

# 156<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Communication



## Grand Master's Allocution

April 18, 2026  
Jacksonville, FL

**The Honorable Gus Harris, Jr.**  
20th Most Worshipful Grand Master

Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge of Florida,  
Belize, Central America, and its Jurisdiction, Incorporated, Prince Hall Affiliated



GRAND MASTER'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First Giving Honor to my Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, whom without, I am absolutely nothing.

To the greatest cadre of Past Grand Masters any Grand Master could hope for in a single Jurisdiction:

- Our 15th Most Worshipful Grand Master, The Honorable Bishop Dr. Michael R. Moore
- Our 17th Most Worshipful Grand Master, The Honorable Dr. Anthony T. Stafford
- Our 18th Most Worshipful Grand Master, The Honorable Walter Gulley, Jr.
- Our 19th Most Worshipful Grand Master, The Honorable Jeffery G. Jones

To our esteemed visiting Grand Masters and their guests:

- To 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 T. 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 Robert J. Eagle Spirit, Sr., Most Worshipful Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of California
- To The Honorable Taleb "Tali" Atala, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Florida, F&AM
- To The Honorable Archie McArthur, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Nevada
- To The Honorable Rev. Tonie Crisler, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Mississippi
- Representing The Honorable Jeffery O. Alexander, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Colorado – To Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Terrence Jackson
- Representing The Honorable Kevin L. Barney, Jr., Most Worshipful Grand Master of Maryland – To Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Dwayne Wright, Sr.
- To The Honorable Torres Beckley, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Missouri
- To The Honorable Gardner M. Torrance, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Washington
- To The Honorable Emmanuel Stanley, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, Prince Hall Jurisdiction of Maryland

GRAND MASTER'S ALLOCUTION

To the greatest line of Elected Grand Lodge Officers ever assembled:

- RW Deputy Grand Master Kendall T. Moore
- RW Senior Grand Warden Dr. Marlon S. Honeywell
- RW Junior Grand Warden Tommie Wright
- RW Grand Treasurer Melvin F. Wright
- RW Grand Secretary Canary Williams

To Department Heads and other distinguished members of the Jurisdiction of Florida:

- To Sister Renee Bolden, Grand Worthy Matron, Jerusalem Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star
- To each of our Male and Female Department Heads in their respective places
- To the Grand Chancellor, RW Judge W. Matthew Stevenson
- To the Grand Lecturer, RW Leonard Ross
- To our elected board of Grand Trustees, most notable, RW Gerald Dupont, Trustee Board Chairman
- To the Chaplains and Clergy of this Great Jurisdiction, most notable, Worshipful Grand Chaplain Rev. Ernest Powell
- To all visiting guests' delegations in their respective places, and to all other distinguished dignitaries
- To all Appointed Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter Officers; to all Past Masters, Past Worthy Matrons, Sitting Masters and Worthy Matrons, Brothers, Sisters, Family, Friends, Guests; and,
- **To ALL God's Children!!!**

## **Allocution of The Most Worshipful Grand Master**

*“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good”*

**Numbers 23:19 (KJV)**

*“Father, I stretch my hands to Thee, No other help I know; If Thou withdraw Thyself from me, Ah! whither shall I go?”*

To the esteemed members of The Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge of Florida, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering trust and confidence in me as your Grand Master. Your prayers, steadfast support, and unwavering commitment have not only uplifted my spirit but have also fortified my resolve to build a stronger, more unified jurisdiction. It is through your dedication that we continue to thrive and uphold the sacred tenets of Prince Hall Masonry.

As I continue to make my footprint in the sands of time, I am ever mindful and grateful for the guidance and wisdom of the four living Past Grand Masters who have preceded me. Their enduring presence serves as a beacon of strength and counsel. Having served under nine Grand Masters throughout my Masonic journey, I can sincerely affirm that these four have been among the most invaluable supporters.

### **Invocation**

At this time, I would like to call upon our Grand Chaplain, Reverend Powell, to lead us in a moment of spiritual reflection. Let us join together in the singing of the hymn, “Father, I Stretch My Hands to Thee,” followed by a solemn prayer. May this moment of reverence center our hearts and minds as we proceed with the work before us.

### **Necrology**

This year, we mourn the loss of thirty-seven of our beloved Brothers who have transitioned from labor to reward. Their absence is deeply felt, yet their legacy and contributions continue to resonate throughout our Jurisdiction. We also remember our cherished Sisters who have laid down their earthly crowns to don crowns of righteousness. As it is written, “to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.” Let us live our lives in accordance with His Word, so that we too may one day be reunited with them in glory, should the Lord tarry.

