tornado victims from these communities. The unfortunate tragedy allowed many communities to support the people in Rolling Fork and Silver City.

On June 26, 2023, at noon, the Magnolia Council of Deliberation and the Magnolia State Grand Assembly accompanied by Most Worshipful Grand Master Maurice F. Lucas Sr., who also serves as the Grand Treasurer General for the Holy Empire, donated \$3,400.00 to Days Inn in Greenville, Mississippi to assist with hotel expenses for some tornado victims who were currently receiving shelter at this location. The Council prayerfully decided to provide disaster relief because many families affected by the tornado are financially challenged and need temporary shelter until they can regain permanent housing.

Why did we donate? The Magnolia Council of Deliberation and the Magnolia State Grand Assembly stayed true to our declarations by lending a helping hand in someone's time of need.

Where are Rolling Fork and Silver City today in cleaning up, rebuilding, and revitalizing?

As of six - ten months after the tornado, there has been very little rebuilding, and not many businesses have returned to Rolling Fork (Miller, M. 2023).

In Silver City, the City Hall is operating out of a temporary trailer (Miller, M. 2023). The tornado was rated an Enhanced Fujita 4 (EF4) for Rolling Fork and EF2 for Silver City (Miller, M. 2023).

After three-four weeks of initial help from all over the world, citizens of these cities are now on their own with just a few volunteers and assistance (Miller, M. 2023). For an event such as this, some think anywhere from five-ten years is what it will take to get both cities back up and running efficiently (Miller, M. 2023. Please keep both cities in your prayers as they are maneuvering around the circumstances given to them by Mother Nature as they rebuild.

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References:

Simmons, S. & Tisme, C., (2023, December 6), GMA returns to Rolling Fork 8 months after devastating tornado, <https://www.wapt.com/article/gma-returns-to-rolling-fork-8-months-after-devastating-tornado/46051576#:~:text=ROLLING%20FORK%2C%20Miss.%20E2%80%94&text=Advertisement-,The%20tornado%20hit%20in%20March%20and%20was%20at%20least%20a,alone%20and%20injured%20dozens%20more>, January 31, 2024.

Fox, H., (2023, October 2), Six months later, Rolling Fork rebuilds, <https://thedmonline.com/six-months-later-a-ravaged-rolling-fork-rebuilds/>, January 31, 2024.

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# Loyal Lady Ruler Lena Mae Knox

*“I pray for a lot of love in these organizations. Love seems to have disappeared. Where there is love, there is a great organization.”*

The Magnolia Council of Deliberation as well as the Magnolia State Grand Assembly from the Orient of Mississippi would like to introduce its most senior member of the Order of the Golden Circle, Loyal Lady Ruler Lena Mae Knox. She celebrated her 92nd birthday on August 2, 2023. Loyal Lady Ruler Knox was born in Columbus, MS, on August 2, 1931. She was the fourth among her siblings, all of whom have since departed this life.

Loyal Lady Ruler Knox was raised by her aunt from the age of three. She completed the 11th grade before leaving to obtain a job to assist financially within the home. LLR. Knox was married twice. At the age of 39, her second marriage of fifty years was to Mr. T J Knox. He worked at Airline Manufacturers, building airplane recliners and he was a Mason. LLR Knox worked in the school system at Brandon Elementary School for 22 years. Upon leaving, she completed another 10 years of service with Heritage Academy. She currently attends Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church in Lawrence County in Poplar, MS.



By L.L. Queen Hatfield  
Staff Writer

In 2024, Mrs. Lena Knox will have 60 years in the Masonic order. She joined HOJ 4/24/1964 and was most Ancient Matron for 13 years and is currently past matron.

She joined the OES 6/1964, Queen of Sheba #431; served as LLR, and now 2019, back LLR.

She is a member of Cyrene Royal West Point Court #17, joined 6/15/1980, She's Royal Commandress, currently.

She is currently a member of LOCOP Genesis #1.

She is a Daughter of Cazimi Court #187, a charter member, Commandress 3/7/1981, and served as Commandress from 1981-1985. She served as Deputy of The Oasis of Columbus from 1986-2008.

### ***What would you like to see change in the organization?***

Love – I pray for a lot of love in these organizations. Love seems to have disappeared. Where there is love, there is a great organization. Working together is very fruitful for any organization.

