



2025 Grand Master's Farewell Allocution

**The Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge of Florida, Belize Central
America and Its Jurisdiction, Inc.**

Prince Hall Affiliated

The Honorable Jeffery G. Jones 33° KYGCH

Most Worshipful Grand Master

April 19, 2025

The Prince Hall Mason: Tried and True, There Is None but God Greater Than You.

First giving honor to my Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.....The one who has sustained us throughout these times of uncertainty and will continue to protect and guide us into our predetermined future.

To the men whose shoulders upon which I stand. The greatest cadre of MWPGMs any Grand Master could hope for in a single Jurisdiction:

our 15th Most Worshipful Grand Master, Bishop Dr. Michael R. Moore

our 17th Most Worshipful Grand Master, Dr. Anthony T. Stafford

and our 18th Most Worshipful Grand Master, Walter Gulley, Jr.

To my distinguished guests and fellow conservators:

The Honorable Corey D. Hawkins, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Alabama.

To the Honorable L. Lamont Banks, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Tennessee.

To the Honorable Primus James, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Georgia.

To the Honorable Mark A. McGraw, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Arkansas.

To the Honorable Michael T Anderson, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Texas.

To the Honorable Torres M. Beckley, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Missouri.

To the Honorable Luis Metan Most Worshipful Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Côte D'Ivoire West Africa.

To the Honorable Don Cowart, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Florida F&AM.

To the Honorable Lee Wallace Most Worshipful Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of the Bahamas.

To the Honorable Robert J Eagle Spirit, Sr. Most Worshipful Grand Master Prince Hall Jurisdiction of California.

To the Honorable Kevin L Barney, Jr., Most Worshipful Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Maryland.

To the Honorable Eugene Anderson, Jr., Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Indiana and President of the Prince Hall COGM.

To the Honorable Emanuel J Stanley, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Maryland and Executive Secretary of the Prince Hall COGM.

To the Honorable Robert C Newton, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Kentucky and President of the Mid West Region COGM

To the Honorable Gardner M. Torrance, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Washington representing The Honorable Terrell D. Hicklin Most Worshipful Grand Master.

To the Honorable Terrence Jackson, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Colorado, Wyoming, & Utah, Representing the Honorable Gary B. Thomas, Sr., Most Worshipful Grand Master.

To DDGM Damien Hall Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York, Representing the Honorable Darren M. Morton, Most Worshipful Grand Master.

To PM Eric Konohia, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge District of Columbia, Representing the Honorable Glenn N. Ruffin, Most Worshipful Grand Master.

To the greatest grand line of Elected Grand Lodge officers ever assembled. Whom All of which could easily stand before you in this very capacity for the future of our Grand Lodge:

RW Deputy Grand Master Gus Harris, Jr.

RW Senior Grand Warden Kendall T. Moore

RW Junior Grand Warden Dr. Marlon S. Honeywell

RW Grand Treasurer Melvin F. Wright

RW Grand Secretary Tommie Wright.

To Dr. Tracy A. Thomas, GWM Jerusalem Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star.

To Heroine Sonya Brinson, MAGM Union Grand Court Heroines of Jericho

To each of our Male and Female Concordant Department Heads in their respective places.

To the Grand Chancellor, RW Matthew Stevenson.

To the Grand Lecturer, RW Leonard Ross.

To our elected board of Grand Trustees, most notable, RW Henry B. Parker, Trustee Board Chairman.

To the Chaplains and Clergy of this Great Jurisdiction most notable our Worshipful Grand Chaplain Rev. Ernest Powell.

To all visiting guests' delegations in their respective places. To all other distinguished Dignitaries.

To all Appointed Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter Officers, To All Past Masters, Past Worthy Matrons, Worshipful Masters and Worthy Matrons, Brothers, Sisters, Family, Friends, Guests, and to all God's Children!!!

GOOD AFTERNOON!!!!

Psalm 28:7: The LORD is my strength and shield. I trust him with all my heart. He helps me, and my heart is filled with joy. I burst out in songs of thanksgiving.

