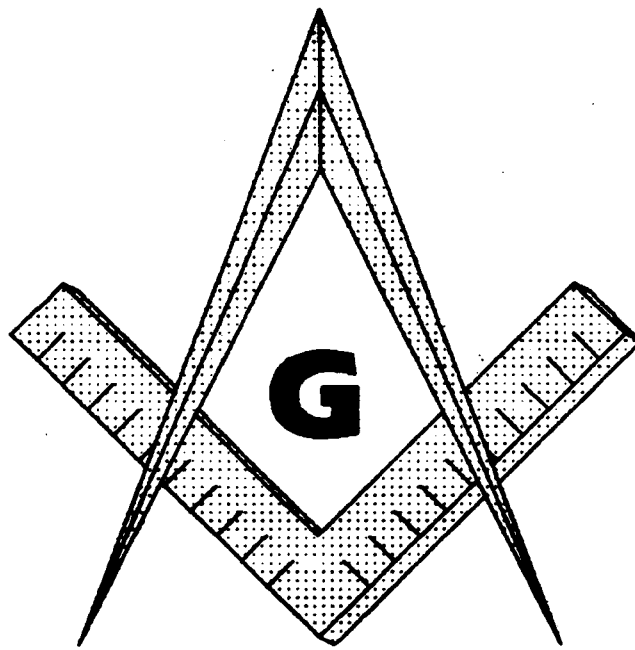


G.L. Pamphlet No. 4

GREETINGS TO A MASTER MASON'S FAMILY



**MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE
FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS
PRINCE HALL AFFILIATED
WASHINGTON, DC**

(202) 462-8878

December 14, 1995

TO THE FAMILY OF A NEW MASTER MASON

A man in your family has now received his Master Mason degree in the Masonic Fraternity. This will undoubtedly raise some questions in your mind and we hope the following will be helpful in answering those questions.

We also hope you will find this booklet helpful and informative and will assist you in better understanding your mason's role in life.

We urge you to save it and refer to it when questions arise.

Sincerely,

Worshipful Master

_____ Lodge No. ____

Free and Accepted Masons
Prince Hall Affiliation
1000 U Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

FORWARD

You are now a Mason's Family and we take this opportunity to extend our first official greeting to you.

While you personally have not joined our organization, there are certain things that may be helpful for you to know in the future. This booklet will explain some of those things.

At the same time, there are matters of general interest about Masonry and this organization we think you would like to know.

Save this booklet, as it is very unlikely that the information contained herein will materially change in the years to come.

WHEN & WHERE DID IT BEGIN?

The Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons is one of the oldest, largest and most widely known fraternal organization in the world. It has its roots in antiquity and is directly descended from associations of "operative masons" the cathedral builders of the Middle Ages in Europe.

"Operative Masons" or free masons as they were known, started to accept as members those who were not members of the masonic craft, calling them "speculative masons" or "accepted masons."

Freemasonry was brought to the American colonies by the early settlers. In the year of 1775 on the 6th of March, fifteen (15) free Negroes were made masons in a British Military Lodge which held a warrant from the Grand Lodge of Ireland.

Prince Hall, a member of this group of fifteen (15) Negroes, applied subsequently for a warrant from the Grand Lodge of England and received it in 1787. Their lodge was constituted as African Lodge No. 459 located in Boston, Massachusetts.

In the succeeding years, as Negro Masonry grew, Prince Hall and his group declared themselves free and independent of any and all Grand Lodges, and established their own Grand Lodge, and eventually gave it the name of "Prince Hall Grand Lodge."

This Grand Lodge began to issue charters to subordinate Lodges all over the United States, Canada, and other foreign countries. Prince Hall Grand Lodges are now established in many states across this country.

Masonry is not, contrary to common belief, a secret society, but rather a "society with secrets." If it were a secret society, Masons would not wear Masonic jewelry or publicly mark their many Temples.

Masonry has many traditions and customs which, of course, are known only to its members.

WHAT DOES FREEMASONRY MEAN TO A MEMBER?

It would be difficult to summarize in a brief space all that a Mason learns through his membership, but Freemasonry encourages a member to apply to his daily living, broad general principles of morality. Membership is limited to adult males who can meet the recognized qualifications and standards of character and reputation. Freemasonry does not interfere with duties that a man owes to his God, his country, his neighbor, his family, and himself, but rather by learning to understand, live and practice the fundamental precepts of the organization, he has an opportunity for self-improvement. It helps a good man become a better man - a father, husband, brother, or son.

THE APRON

The white apron is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason. It has for many centuries been cherished by the rich, the poor, the high and the low.

The moral application is explained to a Mason during its presentation and should he falter in his faith in the Fraternity, the apron should be a constant reminder to him from whence he came.

When a Master Mason dies Masonic funeral services may be rendered upon request. The Lodge will not solicit a request for Masonic services. Upon learning of the death of one of its members, the Lodge will offer its services to you.

Every Mason in good standing with his lodge at the time of death is entitled to Masonic funeral services.

The services consist of ceremonial rites only and does not defray any funeral expenses incurred.

LET US KNOW!

Contacting the Lodge is not difficult. A Mason's dues card bears the lodge's name. However, you should contact the Grand Secretary's Office - 1000 U Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, telephone (202) 462-8878, to obtain the name and telephone number of the current Worshipful Master of your loved one's Lodge.

In the event our member becomes ill, we want to know. In the past, members have become ill without our knowledge. Please contact the Lodge as soon as possible.

MEETINGS

Lodges meet in regular monthly sessions and on such other days as are necessary to conduct its business and perform its ritualistic work.

While every mason's attendance is earnestly solicited, it is not intended that a lodge should interfere with one's regular vocation or duty to family, God or country.

Your Mason has invested time and money in joining our order and for years to come will be paying annual dues.

We hope that you will approve and encourage him to attend his regular meetings and participate in the charitable affairs for the benefit of the community; also we hope that you will join us whenever proper.

TITLE

In the years to come, it is reasonable to assume that some time while you are accompanying your mason, someone will address him as "Brother." "Brother" is neither a sentimental nor a familiar form of address, but is a title of distinction and honor, indicating that he has been recognized by another as a Mason.

ARE THERE MASONIC-ORIENTED ORGANIZATIONS WHICH MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY MAY JOIN?

There are several groups to which ladies (wife, mother, sister, daughter, or widow) related to Master Masons may apply for membership if they desire, first by way of the "Order of the Eastern Star." If there are children in the family, they may find interests in one of the many Masonic-oriented youth groups who expose teachings of truth, morality, patriotism and love of family.

**Originally written by: Right Worshipful Grand Trustee Emeriti
Elmer Sumlin, Prudence Lodge No. 27**

**Revised: May 1995, by the Revision of Laws Committee,
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge**

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MWPGM Joseph S. Thomas (24) MWPGM Donald Vowels (12)

RWGT Byrd W. Walker, Jr. (3) P.M. Laurence A. Jackson (25)

RWPJGW Mitchell P. Chappelle (6) - Vice Chairman

MWPGM Edward E. Marshall, Jr., - Chairman

Approved: GL Annual Session, December 14, 1995