## **State of the Nation**

My Brothers and Sisters, in all my years, I have borne witness to the evolving landscape of our nation. I was born into an era where African Americans were treated as second-class citizens. I served in Vietnam, fighting for a country that, at the time, struggled to accept me and many others like me. Upon returning home, we were met not with gratitude, but with scorn.

Today, we find ourselves in a nation more divided than ever. We see acts of injustice perpetuated by those in power, alliances with long-standing partners being forsaken, and troubling engagements with foreign adversaries. We are embroiled in a conflict in Iran that many do not understand or support.

In these trying times, I believe that we, as Masons, are called to be beacons of hope and agents of change. We are no strangers to what the late Congressman John Lewis called “good trouble.” Let us remember the words of John 13:35: “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

## **State of the Craft**

When I assumed the sacred office of Grand Master, our Jurisdiction was already experiencing meaningful growth. I am proud to report that this momentum continues today. Yet, even with this progress, our work remains unfinished.

A concern has become increasingly evident: too many Brothers are advancing through the ranks without fully absorbing the foundational principles and teachings of our Craft. The edict established by Past Grand Master Jones—requiring an 18-month period before a Brother may transition to another Masonic house after becoming a Master Mason—remains firmly in place. This safeguard ensures that our members are well-grounded in Masonic knowledge and practice before taking their next steps.

Another matter of importance is the conduct of leadership within our ranks. Leadership must be exercised with humility, dignity, and respect. Disrespect toward our female counterparts will not be tolerated, nor should disrespect flow in the opposite direction. We must remember that with great power comes great responsibility, and indeed, to whom much is given, much is required. Under this administration, our mission is clear: we will build bridges, not barriers.

It also brings me great pride to affirm that our fraternal relations continue to strengthen. We have deepened our ties with the Grand Lodge of Florida and expanded our amity agreements with additional Jurisdictions. These relationships are essential to our unity and collective advancement.

### State of the Craft (cont...)

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the visionary leadership of Past Grand Master Jones, whose strategic foresight laid the foundation for many of the advancements we now enjoy. Over the past year, our Grand Lodge team, more notably our Deputy Grand Master, has worked diligently to secure facilities that meet our evolving operational needs. I am pleased to announce that we have successfully acquired not one, but two buildings in Jacksonville. These acquisitions represent a significant milestone and position our Grand Lodge for sustained growth and prosperity for generations to come.

### Recommendations

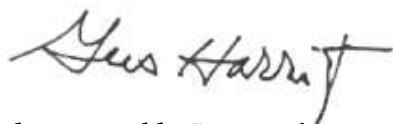
- All Master Masons shall be required to demonstrate suitable proficiency within thirty (30) days of receiving the Master Mason degree, as a prerequisite for obtaining their Master Mason membership patent.
- A bi-annual assessment of forty dollars (\$40.00) per member shall be instituted during my tenure as Grand Master. These funds will be allocated exclusively for the maintenance and upkeep of our newly acquired Grand Lodge facilities.
- Recommit to a culture of genuine Masonic learning by expanding and elevating our educational offerings. This includes reinstating in-person Worshipful Master certifications, launching in-person summer workshops, and introducing additional structured training programs that will be announced soon. The goal is to ensure every Lodge has access to high-quality, hands-on instruction worthy of a top-tier Masonic jurisdiction.

My Brothers and Sisters, I thank you once again for your steadfast support, your labor, and your unwavering devotion to this Jurisdiction. You are the heartbeat of this Grand Lodge, and it is because of your commitment that we continue to rise, to grow, and to strengthen the legacy entrusted to us.

As we move forward together, I humbly ask that God continue to cover you, protect you, and keep you in His perfect care. May His grace guide your steps, may His wisdom shape your decisions, and may His love bind us ever closer in unity and purpose.

May God save the Craft, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Your Humble Servant,