Brothers and Sisters, As I stand before you today, I do so, knowing that I stand here as your Most Worshipful Grand Master for the last time. As I stand here, I stand with a great sense of gratitude. I stand with a great sense of humility. I stand here, knowing that it is only because of the grace of God. Throughout this tenure, I have placed a great deal of faith in Him; seeking His guidance to grant me the wisdom and the strength to lead His people. As I began this journey nearly five (5) years ago, I asked each of you to come with me. I asked you to trust me, and I promised that I would never intentionally lead you wrong. I promised that I would always act in the best interest of our great Jurisdiction. I have done my best to keep those promises and for that, God granted me with His favor. He placed upon your hearts to entrust in me the leadership and future of this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge. For that reason, I say Thank you Lord!!!!

In the tradition of our Grand Lodge, today I will deliver my final address. But even in its finality, I equally pledge to each of you, my continued support and much like you afforded it to me, I promise mine to be unending, and unwavering.

It is because of you, the faithful members of this great Jurisdiction, and the blessings that God has bestowed upon us, that before I continue with this address, I ask that our Grand Chaplain take us to the throne of grace as our choir sings softly: "Thank you Lord"

<https://youtu.be/zii2BjpudaI?si=0fwqggvE88rX4htm> - Prayer

Brothers and Sisters, I once again greet you in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. It is with great pride and privilege that I welcome you to this 155th Grand Communication of the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge of Florida. It seems like just yesterday that we began this journey together. But it's been five (5) years. In that time, we have overcome obstacles, faced many challenges, improved our masonic relationships, protected our Jurisdiction, expanded our Prince Hall masonry, and dared to be bold in our actions. Together, we have brought great success to the Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Florida. Because of that I say Thank You Lord.

NECROLOGY

John 11:25

Jesus said unto her, "I am the resurrection and the Life. He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;

The Bible reminds us that death is not the end. But we are equally reminded that as soon as we are born, we begin to die. Our days are few and full of trouble. And as we sojourn here on earth, trouble can be found on every corner and at every turn in life. Trouble is better known in this world and is often presented to us in the form temptation and sin. When we succumb to temptation, eternal death is the by-product and the wages of sin. But life is an opportunity. Life presents us with the ability to seek God, trusting in Him, building our character, working daily to become more Christ-like by letting Him into our hearts. Therefore, my brothers and sisters I say

to you repent of your sins, believe and trust in Him and not only shall you live but have everlasting life. Thirty (30) of our beloved brothers Including our Grand Senior Deacon PM William D. Wims, Past Grand Commander Sir Arther J. Mincey, and Past Deputy of the Orient III Joe Caldwell have answered the roll call of St Peter's scroll this year. It is my prayer that we will all see them again when the trumpet sounds on resurrection day.

STATE OF THE NATION

The Preamble to the United States Constitution is the introductory statement that explains the reasons and goals of the Constitution. The preamble sets the stage for what could arguably be described as the greatest document ever written. The Preamble clearly communicates the intentions of the framers and the purpose of the document. It says: "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

With a noble purpose established, The United States Constitution would lay the framework for what should be the greatest country on earth. But I must say, that Civil Rights Activist James Baldwin said it best when he stated:

I love America more than any other country in the world. And for that exact reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually. ~James Baldwin

America clearly set some very lofty goals for herself, and after 249 years of independence, one would expect her to be in a far better place than we find her today. Over 160 years ago, much like today, the country divided itself over conservative vs liberal views. Only at that time, the democratic party of the Confederate south fought for a more conservative and divisive agenda, while free black men and the Union soldiers of the North fought for a more liberal and inclusive agenda under the leadership of Republican President Abraham Lincoln. But today, the Republican party now lean more to the conservative side of politics and stand for less diversity and less inclusion. While America once considered herself to be a melting pot of cultures and ideals, and promoted this idea as one of the reasons for her greatness; A poem on the site at the statue of Liberty clearly tells the world: "**Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free**". This sentiment forgotten, America now fights and proposes mass deportations; blaming the country's issues on those whom she once welcomed. Those who are here seeking asylum and/or simply a better way of life. Our Country has faulted on the premise that all immigrants who cross our southern boarder are a monolith of criminality. This too has been promoted under the leadership of a Republican President. This is not an indictment of today's Republican party, many of those I call friend have fair minded Republican views, it simply shows that After 249 years, rather than work to rid herself of these divisive values, America still clings to the some of her misguided views of yesterday. The people and the ideals have simply switched sides. I love America more than any other country in the world, but I fear she is moving in the wrong direction if she is ever to become great!!!

