



UNITED MOST WORSHIPFUL ST. JOHN'S GRAND LODGE AF&AM

For the State of Louisiana

History



The Most Worshipful St. John's Grand Lodge Ancient Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Louisiana was organized on November 27, 1913 in New Orleans, Louisiana and incorporated under the laws of the State of Louisiana January 31, 1914. However, the rich history of Freemasonry, in the state of Louisiana, can be traced back even further. Much effort has been made to collect and preserve our historical documents and artifacts relating to our history.

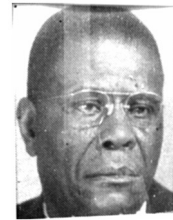
On December 23, 1933 the organization was reorganized there were three chartered Lodges known to have been invited to participate in the organization of the United Most Worshipful St. John's Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., for the State of Louisiana. Those Lodges were Produce Lodge No. 101, Good Will Lodge No. 102, and Crescent City Lodge No. 103.

Hon. Edward D. Verrette was elected as the first Most Worshipful Grand Master of the United Most Worshipful St. John's Grand Lodge.

Under the Hon. A.R. Turner, 33°, The Daughters Of The Universal Grand Chapter O.E.S. Jurisdiction Of Louisiana was organized on June 25, 1952.



Hon. E.D. Verrette, 33°



Hon. James A. Taylor, 33°



Hon. Frank M. Grimes, 33°



Hon. A. R. Turner, 33°



Hon. Henderson Lewis, 33°



Hon. E. E. Columbus, 33°



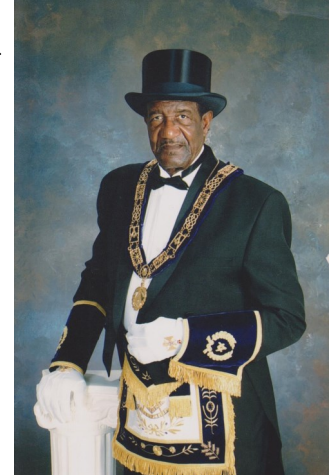
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Hon. Morris Charles

Most Worshipful Morris Charles was born on September 18, 1935, in New Orleans, Louisiana, and attended McDonogh No. 35 Senior High School before his family moved to Houma, LA. The Mandalay Plantations, aptly referred to as the farm. It was on the farm that his parents provided wholesome values and structure that greatly influenced him in his formative years. This is where his parents instilled in him the importance of church. Following school, he worked at a car dealership as a service station manager. In recent times, he has worked diligently with the Terrebonne Parish Transitional Work Program (formerly work release) assisting offenders with making a successful transition from prison back into the work force.

Brother Charles was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in September of 1965. After serving as Grand Junior Warden, Grand Senior Warden, and Deputy Grand Master, in June of 2000, he was elected as Grand Master. He served as Grand Master from 2000 to 2002. He was preceded and succeeded by the Honorable Jesse Baugh, 33°.



In August of 2000, one of the more significant Masonic events that occurred during his tenure as Grand Master was when he participated in the 90th Biennial Session of the Original Supreme Council Convention held in Baltimore Maryland. The event was billed as "Freemasons Cross the Racial Divide" which marked the first time in Freemason history that Black and White Masons united across racial lines.



Photo by J.D. Howard

UNIFIED AND SUPREME: (l to r) The Hons. Philip S. Ajayi, 33°, Kenneth Parker, 33°, Francis E. Larrimore, 33°, and Shelton Redden, 33°, four grand masters of the Masons.

Freemasons cross the racial divide

By Anna Karni
Baltimore AFRO Staff

The Freemason organization has forever been shrouded in mystery, its purpose and mission often veiled by the long titles and ceremonial dress of its leaders. But this week, decked out in their finest official robes, they have emerged from secrecy into downtown Baltimore to not only hold their 90th Biennial Session of the Original Supreme Council Convention, but also to mark the

first time in Freemason history that Black and White worshippers have united across racial lines.

