

2023

The Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand
Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons
Jurisdiction of South Carolina

Companion Jerome G. Brooks, Sr. 33 KYCH, Most Excellent Grand High Priest



**PRINCE HALL
GRAND CHAPTER
HOLY ROYAL ARCH
MASONS
of
SOUTH CAROLINA**

Let us Commit
ourselves to
"LOVE, HONESTY,
RESPECT, INTEGRITY,
FAMILY, and MOST OF
ALL, GOD!"

October 20, 2023

MEGHP Jerome G. Brooks, Sr.

ANNUAL ADDRESS

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FAMILY, AND MOST OF ALL – GOD"!

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Companion Jerome G. Brooks, Sr. 33° KYCH, Most Excellent Grand High Priest

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Annual Address

Let us Commit ourselves to “LOVE, HONESTY, RESPECT, INTEGRITY, FAMILY, AND MOST OF ALL – GOD”!

October 20, 2023

TO: The Honorable Victor C. Major, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the State of South Carolina

Right Excellent Deputy Grand High Priest Omar Benjamin

Right Excellent Grand King Gregory Watson

Right Excellent Grand Scribe Johnny Pernell

Right Excellent Grand Lecturer Kevin Williams

Right Excellent Grand Secretary Ricardo Mungo

Right Excellent Grand Treasurer Willie Hatten

Right Excellent Grand C. C. F. C. Harold Thompson

All Appointed Grand Chapter Officers

All Past Grand High Priest

To the appointed Officers, Heads of Concordant Bodies, Officers and members of Concordant Bodies

To the distinguished Dignitaries

Necrology

Since our last convocation, the silent hand of the GRIM Reaper of death has touched and taken away twelve (12) of our revered companions whose names will appear in our Memorial Service, removed from labor to reward. They have traveled to the land of no return. Their hearts no longer beat. Their hearts have counted all the moments of their Companion's lives and have ceased. The feet of our Companions will go no more upon errands of mercy, nor follow the dead to the grave. So may our prayers continue to ascend on behalf of those who have experienced loss and bereavement during the past year. Let us be mindful that one of these days, it will be us who appear before the supreme Grand Overseer, and we pray that we hear those words, in a positive echo, "Good work! True work! Square work! pass on beneath the ARCH of Glory!"

State of the Nation

Views about the state of the nation, as has been the case for nearly two decades, show a majority of Americans express dissatisfaction with the current state of the nation. Today, only about a quarter (24%) are satisfied with the way things are going in the country, while three-quarters say they are dissatisfied.

However, a majority of U.S. adults (61%) are optimistic that the New Year will be better than the year that just ended, according to a new survey from Pew Research Center. Public satisfaction with national conditions remains low. Just 21% say they are satisfied with the way things are going in the country, while 78% are dissatisfied.

State of the State

Many events that are happening in our nation are happening here in South Carolina. There is a great divide between the generations. Nobody is satisfied! Nobody will work together. Everybody wants what they want! No comprised.

State of the Craft

When I take a look around in the Prince Hall Family, it is being transformed—in ways both obvious and hidden by some members.

We as Royal Arch Masons are the root and marrow of freemasonry. So my Companions let us be better because I know that we can do better.

Our prayer is “Direct us O Lord, in these and all our doings with Thy most Gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in Thee, that we may glorify thy Holy Name, and finally by Thy mercy obtain everlasting life. Amen”

I still would like for us to check on our older Companions, we have 1,054 members on roll. With the reports in the **GLASS™** system, we have:

- 276 members over 63 years old.
- 110 members 62-55 years old.
- 223 members 54-18 years old.
- 445 that are not updated.

I’m asking again to check on your members and inter their information because that’s how we write and keep up with our history.

Freemasonry is a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory, past-words and symbols.

Freemasonry is a beautiful system of principles that help us to distinguish between right and wrong, good and bad behavior.

Freemasonry is a beautiful system of values that teaches us how to conduct ourselves!!

