TRIBUTE TO CHARLES W. HALES

This is a celebratory acknowledgement of a man whose public and private life is an example of what the fruits that hard work and dedication can bear. He lived a life worthy of celebration, emulation, and admiration.

Charles W. (Walter) Hales—affectionately known as “Charlie” (or the Godfather)—celebrated 98 years of life.

Charlie was born on January 25, 1922, in a small town about 30 miles outside of Pittsburgh—Stewartsville, Ohio—but was raised in Kiskimere, Pennsylvania. He had three (3) brothers, Webster, Eugene, and Edward, and two (2) sisters, Helen and Dorothy. He attended schools in the KiskiValley area where he achieved a remarkable attendance record of missing only one-half day of school from the 1st through 12th grade. This would be a harbinger of future behavior in respect to his fraternal exploits—he was fully dedicated to the task. He graduated from Leechburg High School where he also played on the baseball and football teams.

Charlie was drafted into the United States Army serving during World War II. Satisfactorily fulfilling his obligation he earned an honorable discharge. Subsequent to his military service he traveled through Europe for about a year before returning to the United States—Pennsylvania specifically.

In the summer of 1946, due to the positive example shown by a Sergeant Blocker in the Army, Charlie answered the siren call of brotherhood by being Initiated into the mysteries of Prince Hall freemasonry in St. Cyprian Lodge No. 13 in Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania.

On a whim he drove to Cleveland for a weekend to attend a football game. It was then that he fell in love with the City of Cleveland and made plans to remain permanently. Eventually he transferred his membership to Ecclesiastes Lodge No. 120, Cleveland, Ohio.
Thereafter followed a series of jobs while he pursued his professional calling—a career in accounting. In a surprising, ironic, and foreboding twist Charlie worked as a brick mason as well. In the midst of it all, Charlie married the love of his life Jane Elizabeth. To this union was born one son—Brian. While being gainfully employed and providing for his family, Charlie enrolled in night classes for a few years to earn his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting.

In 1951, Charlie crossed the hot sands of the desert to be created a Noble of the Mystic Shrine of El Hasa Temple No. 28, Oasis of Cleveland, Desert of Ohio. He was a dedicated member participating in all of the community service activities. Striving to improve his lot in life and that of others he pursued leadership in the organization ultimately being elected as the Illustrious Potentate in 1964.

Continuing his association with Shrinedom and serving in more roles of progressive responsibility, Charlie began assisting the then Convention Director of the national organization—the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of North and South America and its Jurisdictions, Inc. (Shrine). In an unforeseen twist of fate, Charlie was thrust into the Convention Director position in 1969. Shortly thereafter he was elected as the Worshipful Master of Ecclesiastes Lodge No. 120 in 1970.

During his service as Convention Director, Charlie selected the city where the Annual Session of the Shriners would be held. His decision resulted in thousands of room nights being booked and millions of dollars in positive economic impact for the convention city. His service led him to bring one of the most desired hotel guests in America. It also helped him to create many friends across the country because there is nowhere he travelled in these United States where he did not know someone and/or someone did not know him.

Charlie performed that duty exemplary and unfailingly for 23 years. However, in 1992, one door closed and another one opened. All of his professional accounting training culminated in his appointment as Imperial Auditor for the national Shrine organization.
In this position he was responsible for reconciling, down to the penny, the assets and liabilities, cash flows, and expenditures of this multi-million dollar nonprofit organization. For many years this task was performed to the 100-percent satisfaction of the Imperial Divan. In recognition of many years of outstanding performance, Charlie was bestowed the title of Honorary Past Imperial Potentate.

In his career and masonic activities Charlie exemplified excellence, dedication, and loyalty. As a member of Bezaleel Consistory No. 15, Cleveland, Ohio, those same qualities caught the attention to those in leadership positions superior to him and in May 1978 he was Elevated to the 33rd and Last Degree of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in Chicago, Illinois.

With education being a key component of his roadmap to success, Charlie once again underwent the grind of taking classes at night while working during the day. In due time, he graduated from Baldwin Wallace College with a Master of Business Administration with a 3.96 GPA.

Also about this time, fulfilling a lifelong desire, Charlie joined Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. as a member of the Cleveland Alumni Chapter. Ever the busy individual, Charlie completed his formal career in accounting retiring from the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority with 10 years of service as a Senior Auditor.
Due to Charlie’s cross country travels making many friends, acquaintances, and contacts along the way it should come as no surprise that that Charlie was very instrumental in the early days of the National Coalition of Black Meeting Professionals. He was a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award. Most recently he was bestowed with Lifetime Membership.

Just when it seemed he reached the highest of highs, yet another opportunity for advancement availed itself to Charlie. He managed to improve upon his Elevation to the 33rd degree by being reclassified to the position of Sovereign Grand Inspector General, Active of the United Supreme Council, Northern Jurisdiction (USC NJ) in May 1993.
In this position he was one of the most powerful 33rd degree Masons in the country as there are no more than 60 Active members in the USC NJ. Concurrently, he was appointed to the position of Convention Director for the USC NJ. Very similar to his position with the Shrine, he decided in what cities the USC NJ met for their Annual Session. In May 2000, he was awarded the USC NJ’s most prestigious award—the Gold Medal of Achievement.