### ***Why did you join the order?***

I joined the Masonic order because I thought it would be fruitful, I could develop new friendships, and do community service while uplifting the organization.

### ***If there are issues, what do you do?***

There are always snags because some people don't want to work together, but if it doesn't work your way, talk about it and solve the issues. Do not let it linger.

### ***COVID- Staying alive***

Covid has caused us to be unable to do any ritualistic work with conducting of business via conference calls and Zoom, but we need to focus on ensuring our organization stays alive.

### ***What advice would you give current and new ladies of the order?***

You first need to be a Christian, and love needs to be in your heart. Do not be so quick to fall out with people. There is no need to get mad, especially about nothing. Walk away. If there is a problem, settle it quickly and before you leave. Leave with a smile. Remember this is an organization.

My husband was a member of my HOJ court. He only knew what was going on in the court if he was there for the meeting. Keep the business of your chapter and court separate from your family. Separate business from pleasure.

### ***What would you bring back from 60 years ago to today?***

More love and working together. If someone has not been attending the meeting, reach out and let them know they have been missed. Before 2017, I probably missed maybe five meetings, and that was only due to my husband being sick. I believe in going to meetings and being on time. I joined the organization knowing and understanding obligations, which means a lot to me. When I took that oath, I remember where my hand was and it was on a Bible.

### ***Remember***

All things are about love. Do not gossip about anyone and spread information or misinformation. Go directly to that person, one on one and get things straight. People are so quick to go to Facebook. The best words you can say is "I am sorry," which should be the end of the conversation.

Don't join this organization because your husband is a part of it. Do not join this organization to obtain a man. That is not what this organization is for. We are not in the business of tearing up homes. You join an organization to help improve it.

Every man who tells you he likes you might not like you. He might be just trying to get something for free. I know.



### ***What has changed over the years in the order?***

Just last year, a lot changed. I admire the changes that Deputy Hampton has started, and I believe changes will make this organization better. Deputy Hampton is out here running, and I will run wherever he goes, even though he will have to come back and get me. But, I am behind him 100%. He is showing interest in his actions and not dragging his feet. I will continue to track him and I love the way he is handling business – hitting the ground running. If you are going to do it, then do it, and if not, get out the way so someone else can.

### ***What advice do you have for the ladies entering and currently in the order to be better mothers, sisters, wives, daughters, etc?***

Be a Christian, a member of a church, and attend church. Do not be a hell-raiser Monday-Saturday, especially at meetings, and only a Christian on Sunday. Come to the meetings ready to do your obligations and be there for other.

Learn how to dress appropriately as a lady and know how to address someone who doesn't. You can catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar.