It's time for all Americans (Black, White, Yellow, Red, and Brown) to come together. We must unify to knock down the barriers that keep us from becoming great. We must unify to rid ourselves of the values that promote White vs Black, Dark vs Light, Men vs Women, Young vs Old, Democrat vs Republican, North vs South, Rich vs Poor, etc., etc., etc. Truly if we take a moment to step back; take a good look at ourselves, we just might find that we are alike as much as we are different... We are alike because we are all God's Children. But we might also just find that our differences may actually be our strength. We all have something to offer the other and if we could simply learn to love and lean on each other; just maybe America could come out of her own shadow to be the beacon of light to the world that she is capable of being. I believe our differences are the will of our creator and if we accept that and lean on our strength, those that attempt to divide us by pointing out our difference will soon learn that they are in the vast minority. In our differences rest our Strengths and there is Strength in our Unity.

The book of Ephesians 2: 14-18 is the most critical reminder and proof that we are meant to live as one people. It says:

¹⁴ For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. ¹⁵ He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. ¹⁶ Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. ¹⁷ He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. ¹⁸ Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

By continuing to live the way that we are in this country, we are saying that Christ and his finished work on the cross was a sacrifice by God of which we are not worthy. So, as we work to create a great America, let us remember the words of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:**

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.”

STATE OF THE CRAFT

“When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.”

When I reflect on this profound quote by **renowned writer & poet Ms. Audre Lorde**, I'm reminded of the many obstacles, challenges, and decision we faced during this tenure. There was much to fear. And on many occasions, we could have taken the easier path. But fear has not been a spirit in which we have come to embrace. Through the grace of God, and our faith in Him; we worked together, we faced our fears, and we persevered.

Five (5) years ago, we were living in the height of the COVID pandemic. So much so that in April of 2020, we cancelled our regular scheduled Grand Session due to the effects of Covid-19. It wasn't until August of 2020; the Grand Officers under the leadership of Grand Master Walter

Gulley, Jr.; worked together to develop a safety plan to convene a modified Grand Session for the purpose of holding elections, and burning the Mortgage of our Grand East on the 150-year anniversary of our Jurisdiction. It was a calculated risk, but the plan proved successful and was the first sign that we could continue to function as a Jurisdiction even in the midst of Covid. By the end of 2020 over 386,000 American had lost their lives with COVID being identified as the cause or an underlining factor. That said, our Jurisdiction's COVID protocol was so successful, during my acceptance speech I promised that through the grace of God, I would move with eager anticipation of what is possible and that I was prayerful that our Jurisdiction would move in unison. I asked you to trust me and assured you that we would work together with enthusiasm, positive minds, and with deliberate intention to succeed. I promised you structured leadership and asked only in return, for you to be a committed membership. You did so, answering my call; and today with God's blessing we are a more vibrant and stronger jurisdiction than ever before. During those perilous times.....with so many others falling victim to the COVID virus, we did not go untouched but our protocols allowed us to continue to operate with minimal sickness and zero deaths as a result of the covid virus being contracted at one of our events.

Because of this.....