So, freemasonry is not about getting into the upper houses or becoming WM or Grand Junior this or Grand Senior that, as many of us are focused on.

Freemasonry is about teaching you how to conduct yourself properly. And these lessons are shrouded in the stories and symbols that are present in these houses that we sometimes demand to control.

So, Companions! In “Holy Royal Arch” we are taught how to conduct ourselves...in lodge meetings, at home with wife and kids, at work, and even out in the public, and it does this by lessons hidden in stories and images.

If some of you remember, I bought a very special chest called the ark of covenant.

Inside the ark of covenant was: A golden pot of manna – Food given miraculously to the Israelites while they were in the wilderness. It was given each day except on the Sabbath. It appeared on the ground as small as hoarfrost, and white as coriander seed. It tasted like fresh oil of wafers made of honey. (Heb.9:4) Aaron’s Rod the budded – A staff carried by Aaron (the first high priest of Israel) it became a snake and later budded, showing divine approval of Moses and Aaron. (Num. 17:1) Tablets of the covenant –

Tablets_of stone on which the Ten Commandments were written. (Ex.24:12) These three items were the most precious objects in the world. They represented God's presence and His promises to Israel.

I would like to talk about only one of them ... Aaron's Rod.

Aaron's Rod was very powerful you know. It was Aaron's Rod that was used in the presence of Pharaoh. Pharaoh wanted Moses and Aaron to perform a miracle. It was Aaron that threw his rod to the ground, and it turned into a snake. The Egyptian magicians then threw their rods to the ground, and they too turned into snakes, but Aaron's snake swallowed up their snakes. It was Aaron's Rod that was stretched out over the river Nile and all the waters of Egypt, and they were turned into blood. It was Aaron's Rod that summoned the plague of frogs and the plague of gnats.

But why do you think God wanted it kept in the ark ... for "eternity."

Do you remember one other significant characteristic about Aaron's Rod? ... It also grew buds. It not only grew buds but also grew blossoms and even grew almonds. This happened because the people were grumbling and complaining against Moses and Aaron's leadership for bringing them out of a land flowing with milk and honey into the wilderness.

The people then gathered up 250 men to oppose Moses and Aaron and asked them "what made y'all think y'all so special that y'all could lead us?" When Moses summons them to a meeting ... they did not answer ... they did not come out to the meeting Moses had called. God said since you want to grumble and complain about leadership and don't want to come out to meetings and you think you could do a better job than these two, he said select one leader from each tribe of Israel, and get a staff, carve their name on it and place it in the tent of meeting overnight and whichever staff sprouted by morning was the man whom God had chosen to lead. And we see Aaron's staff not only sprouted but blossomed and even grew almonds.

God told Moses to place Aaron's staff in the ark, as a sign against rebellion and against leadership.

Is there anything we as RAM can learn from this symbolism? I think so! Many of us in Masonry are blinded by titles and degrees. Some of us come into the upper houses but then don't pay dues, some don't come to meetings, but then sit back and grumble and complain about what is not happening in the upper houses and even local lodges.

We can do better, but we don't make any worthwhile contribution, or suggestion. Just like those 250, we grumble and complain against the leadership and when they send out summons to come out to the meeting where you can voice your bone of contention, you don't come. But let a class get formed to go for a higher degree, it's those same Brothers or Companions that put in application for advancement. And you know what we do? We advance them.

Companions, Aaron's Rod was placed in the ark for a reason. You may run for a post and not win. You may want a post and not be chosen. But instead of gathering up your 250 to sit back and grumble and complain about the High Priest and his council and what they are not doing, remember Aaron's Rod. Squash that rebellion and figure out a way that you can contribute to help Royal Arch Masonry flourish ... and blossom ... and even grow some almonds.

For me it is a privilege to be a Royal Arch Mason, understanding how deep this degree can go and what all it symbolizes. I know we have some new Companions and some not so new ones in here and I know many of you feel the same as I do about this holy house. I just want you to continue to read, dig deep, to serve, to give of your time ... your talents ... and your treasures so that this great fraternity of ours can not only sprout and bud, but also grow blossoms and even some almonds.