# MAUNDY



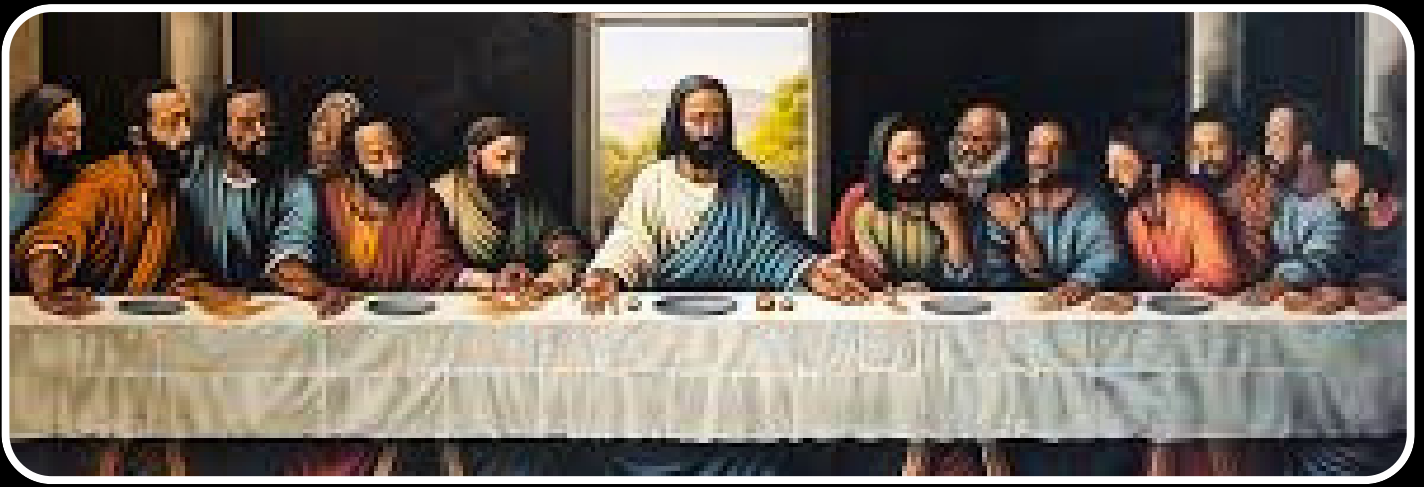
# THURSDAY

## **Honoring Tradition and Brotherhood: The Sacred Observance of Maundy Thursday in Scottish Rite**

**By S.P. Emmett Manly  
Staff Writer**

**Photo Credit**  
<https://www.christianity.com/>  
<https://i.swncdn.com/media/950w/cms/CW/50564-last-supper-RomoloTavani-facebook.1200w.tn.webp>

In the sanctum of Prince Hall Masonry, the echoes of history reverberate through time, carrying with them the weight of tradition and the essence of brotherhood. Among the revered observances within this noble fraternity, Maundy Thursday stands as a pinnacle of significance, a day steeped in symbolism and reverence. Maundy Thursday is a profound thread in the tapestry of Masonic rituals, intricately woven into the fabric of Scottish Rite Freemasonry. It is a day that beckons members to pause, reflect, and pay homage to the sacred tenets that bind them together.



This observance, falling within the solemnity of Holy Week, holds a unique resonance within the annals of Prince Hall Masonry. It commemorates the Last Supper, a poignant moment in the life of Christ and His disciples, where bonds of camaraderie were forged amidst the sharing of bread and wine. For Masons of the Scottish Rite, Maundy Thursday is more than a historical remembrance; it is a living embodiment of unity, compassion, and service. It serves as a poignant reminder of the values upheld within the fraternity — charity, fellowship, and the pursuit of enlightenment.

On this hallowed day, brethren gather in their sacred spaces, adorned in their regalia, their hearts tuned to the solemnity of the occasion. The rituals performed carry a deep symbolic resonance, each gesture laden with centuries-old significance, evoking a profound sense of connection to the fraternity's ancient roots. Through the ritualistic reenactment of the Last Supper, Masons are invited to contemplate the essence of brotherhood.

Moreover, Maundy Thursday within the Scottish Rite is not merely a historical reenactment but a call to action. It inspires members to embody the teachings of the craft, extending a helping hand to those in need, and fostering a spirit of benevolence and understanding in the world beyond the rite.

The significance of this observance extends far beyond the confines of a ritualistic ceremony. It serves as a beacon, guiding Masons on their journey toward self-improvement and enlightenment, urging them to emulate the virtues exemplified by the great architects of the past.

In the solemnity of Maundy Thursday, the Scottish Rite finds its soul — a day that encapsulates the essence of brotherhood, unity, and the pursuit of moral and spiritual enlightenment. It stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of Freemasonry, a tradition that continues to illuminate the path for those who seek wisdom, fellowship, and service to humanity.

Pursuant to Article XXXVI of the United Supreme Council, 33° Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction, USA Constitution and General Regulations, the General Regulations stipulate in Section 9(a) that any Councils of Kadosh, Rose Croix Chapter, or Lodge of Perfection body may adopt costumes or dresses consistent with the ritualistic demands of these Bodies, at their discretion, subject to the prior approval of the Sovereign Grand Commander.

In subparagraph (b), it is mandated that whenever special costumes or dresses are requested, approved, and adopted for wearing by the Bodies in each Orient concerned, such attire must be donned by all the Officers of that Body at every regular or special gathering, as well as at Kadosh Services and Maundy Thursday, an Easter ceremonial observance, conducted by the Councils of Kadosh and the Rose Croix Chapter. Other members are expected to wear their ceremonial robe and cap or crown.

