

**PRINCE HALL GRAND COUNCIL OF ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS JURISDICTION
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
PRINCE HALL AFFILIATED**

**HON. MICHAEL G. THOMAS 33°
RIGHT GRAND THRICE ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER**

**ANNUAL ADDRESS
October 13, 2017**

"Whoever hates his brother is a murderer: and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him." John 3:15

To: The Honorable Lewis H. Nelson, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Companion Michael Miles Jr., Grand Illustrious Deputy Master, Companion John Reeves, Grand Illustrious Principal Conductor of the Works, Past Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Masters, Elected and Appointed Grand Council Officers, Thrice Illustrious Masters, Deputy Masters, Principal Conductors of the Works, Officers and Illustrious Companions of all Subordinate Councils oweing allegiance to this Prince Hall Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the Jurisdiction of South Carolina, Prince Hall Affiliated

Greetings,

I am sincerely grateful to the Grand Architect of the Universe, for without his love and mercy I would not be able to stand here before you today as your 2nd Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Master. I must say that I am very pleased with the progress we as a body have thus achieved. In the immortal words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. " I have a Dream" and yes I too have a dream, a dream to make this Grand Body

of Royal and Select Masters the best that it can be. Very early in my Masonic career I was once told by a friend who I later found to be a brother who said me to let no great undertaking begin without first invoking the spirit of diety, So before I begin my Annual Address let us invoke the blessings of DEITY.....

Grand Chaplain, would you please bless this Annual Address and Assembly!

I first would like to thank without any hesitation *PRGTIM Kenneth M. Barkley*, who I can Unequivocally and Emphatically say has been there for me in some of the darker days. Brother Barkley you have been a friend, confidant and mentor to me from the very start of our friendship. So to you Illustrious Companion Barkley I say Thank You.... I would also like to thank all of my Grand Council Officers and Past Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Masters. I know that we have not seen eye to eye on a few items, but know that I cherish your wise council and advice and that the success of this Grand Council would not be possible without each of you. I would like to give a special thank you to my Grand Recorder, *David Alexis*, Illustrious Companion Alexis, I know that I am not the easiest to work under and sometimes I get ahead of myself, and even sometimes a little forgetful, but please charge it to the head and not the heart. Let me not forget to mention my "ACE" My "Brother from Another Mother" Grand Thrice of the Jurisdiction of Georgia "Joel Mends SR" Joel, my Brother, thank you for taking me under your wing and showing me the ropes and most of all the "*TRUE SECRETS OF THE VAULT*".

NECROLOGY:

Masonry reminds us that no man is promised tomorrow and that we should toil hard and unselfishly in our earthly labors so that when we

are called to dwell in that house not built with hands, eternal in the heavens, we are a ready to hark to the sounding of that golden trumpet that all Select Masters must heed to. This prior year, one (1) Illustrious Companion of our Grand Council has been called home to begin a new journey, a journey that we all must take at some time or another. Past Right Grand Thrice Illustrious Master, Johnell E. Mack served this Grand Council from its inception to the day he was able to set aside the working tools of this terrestrial life and go home to be with the Grand Architect of the Universe.

STATE OF THE RITE:

I am excited and pleased to say that Cryptic Masonry is alive and well in South Carolina. As we continue to grow and learn, there is no limit to what we can achieve. We started this Grand Council with only four (4) Councils and now we stand strong with a total of nine (9) councils to include the four (4) in Serbia. Through Peace, Love and Unity we will continue to promote York Rite Masonry to its fullest extent. We will continue to support and assist the Grand Lodge of this great jurisdiction in all of its undertakings. Harmony is the watch word of the day, Togetherness, the cement that binds us, and with a Strong Harmonious Foundation, success is the **ONLY** result we will accept.