In the ancient ritual of symbolic degrees there was a question after the usual opening statement...

What do you desire?... To learn to subdue my passion and then prove myself in masonry. This is followed by the question how will you improve yourself in masonry? There is by conversing with their well-informed brother who is just as glad to impart it as I am to receive it my companion, I may not be that well informed but I am just glad to share with you what God has given me concerning "The Prince Hall Grand Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masons"

Remember we are the only house in masonry that has the "Real Word."

"Tell me and I may forget!

Show me and I may not remember!

But involve me and I may understand!"

Holiness to the Lord – Holiness to the Lord - Holiness to the Lord!

My Companions!

Jerome G. Brooks, Sr. 33°, MEGHP of S.C.

The Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons Jurisdiction of South Carolina

Stewardship Report

Most Excellent Grand High Priest Jerome G. Brooks, Sr. 33° KYCH
Reporting Period – October 2022 to September 2023

Date	Activity	Place	City
Oct. 1, 2022	9 th Dist. Raising	United Building	Florence, SC
Oct. 6, 2022	United Supreme Council	Conference Center	Memphis, TN.
Oct. 10, 2022	GLASS Workshop	Zoom	
Oct. 13-15	York Rite Grand Session	Embassy Hotel/ GL	Columbia, SC
Oct. 22, 2022	9 th Dist. OES Meeting	Elizabeth Church	Florence, SC
Oct. 26, 2022	Meeting with Grand Master	Zoom	
Oct. 29, 2022	Pee Dee Union	Bethlehem Church	Timmonsville, SC
Oct. 30, 2022	Meeting with Grand Master	Zoom	
Nov. 1-3	Pee Dee Assoc. Meeting	Macedonia Church	Darlington, SC
Nov. 5, 2022	Southern Alliance Meeting	Zoom	
Nov. 12, 2022	Banquet for GWP Nowlin	Mt Clair Church	Lake City, SC
Nov. 22, 2022	HRAM Meeting	Zoom	
Nov. 30, 2022	HRAM Deputies Meeting	Zoom	
Dec. 1, 2022	Meeting with Gr. Coordinator	Conference Call	
Dec. 3, 2022	J. H. Fordham # 7 Banquet	Hilton Hotel	Florence, SC
Dec. 15-17	Grand Lodge Session	Con. Center / GL	Columbia, SC
Dec. 18, 2022	St. Johns Day	Siloam Church	Kingstree, SC
Jan. 5, 2023	HRAM Meeting	Conference Call	
Jan. 7, 2023	York Rite Planning Meeting	Grand Lodge	Columbia, SC
Jan. 14, 2023	HARM Meeting	Conference Call	
Jan. 15, 2023	9 th Dist. Church Visit	Majority Church	Florence, SC
Jan. 21, 2023	REGC Hargi Harper Event	Banquet Hall	Greenville, SC
Jan 26, 2023	Grand Royal and Select meet	Zoom	
Jan. 27, 2023	My 70 th Birthday Party	Showtime Event Cr.	Florence, SC
Jan. 28, 2023	Pee Dee Union	New Zion # 1	Timmonsville, SC
Jan. 28, 2023	Breakfast with RWDG Givens	United Temple	Florence, SC
Jan. 29, 2023	9 th District Church Visit	St. Paul Church	Mullins, SC
Feb. 11, 2023	9 th District Meeting	United Temple	Florence, SC
Feb. 11, 2023	N. C. HRAM Meeting	Zoom	
Feb. 15, 2023	GLASS Workshop	Zoom	
Feb. 16, 2023	OHP Meeting	Zoom	
Feb. 20, 2023	GLASS Meeting with Officers	Zoom	
Feb. 22, 2023	GLASS Workshop	Zoom	
Feb. 23, 2023	PHP Marion Henry Funeral	New Zion AME	Bishopville, SC