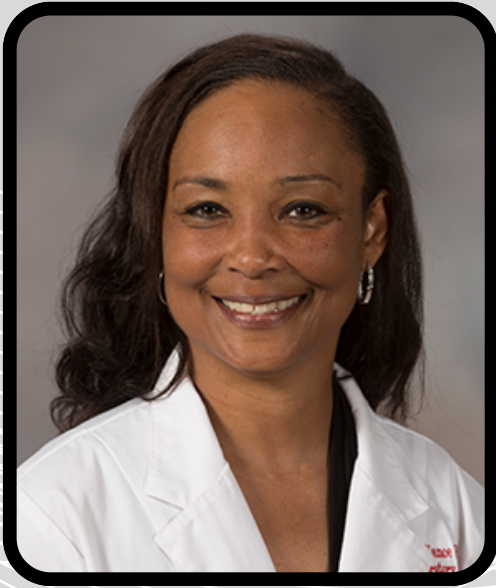
The General Regulations of the United Supreme Council, 33° Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Southern Jurisdiction, USA Constitution do not explicitly state which occasions require other members to wear their ceremonial robe and cap or crown. However, it is generally customary for members to wear their ceremonial attire during important or formal events, such as degree ceremonies, installations, rendezvous, and other similar occasions, as determined by the Deputy for each individual Orient.

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**References:**  
*United Supreme Council, 33° A.A.S.R.,  
P.H.A., S.J., U.S.A., Inc.*



By Loyal Lady  
Dr. Stacy Vance



# FACTS OR MISCONCEPTION

## YOUR LIFE MAY DEPEND ON IT

**A** December 2023 report from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) revealed that insufficient COVID-19, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and Influenza (flu) vaccines have played a significant role in the increasing prevalence of respiratory infections. The CDC stated in its health advisory that influenza hospitalizations have increased by 200% across all age categories in the past four weeks. Additionally, hospitalizations for COVID-19 have risen by 51%, and those for RSV have climbed by 60%. As of December 2023, the highest elevated level of respiratory disease prevalence in the United States is in the southern region [1].

**As of December 8, only 17.2% of adults had received the new COVID-19 vaccine. Approximately 40% of individuals, including children and adults, have received the influenza vaccination for the current year. Only 15.9% of older people eligible for the RSV vaccine have received it [2].**

***Annual vaccinations are recommended for anyone aged six months and above due to the annual variation in the various strains of Influenza.***

**Fact:** While the flu vaccine does not provide complete assurance against contracting influenza, it substantially diminishes the likelihood of contracting it. The CDC recommends vaccinations for anyone aged six months and older.

**Are symptoms such as fever, cough, chills, sore throat, and headache indicative of Influenza?**

**Fact:** Annually, Influenza causes many hospitalizations in the United States. To reduce the risk of contracting the flu, getting a vaccination every year is highly recommended. This highly transmissible respiratory virus impacts the entire body and spreads through respiratory droplets expelled while coughing or sneezing.

# The Doctor Has Spoken

**The flu is just like having the common cold.**

**Misconception:** Influenza is comparable to the ordinary cold. It is insignificant.

**Fact:** Influenza is a highly contagious respiratory illness that can cause severe complications and death.

**Who should receive the flu vaccine?**

**Misconception:** A healthy individual does not need the flu vaccine.

**Fact:** Individuals in good health can contract Influenza, which can potentially be a severe illness.

**I contracted the flu as a result of receiving the flu vaccine.**

**Misconception:** Obtaining the influenza vaccine can cause Influenza.

**Fact:** The viruses present in a flu shot are rendered nonviable (inactivated), making it impossible to contract the flu via a flu shot. Specific individuals may have mild soreness, irritation, or edema at the injection site, and in rare cases, they may also experience a headache or a slight elevation in body temperature.

**After receiving the flu vaccine, it is impossible to acquire the flu.**

**Misconception:** Administering the influenza vaccine will protect against all virus strains.

**Fact:** The influenza vaccine does not provide a guarantee against contracting influenza, although it substantially decreases the likelihood of infection. Various strains of influenza viruses are now in circulation, and their composition undergoes annual variations. The influenza vaccine protects against the most prevalent strains of the flu [3].

**What is RSV?**

**Fact:** The RSV vaccine offers protection against RSV, which is responsible for lower respiratory tract illness. RSV is a prevalent respiratory virus that typically induces mild symptoms like the common cold. RSV is transmitted through direct contact with the virus, namely through the contact of droplets from another person's cough or sneeze with eyes, nose, or mouth. Additionally, contact with a contaminated surface, like a doorknob, can be transmitted by touching one's face beforehand hygiene.