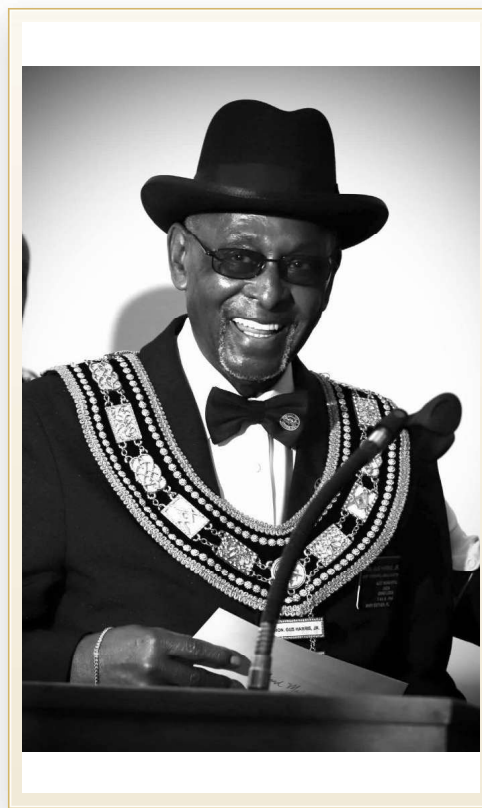
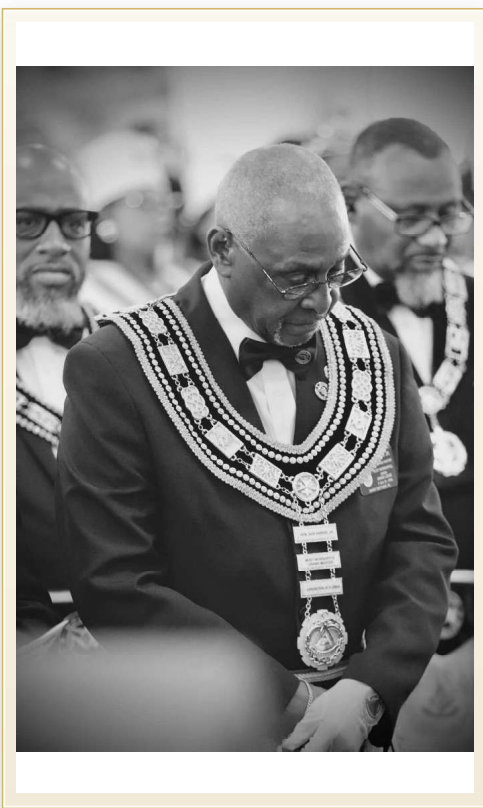
**The Honorable Gus Harris, Jr.**

20th Most Worshipful Grand Master

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GRAND MASTER'S STEWARDSHIP REPORT

<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
106th Annual Conference of Grand Masters	Omaha, NE	May 15-18, 2025
Grand Lodge of Florida Session	Orlando, FL	May 26-28, 2025
MWUGL Executive Board Meeting	Jacksonville, FL	June 6, 2025
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia Grand Session	Duluth, GA	June 10-12, 2025
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas Grand Session	Frisco, TX	June 26-29, 2025
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama Grand Session	Mobile, AL	July 21-23, 2025
FCOD/FAGSA Annual Workshop	Orlando, FL	July 25-26, 2025
OES Zone 1 GWM Visitation	Jacksonville, FL	August 1-3, 2025
Department Head Meeting	Orlando, FL	August 29, 2025
Installation Weekend / MAUGC Workshop / MWGJ Testimonial	Orlando, FL	September 5-6, 2025
United Supreme Council	Memphis, TN	October 9-10, 2025
FCOD/FAGSA Annual Session	Jacksonville, FL	November 7-9, 2025
Stringer Prince Hall Grand Lodge Grand Session	Jackson, MS	Nov 29 - Dec 2, 2025
Department Head Meeting	Orlando, FL	January 9, 2026
York Rite Weekend / MEGHP Testimonial	Orlando, FL	January 9-10, 2026
Southern Region COGM	Little Rock, AR	January 16-17, 2026
Executive Board Meeting	Jacksonville, FL	February 27, 2026
LOCOP's 25th Anniversary Celebration	Jacksonville, FL	Feb 27 - Mar 1, 2026
Selma March (Alabama)	Selma, AL	March 8, 2026
MIGTIM Testimonial	Daytona Beach, FL	March 13-14, 2026







## Support Our Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge Foundation

Your generosity helps strengthen the mission and ongoing work of the MWUGL Foundation, Inc.

We invite you to support the Most Worshipful Union Grand Lodge Foundation through charitable giving and financial contributions. Every gift helps further the Foundation's purpose and impact.

You can support the Foundation in the following ways:

- **Cash App:** Scan the QR code to pay **\$MWUGLFoundation**.
- **Zelle:** Send your donation to **mwuglfoundation.treasurer@gmail.com**.
- **Check by Mail:** Make your check payable to **MWUGL Foundation, Inc.**
- **Visit Our Website:** [www.mwuglfoundation.org](http://www.mwuglfoundation.org)

### Mail checks to:

John M. Grayson, CPA, MBA

PO Box 12774

Tallahassee, FL 32301

### Give by Cash App



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So Mote It Be