- ❖ Together, we have established record participation in our annual Grand Sessions each year. With or without Covid, close to 1000 men and nearly 1000 women attending the annual session for a jurisdiction our size is almost unheard of.
- ❖ Together, we fought off those who sought to divide us and encroach on our Jurisdiction. We stood in unity against such actions passing a monumental and historical constitutional amendment that protects us today and will do so well into our future.
- ❖ Together, we fostered three African lodges; legitimately expanding Prince Hall Masonry into the African Continent along the same shores of West Africa from which Prince Hall's ancestors and many of our own were involuntarily removed. Together, we took them back to their homeland under the hallmark of Prince Hall Masonry.
- ❖ Together, we built stronger relationships and signed amity agreements with several none Prince Hall Jurisdictions. These signed agreements include the Grand Lodge of Florida, The Grand Lodge of Greece, The Grand Lodge of Lebanon, The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, The Grand Lodge State of São Paulo Brazil, The United Grand Lodge of England, and The Grand Lodge of Baja California. We continue to promote the universality of Masonry across the globe as we continue to foster and build worldwide masonic relationships.
- ❖ Together, we brought closure to the July Perry family as we performed the masonic final rites & burial ceremony that had been denied our brother over 105 years ago after he was Lynched in the Ocoee Florida massacre for daring to attempt to vote in the 1920 presidential election.
- ❖ Together, we laid a memorial reef near the train tracks in Rosewood Florida that was used as the escape route for the survivors of the Rosewood Massacre in 1923. We took over 100+ Masons and Eastern Stars to the sight of this historical atrocity making it the first

time since the massacre in 1923 that a group of African Americans that size set foot upon those hollowed grounds.

- ❖ Though we are still working to bring this plan to fruition, together we embarked upon a Real Estate development plan of our Grand East that will secure our organization's financial future.

These are just a few of the accomplishments of our great Jurisdiction. But I must say that without you the members, standing in solidarity working in faith and without fear, none of it would have been possible. For that I say Thank you Lord.

I must equally take this time to thank my extremely capable line of Grand Officers. I've said throughout this tenure that I have the greatest Grand Line ever assembled. I want them and rest of the world to know that when I say it, I mean it. These gentlemen have made life much easier for me. Dare I say, their hard work and efforts have made our Jurisdiction a far greater success. I have no doubt that each of them could easily take my place and lead this jurisdiction to higher heights. If I didn't accomplish anything during my tenure, I know that I can rest comfortable knowing that I have prepared them thereby securing the future of our Jurisdiction. I want to thank Brothers like PM Jerry Urso for his level of commitment to the research of our history. His dedication and love for Prince Hall Masonry is unchallenged. Many thanks to HPGM Carl Finerson for filling the role of our first ever Grand Chancellor. With his vast masonic knowledge, he laid the groundwork for our newly created committee on Amity and Fraternal Relations. Many thanks to PM Matthew Stevenson and our team of legal advisors. Their expertise guided us from a place of strength in countless contract negotiations. Many thanks to HPGM Leonard Ross for his leadership in keeping our jurisdiction ritualistically sound. Working with our instructors he led the masonic training program while I focused on developing the life skills of the men and women of our Jurisdiction due the state of our country and hard times that appear to be ahead in our future. We accomplished this annually via the Leadership Lyceum here in Orlando Florida. There are far too many to name but please know I am grateful to each of you for your contributions to this administration. From our floor officers to our District Deputy Grand Masters notwithstanding President Aubrey Brunson, To the leadership team of our foundation most especially President Jordin Chandler; who took it to a whole new level with our charitable efforts. To our Grand Instructors, our Grand Lodge Office Staff, our IT Committee, our AV, Photography and Social Media Committees, and not to forget the amazing work at our Grand East by our Grand Trustees. Many Thanks for the tireless work of our Grand CCFC PM Marcus Brinson and our Awesome Grand Worthy Patron PM Raymond Cromartie. Many thanks to the various committee chairman and members of every committee. Someone is going to be missed but please count it to my head and not my heart. Many thanks to the Jurisdiction of Florida most particularly our beautiful Sisters. And lastly, but certainly no least, I must thank my lovely wife Yolanda Jones, my mother Mildred Jones, and the rest of my family for the Love, support, and encouragement they have given me; not only in masonry, but throughout my life. Without them, this tenure as Grand Master is not possible!!!!

Two of the principal objectives of any leader should be to ensure that the future of the organization is secure by training and preparing his successor(s), and to leave the organization better than he

found it. From the first day of my tenure to the last, I have worked with that intent. I feel comfortable leaving this office knowing I have done that.