**Which individuals are susceptible to acquiring RSV?**

**Misconception:** Solely infants are susceptible to acquiring RSV.

**Fact:** Most individuals contracting an RSV infection will experience a moderate illness and recuperate for one to two weeks. Specific individuals, however, have a higher propensity to acquire a severe RSV infection that may require hospitalization. Severe infections encompass conditions such as bronchiolitis, which refers to the inflammation of the tiny airways of the lung, and pneumonia. RSV can exacerbate chronic health conditions. Individuals with asthma may have asthma exacerbations due to RSV infection, whereas individuals with congestive heart failure may face heightened symptoms precipitated by RSV [4].

**What are the CDC's recommendations for RSV vaccines?**

**Misconception:** Babies and pregnant moms should receive the RSV vaccine.

**Fact:** The CDC advise that individuals aged 60 and above may choose to receive a solitary dose of the RSV vaccination following consultations with their healthcare professional. There are two alternatives available for safeguarding infants from RSV: administering a maternal vaccine to the pregnant individual and providing protective antibodies to the baby. The CDC advises administering a solitary dose of the RSV vaccination to pregnant individuals between the 32nd and 36th weeks of pregnancy to safeguard against RSV disease in newborns below six months old. The recommended timeframe for administering this vaccine in most of the United States is September to January [5].

## REFERENCES

1) CDC warns of "urgent need" to boost vaccine coverage as winter virus activity picks-up. (2023, December 14). NBC News. <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/winter-virus-activity-picks-cdc-warns-urgent-need-boost-vaccine-coverage-rcna129730>

2) Health Alert Network (HAN) - 00503 | Urgent Need to Increase Immunization Coverage for Influenza, COVID-19, and RSV and Use of Authorized/Approved Therapeutics in the Setting of Increased Respiratory Disease Activity During the 2023 - 2024 Winter Season. (n.d.). <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/han00503.asp>

3) Influenza (Flu). (n.d.). [https://www.lung.org/lung-health-diseases/lung-disease-lookup/influenza?gad\\_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiABYyuBhBSEiwA5R3-E\\_0JTmYIofdtat6zBdGyVLvxgptIs\\_VguDfukwANVcDm3iV05s-RKThoCp00QAvD\\_BwE](https://www.lung.org/lung-health-diseases/lung-disease-lookup/influenza?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiABYyuBhBSEiwA5R3-E_0JTmYIofdtat6zBdGyVLvxgptIs_VguDfukwANVcDm3iV05s-RKThoCp00QAvD_BwE)

4) Learn about people at high risk for severe RSV infection. (2020, December 18). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. People at High Risk for Severe RSV Infection | CDC

5) RSV Vaccine Information Statement | CDC. (n.d.). RSV Vaccine Information Statement | CDC

# United Supreme Council 2023

## Huntsville, AL

1ST PLACE LARGE ORIENT AD SALES AWARD





# Around the Orient



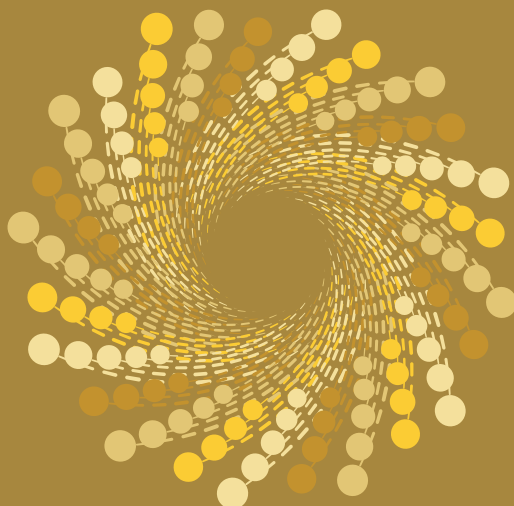
## JB HENDERSON COMMANDERS OF THE RITE BREAKFAST



## UNITED SUPREME COUNCIL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



TOUGALOO COLLEGE RECEIVING THE DR. ALLEN STEWART ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTION



RUST COLLEGE RECEIVING THE DR. ALLEN STEWART ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTION

# MCOD 2023



# MCOD 2023





# GRAND INSPECTORS GENERAL CLASS OF 2023



**BOBBY BAILEY**  
**MELVIN DOUGLASS BARNES**  
**CHRISTOPHER M BARNETT SR.**  
**KELVIN BIBBS**  
**JOHNNIE E BOWDEN**

**CARL COLEMAN**  
**DONALD COLEMAN**  
**ORLANDO R ELLERBY**  
**TONY HAWTHORN SR.**  
**FREDERICK JEFFERSON**  
**HARRY JONES JR.**