Date	Activity	Place	City
Mar 2, 2023	Sis Ruth Jordan Wake		Effingham, SC
Mar. 4, 2023	PHP Curry Funeral		
Mar. 10, 2023	B. Pendergrass Mom's Funeral	Mt. Zion UMC	Kingstree, SC
Mar. 19, 2023	Zerubbabel Day		Lake City, SC
Mar. 24, 2023	SC United Supreme Council	Grand Lodge	Columbia, SC
Mar. 30, 2023	HARM Dep/Spec Dep. Meet	Zoom	
Mar. 31, 2023	RAM Registration Team Meet	Zoom	
Apr. 2, 2023	L'To Benjamin Mother Funeral		St. George, SC
Apr 6-7, 2023	SC HRAM Grand Meeting		Columbia, SC
Apr. 16, 2023	HRAM Meeting	Zoom	
Apr. 20-22	SC Gala Day 2023	Landmark Hotel	Myrtle Beach, SC
Apr. 29, 2023	SC Grand Lodge Workshop	Grand Lodge	Columbia, SC
Apr. 30, 2023	9 th District Church Visit	Mt Clair Church	Lake City, SC
May 6, 2023	RAM Dist. 4 Meeting	United Lodge #401	Winnsboro, SC
May 12, 2023	GLASS Workshop	Zoom	
May 21, 2023	Grand Commandery Meeting	Zoom	
May 27, 2023	RAM Dist. 1 Meeting	New Eden Lodge	Summerville, SC
Jun 3, 2023	9 th Dist. Officers Meeting	United Lodge Hall	Florence, SC
Jun 17, 2023	Faham Temple Ball		Lake City, SC
Jun 30-Jul 5	GCC of RAM	Hilton Hotel	Kentucky
Jul 12, 2023	NC HRAM Meeting	Springhill Suites	Pembroke, NC
Jul 15, 2023	Dep. Bernard Dawkins Wake		Union, SC
Jul 16, 2023	Rabhab Grand Court of NC	Zoom Program	
Jul 22, 2023	York Rite Meeting	Zoom	
Jul 26, 2023	Back to School Bash	Church Hill Apts.	Florence, SC
Jul 29, 2023	RAM Dist. 10 Meeting	Lodge Hall	Varnville, SC
Jul 30, 2023	9 th Dist. Church Visit	Majority Church	Florence, SC
Jul 31, 2023	Meet with G-Lab Youth Group	Bumpie's Place	Florence, SC
Aug 5, 2023	RAM Dist. 7 Meeting	Catch Hall Lodge	Sumter, SC
Aug 6, 2023	RAM Reg. Committee Meeting	Conference Call	
Aug 12, 2023	HOJ/HRAM Meeting	Grand Lodge	Columbia, SC
Aug 12, 2023	RAM 7 th Degree Work	Circle 30 Lodge	Lake City, SC
Aug 20-22	Shrine Imperial Convention	Convention Center	Tampa, FL
Aug 24, 2023	Meeting with GM Major	Zoom	
Aug 26, 2023	9 th Dist. Widows Brunch	9 th Dist. M-P-B	Pamplico, SC
Aug 27, 2023	Conner Stone Laying	New Zion 1 Church	Timmonsville, SC
Aug 27, 2023	HRAM Grand Council Meeting	Conference Call	
Sep 5, 2023	Bro. Kevin Brown's Honor	City Hall	Darlington, SC
Sep 9, 2023	RAM Dist. 11 Meeting	Lodge Hall	Salters, SC
Sep 9, 2023	9 th Dist. Annual Banquet	9 th Dist. M-P-B	Pamplico, SC
Sep 15-16	Crescent Temple Extravaganza	SIMT	Florence, SC
Sep 18, 2023	Carolina Panthers Football	America Stadium	Charlotte, NC
Sep 20, 2023	Shrine Meeting with Chestnut	Zoom	
Sep 24, 2023	Prince Hall Day	Wayside Church	Florence, SC