STATE OF THE NATION:

The United States is at **WAR**. This is not a war fought on foreign soil, but a war fought right here in our own backyards. A few bad apples in the Law Enforcement community have declared it **OPEN SEASON** on our young people. Not a week goes by without our seeing or hearing on

some local or national news broadcast of another senseless life taken far too early by the hands of those sworn to protect it. Right here in Charleston, South Carolina we see an example of yet another tragic loss of life. We as the PILLARS of SOCIETY must take an active stand, an active stand to educate our young people, to give them the tools to be successful, not just financially but spiritually as well. We must teach our youth to go out and vote, and to not make violence the first course of action when confronted with opposition by our oppressors. I challenge each and everyone here today to learn your rights, go out and VOTE and most importantly remember "EACH ONE REACH ONE"

STATE OF THE LOCOP:

Today I am very proud to report that I was present at the Official Forming of the Grand Court of The Ladies of the Circle of Perfection for the Jurisdiction of South Carolina. There are currently 4 Courts that make up this Grand Body. I am very assured that the ladies who were elected and appointed to serve as its first leaders will do an excellent job with the assistance of this Grand Council. The ushering in of the LOCOP is but another page in history written for the Jurisdiction of South Carolina, We have had many firsts thus far and I know this will not be our last.

IN CLOSING:

I want each and everyone one of you to know just how much you mean to me. There is nothing like the feeling I get when I am amongst the craft. I have spent countless hours trying to explain to my family and friends just what it means to me to be a Mason. I cannot recount the many discussions of just why I do what I do, and throughout all of these years my answer remains the same, I just love being a **MASON**. I may

not be perfect and I may not have much, what I do have I will unselfishly share with with you. Today October 13, 2016, My son Justin Khalil Thomas, is graduating from Basic Combat Training at Fort Benning in Georgia, and I would have loved to be there to see him pass in review, but my obligation as a man and a Mason means just as much to me. I will admit it was a hard descion to make to be here today, but after all is said and done I take pride in saying that my Son is a member of my Lodge and yes he is a **MASON**.

TRAVELS:

* I have had the opportunity to represent this Grand Council at the following events:

- 1. December 7 - 9, 2015** - 147th MWPHGLSC Annual Grand Lodge Session.
- 2. February 12, 2016** - 21st Annual Grand Assembly, Prince Hall Grand Council Royal And Select Masters, Jurisdiction of North Carolina.
- 3. March 19, 2016** - King Solomon Council #2 Visitation, Eutawville, South Carolina
- 4. April 17, 2016** - South Carolina Council of Deliberation, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
- 5. April 29-30, 2016** - 26th Annual Assembly General Conference of Grand Councils Royal and Select Masters, Chicago, Illinois.
- 6. August 19, 2016** - Last Rites/Wake PRGTIM Johnell E. Mack, Columbia, South Carolina.

7. September 22, 2016 - 11th Annual Grand Assembly, Illustrious HR Butler Grand Council Royal and Select Masters, Jurisdiction of Georgia.

8. October 7- 11, 2016 - 130th Annual Session, United Supreme Council, Memphis, Tennessee.

FRATERNAL RELATIONS:

**I have been truly blessed this year to have been able to travel in foreign countries, work and receive my wages. I have had the opportunity to meet with and build stronger bonds within various Masonic Houses to include:

North Carolina - GTIM Joseph Powell, PGTIM and GHP William Cooke

Virginia - PGTIM Reginal Tolbert

Tennessee - GTIM Kenny Brown

Georgia - GTIM Joel Mends Sr., REGC GB King, MEGHP John R. Smalls, MWGM Bruce A. James

Texas - GTIM Troy Cousin, MEGHP Willie Tate

Bahamas - GTIM Leslie M. Dean

Recommendations:

1. That the Grand Council have its Treasurer and Recorder Bonded.
2. That the Grand Thrice Illustrious Master no longer pays registration to attend the Annual Assembly.
3. That all Royal and Select Mason's Regalia worn in this jurisdiction, be purchased through the Grand Recorders desk. Whereas a small portion will be retained by the Grand Council, which in turn will keep from raising annual taxes and it will also give a uniform appearance of its members.
4. That this Grand Council adopt and institute the first saturday of every May as our Adonoram Day Yearly Celebration as Royal and Select Masons.
5. That this Grand Council provide a \$50.00 stipend to the Grand Recorder and Treasurer payable at the completion of each Annual Asembly.

Yours In The Secret Vault,

Michael G. Thomas

RGTIM Michael G. Thomas, KYGCH