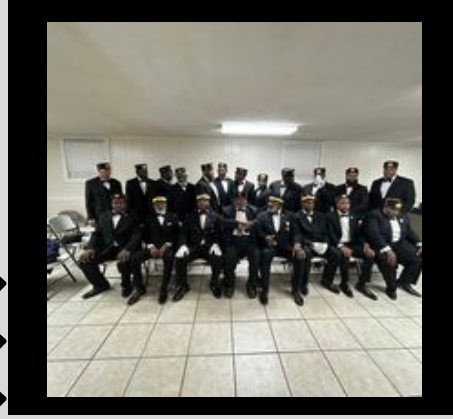
**JEFFREY C LYONS**  
**CLIFTON E MARVEL SR.**  
**KEITH MCCLAIN**  
**JONATHAN MCLEOD**  
**HAROLD G NORWOOD**

## KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE COURT OF HONOUR 2023

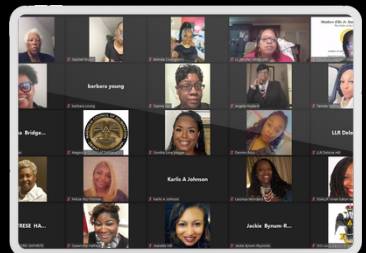
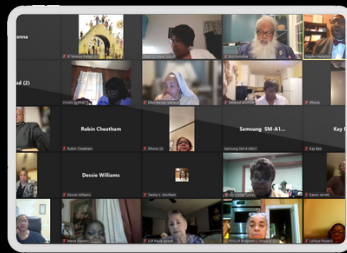
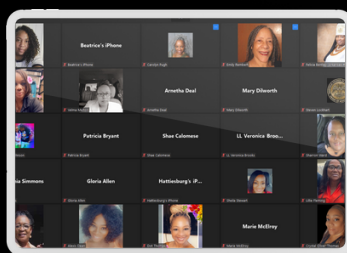
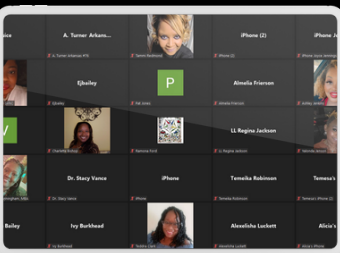
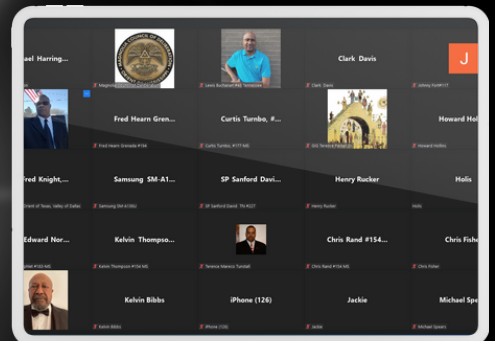
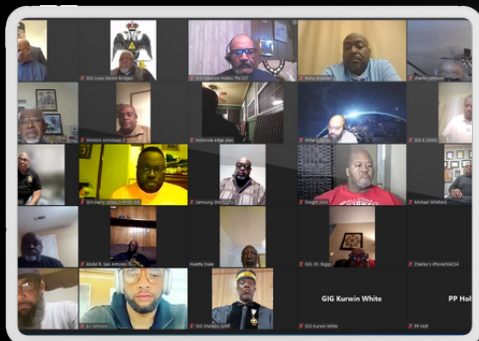
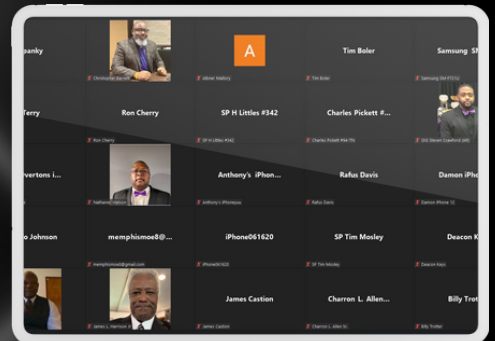
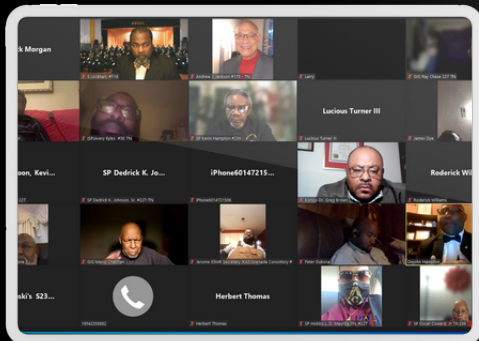
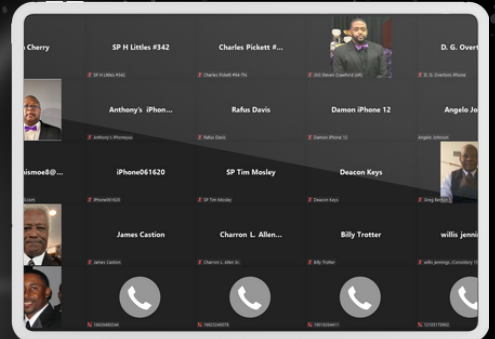
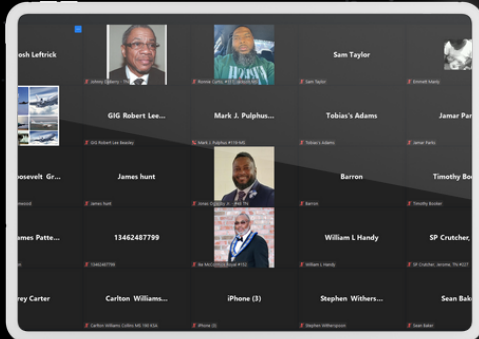


(PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT) ROOSEVELT GREENWOOD, KELVIN THOMPSON, CHRIS CARPENTER, FOSTER ELLIS, JR., ROBERT BEASLEY, DENNIS SANDERS; (BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT) REGINALD SIMS, REV. HAROLD LITTLE, TIM BROWN

# LEADERSHIP *Visits the* ORIENT



# MID YEAR VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS



## WE ARE LOYAL LADIES

By L.L. Mary Dilworth  
Staff Editor



WE ARE LOYAL LADIES, WHO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENGAGE IN LOVE, SUPPORT, AND SERVICE. WE ARE POWERFUL BECAUSE WE STAND TOGETHER FILLED WITH GOOD THOUGHTS, LOVE AND COURAGE.

YES WE ARE LOYAL LADIES WITH A HEART FILLED WITH GOLD WITH LOVING ARMS STRETCHED OUT TO LOVE AND HOLD. WE ARE ALWAYS WILLING TO LEND A HELPING HAND TO MAKE THINGS BETTER WHENEVER WE CAN.

WE ARE LOYAL LADIES WHO STAND HIGH AND TALL AND ARE WILLING TO HELP WHENEVER WE ARE CALLED. WE WILL GIVE OUR HELP AND SERVICE WHEN WE KNOW BECAUSE WE WANT TO BE HELPFUL IN HELPING OTHERS TO GROW.

YES WE ARE LOYAL LADIES FILLED WITH SWEETNESS AND KINDNESS AND FULL OF COMPASSION FOR ALL MANKIND. WE ENJOY MAKING OTHERS HAPPY IN SOME SWEET WAY. IT IS OUR GOAL AND DESIRE TO TOUCH SOMEONE EVERY DAY BY SIMPLY BEING KIND.

WE ARE LOYAL LADIES WHO ARE FAST ON OUR FEET AND OUR MINDS ARE SHARP AND ALERT. WE CAN'T BE BEAT. WE CARRY SINCERE HOPE IN OUR PURSE EVERYWHERE WE GO FOR WITH HOPE THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY.

WE ARE LOYAL LADIES WHO SEE GOOD IN MOST BECAUSE WE MAKE IT OUR BUSINESS TO NEVER JUDGE OR BOAST. WE LIVE EVERY DAY BY THE GRACE OF GOD WITH THANKSGIVING IN OUR HEARTS.