Baltimore has been the stage for the Supreme Council Convention three times before — in 1930, 1952 and 1984 — and was chosen as this year's convention city two years ago. This year's convention, which began on July 27, will be in session until August 5, and takes place at the Omni Inner Harbor Hotel.

Continued on Metro Profile, B1



FROM LEFT: Hon. Willie Sheppard Jr., 33°, Grandmaster, Arkansas, Hon. Eric Wilson 33°, Grandmaster, Mississippi, Hon. Morris Charles, 33°, Grandmaster, Louisiana, Hon. Robert L. Miller, 33°, Grandmaster and Lt. Sov. Grand Commander, New York.



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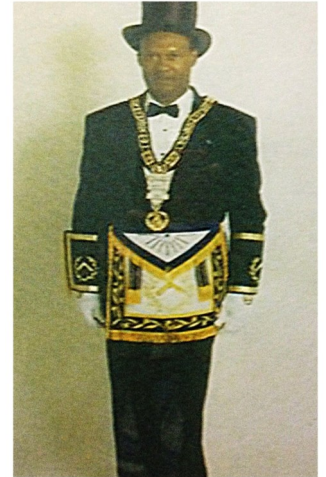
For the State of Louisiana

Hon. Jessie Baugh

Most Worshipful Jesse Baugh was born on December 22, 1936, in Sweeny Texas. At a very early age his family moved to the Sunnyside community in southern Houston, Texas. He attended G. W. Carver High School. Upon graduation, he joined the Army and served his country for six years. After leaving the military, he attended Texas Southern University where he earned a degree. He began working in the moving trucks industry, and in 1969 he moved to Louisiana and started his own company, Baugh Transfer & Moving Company.

Brother Baugh worked diligently at the Craft for many years which culminated in June 1992. This is when he first became Grand Master, and served from 1992 to 2000. He was again elected as Grand Master in 2002, and served from 2002 to 2011. As Grand Master, he prided himself on bringing people together, and more especially, dedicated work with the youth. The Grand Lodge saw growth and prosperity under his tenure, and expanded significantly.

He is married to Sister Barbara Baugh, Grand Worthy Matron of the Grand Chapter. They have one son, Bro. Larry Cooper, and two grandchildren. He presently resides in Baton Rouge, LA.

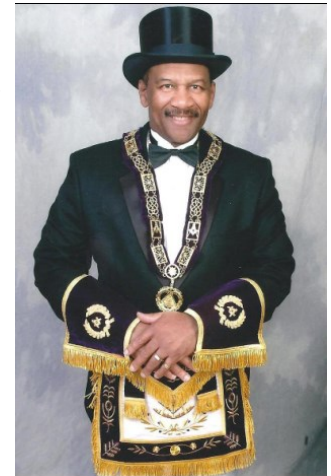


Hon. Ray F. Lewis

The Honorable Ray F. Lewis was born on January 6, 1953 in New Orleans, LA to the late Gladys Marts Lewis & Herman Lewis Sr. He graduated from South Lafourche High School in 1971. He went on to attend Nicholls State University, and earned a degree in Physical Education.

After completing college, he began working for Exxon, which later merged with Mobil Oil Co., and became Exxon Mobil. After excelling very well at Exxon Mobil, he became superintendent of construction.

Brother Lewis was Initiated, Passed, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in 1992 at Good Hope Lodge No. 299 in New Roads, LA. After serving as Junior Warden and Senior Warden, he became Worshipful Master following the death of Bro. Alcide Davis, 32°. During his time with the Craft, he has served as District Deputy & State Deputy. He was elected Grand Master in 2011, and remains in office to the present date; he was preceded by the Hon. Jesse Baugh, 33°. Under his tenure, the Grand Lodge experienced an expansion, and two lodges and two chapters were organized and chartered.



He is married to M. Kathy Lewis and they have two children and four grandchildren. He presently resides in Glynn, LA.