And finally, as a conservator, I would be remised If I did not share with you the same appeal I made when I started this journey in 2020; quoting the scripture given during my acceptance speech:

I appeal to you, brothers and sister, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naïve. ~Romans 16:17-18

As I prepare to take my seat, I leave you with this thought: I asked the Fire, are you the strongest? The fire said No, the Water is stronger, for when it touches me, I turn to steam. I asked the Water are you the strongest? The water said no, the Sun is stronger, for when it shines, I evaporate. I asked the Sun are you the strongest? The sun said no, the clouds are stronger, they can cover me and block me from the surface of the earth. I asked the Clouds are you the strongest? The Clouds said no, the wind is stronger, for he can blow me in any direction he chooses. I asked the Wind, are you the strongest? The wind said no, the Mountain is the stronger, for when I blow against it, I break up and become weak. I asked the Mountain are you the strongest? the Mountain said no, man is stronger, for he can climb to my peaks or can even destroy me. I asked Man are you the Strongest? The Man said no, death is stronger for no man can escape it. I asked Death, are you the strongest? Death said No No No, I once thought I was the strongest until I killed a Man, but in three (3) days rose again, and that Man is named Jesus.

Continue to work together Brother and Sisters, and you will move this Jurisdiction to unseen heights. Trust in each other, but above all trust in the Lord.

In as much as this is my final and farewell address, I leave you with no recommendations; only an admonishment.

I admonish each of you to Love the Lord God with all your heart, all your soul, and your all mind. And secondly, Love your neighbor as you love yourself.

The Prince Hall Phamily: Tried and True, There Is None but God Greater Than You.

Let every heart say: THANK YOU LORD & AMEN!!!!

I AM,



The Honorable Jeffery G. Jones

19th Most Worshipful Grand Master, MWUGL of Florida, Belize, Central America and its Jurisdiction, Inc. PHA.

GOD SAVE THE CRAFT

Stewardship & Actions

(Virtual Meetings and Events have been omitted)

Month	To	Event
Jan 2024	Orlando	York Rite Session
Jan	Nassau Bahamas	SERCOGM
Feb	Arkansas	Grand Session
Feb	Florida	Constitution Compliance Suspensions
March	Selma Alabama	59 th Anniversary Bloody Sunday March
March	Charleston, South Carolina	South Carolina COD
April	Jacksonville, FL	Grand Session
May	North Carolina	COGM
May	Orlando	FL Mainstream Grand Session
Jun	Cocoa Beach	Youth Grand Session
Jun	New York	Grand Session
Jun	Texas	Grand Session
Jul	Mobile Alabama	Alabama Grand Session
Jul	West Palm Beach	Dept Head Mid-Year meeting
Jul	Orlando	FCOD Workshop
Aug	West Palm Beach	GWM Visitation
Aug	Omaha Nebraska	COGM Site Visit
Aug	Washington DC	Slavery Remembrance Day
Aug	Orlando, FL	Leadership Lyceum
Sept	Orlando, FL	MID Year Workshop HOJ
Sept	Tampa, FL	Homegoing Services Dell Cowart
Sept	Jacksonville	Zone 1 GM Visitation
October	Memphis TN	United Supreme Council
Oct	Orlando	OES Workshop
Nov	Leesburg	GM Zone 2 Visitation
Nov	Jacksonville, FL	FCOD Grand Session
Dec	Maryland	Grand Sessions
Dec	West Palm Beach	GM Zone 3 Visitation
Dec	Miami	Visitation with Emerald Lodge
Dec	Cocoa	Cocoa 55 Anniversary
Dec	Florida	Indefinite Suspension Chis Johnson
Jan 2025	Orlando	York Rite Session
Jan	Birmingham Alabama	SRCOGM
Jan	Florida	Candidacy for Election Declaration Edict
Feb	Arkansas	Grand Session
March	Selma, Alabama	60 th Anniversary Bloody Sunday March
March	Ohio	Midwest COGM
March	Virginia	Mid Atlantic COGM

“The Prince Hall Mason, Tried and True, There Is None but God Greater Than You”

~The Honorable Jeffery Gerard Jones, 19th MWGM
Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge of Florida, PHA



MWUGL OF FLORIDA



THE PRINCE HALL MASON

“Tried and True, there is none but God greater than you”

#PHApride
MWGM Jeffery G. Jones