THE QUEEN OF THE MAGNOLIA STATE GRAND ASSEMBLY IS COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY SERVICE AND HERE IS A LIST OF HER SERVICES SINCE BECOMING QUEEN IN APRIL 2023 OUTSIDE OF VICKSBURG ASSEMBLY #110:

- STEWPOT – WORD HOMELESS DAY, ADOPT A NEIGHBOR
- BECAUSE I CAN- FEEDING THE HOMELESS EVERY TWO WEEKS.
- NAACP – DONATE FUNDS FOR HAIR SERVICE FOR ONE RETURNING STUDENT AT JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY – WALMART WELLNESS DAY SHARING INFORMATION REGARDING CANCER, COVID, AND HPV
- MCASB 2024 – HELP SERVE CHILDREN ATTENDING THIS EVENT
- JACKSON INDIE MUSIC WEEK
- MISSISSIPPI HEART OF JACKSON PLUS AMERICA 2023
- DIABETICS FOUNDATION
- MISSISSIPPI BLUE MARATHON

AND MANY OTHER DONATIONS AND TIME HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, EVENTS, AND DRIVES. I STRIVE TO SHARE WITH OUR COMMUNITY AND THE MASONIC ORDER, OUR ATTRIBUTES, AND OUR LOVE FOR OTHERS.





**FRATERS AND LOYAL LADIES**

**April 2023 - March 2024**

*His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant:  
thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over  
many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.*

*Matthew 25:21*



**McComb Consistory #19**

**ILLUSTRIOUS WALTER WILSON**

**Jackson Consistory #117**

**ILLUSTRIOUS GLENN WILKERSON SR.**

**ILLUSTRIOUS DONYEL BEAL**

**ILLUSTRIOUS DARYL DORTCH**

**SUBLIME PRINCE MELVIN MCNAIR**

**SUBLIME PRINCE EDDIE CREWS**

**HM Thompson Assembly #117**

**LOYAL LADY JEANETTE CAVETT**

**LOYAL LADY BERNICE ESSIX**

**LOYAL LADY ROSIE DIXON**

**Oxford Assembly #183**

**LOYAL LADY MILDRED EGERSON**



— SAVE THE DATE —



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NEW ERA**

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46<sup>TH</sup> TRIENNIAL SESSION**

**SHERATON MEMPHIS DOWNTOWN HOTEL**

**United Supreme Council, 33<sup>rd</sup>**



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Ladies of the Circle of Perfection



T.C. Almore Grand Commandery

ORIENT OF MISSISSIPPI

2025



66TH MAGNOLIA COUNCIL OF DELIBERATION

SAVE  
*The*  
DAY



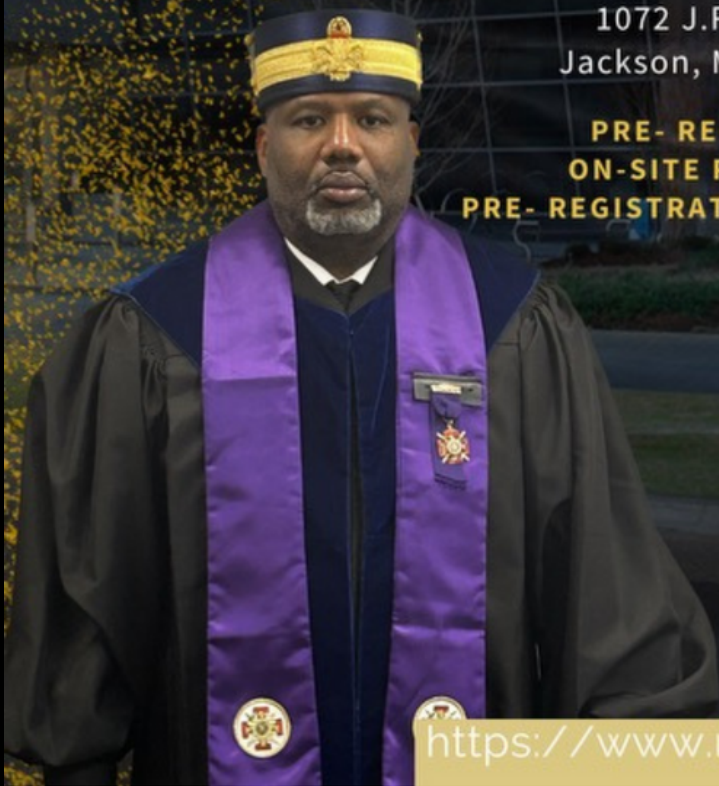
*51st Magnolia State  
Grand Assembly*

April 11-13, 2025

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PRE- REGISTRATION \$50.00,  
ON-SITE REGISTRATION \$75.00  
PRE- REGISTRATION IS DUE MARCH 15, 2025



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