Drawing upon the same honorable traits mentioned previously, and his many years of uninterrupted and continued service Charlie was again presented a rare Masonic honor in the form of being named an honorary Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio in August 2001.

He attended the Annual Communication faithfully and nobly supported one Pythagorean (a male member of the youth group) every year.

Sadly in 2010, his wife Jane departed this world after a long illness. They shared many years of wedded bliss together.

The accolades do not stop. He was an integral partner in helping to establish and administer Sovereign Grand Commander Solomon Wallace’s landmark initiative—“Saving the African American Male: From the Cradle to College.” This mentoring program provides high-school-aged males guidance, encouragement, and positive Black male role models to emulate, who are proof positive that the seemingly impossible is indeed possible.

Charlie was a member of Mt. Zion Congregational Church. It goes without saying that Charlie was a stalwart member of the Masonic order. He was a member in good standing for 74 years. Charlie was a nonagenarian with a positive outlook on life.
and a desire to do his best to the very end. Charlie is the personification of a life well lived.

Please join me in saluting an outstanding citizen, stalwart Masonic member, and loving father.
It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the passing of—

**Illustrious Charles W. Hales, 33°**

Elevated 33° – May 15, 1978
Reclassified Active on May 1993
Former USC Convention Coordinator
1992 - 2018
Bezaleel Consistory #15

December 1, 2020

*****

(When further information is received, it will be posted on the USC website)
uscnjpha.org

Sorrowfully submitted
Office of the Secretary General

12/1/2020
It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the passing of------

Mrs. Jacqueline Tucker
The Wife of
SGIG Carlton B. Tucker, 33º
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Cascadian Consistory #75
Orient of Washington/Oregon
United Supreme Council, AASR, NJ, PHA, Inc.

Who passed away on October 25, 2020

*****

(When further information is received, it will be posted on the USC website)
uscnjpha.org

Sorrowfully submitted
Office of the Secretary General
10/26/2020
Memorial Service
for
**Illustrious Edward C. Dobbins, 33º**
Willamette Consistory #23
Orient of Washington/Oregon
Terry Funeral Home
2337 North Williams Ave.
Portland, Oregon 97227
October 14, 2020 at 10:00 am

Cards and flowers can be sent to the funeral home or the residence.
The residence address is:
13327 S.E.Tumbleweed Court,
Clackamus, Oregon 97015

*****
It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the passing of

**Illustrious Edward C. Dobbins, 33º**

Elevated 33º – May 25, 1987  
Reclassified Emeriti – May 30, 2005  
Full Active – May 28, 2006  
Former Deputy for the Orient of Oregon  
Reclassified Past Active – July 22, 2014  
Willamette Consistory #23  
Orient of Washington/Oregon

September 21, 2020

*****

(When further information is received, it will be posted on the USC website)  
uscnjpha.org

Sorrowfully submitted  
Office of the Secretary General  
9/23/2020
THE NECROLOGICAL ARRANGEMENTS
The Most Reverend J. Delano Ellis II

Metropolitan-Archbishop of the Joint College of African-American Pentecostal Bishops
Establishmentarian & Presiding Bishop of the Pentecostal Churches of Christ

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH | PUBLIC VIEWING
Four o’clock until Eight o’clock in the Post Meridien
Pentecostal Church of Christ
10515 Chester Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106

If you are feeling ill in any fashion, we kindly request that you remain home as to not potentially spread COVID-19. Masks are required upon entering the grounds of the Cathedral, temperatures will be taken and social distancing will be strictly enforced. We ask that you enter through the Chester Avenue entrance and exit through the doors at the corner of Bishop J. Delano Ellis II Way (103rd Street) and Chester Avenue.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH | THE APOSTOLIC LITURGY
Ten o’clock in the Ante Meridien
Pentecostal Church of Christ
10515 Chester Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH | PUBLIC VIEWING
Four o’clock until Eight o’clock in the Post Meridien
Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ
229 S Danny Thomas Boulevard, Memphis, Tennessee 38126

Tributes and gifts for the widow, Dr Sabrina J. Ellis, may also be sent to the Cathedral, 10515 Chester Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44106, addressed directly to her. Bishops and Clergy journeying to the Cathedral for the final obsequies should complete the requested form at jdellisministries.com and forward all questions to info@jdellisministries.com.
United Supreme Council
Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry
Prince Hall Affiliation
Northern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., Inc.

Sovereign Grand Inspectors General
Sovereign Grand Inspectors General Emeriti

It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the passing of-----

Ill. Bishop J. Delano Ellis II, 33º
Elevated 33º – May 30, 2011
Reclassified Active/Emeritus – May 24, 2013
Bezaleel Consistory #15
Orient of Ohio
September 19, 2020

*****

(When further information is received, it will be posted on the USC website)
uscnjpha.org

Sorrowfully submitted
Office of the Secretary General

9/19/2020
Sovereign Grand Inspectors General
Sovereign Grand Inspectors General Emeriti

It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the passing of-----

Mr. George H. Robinson
The Father of
SGIG Wayne O. Tompkins, 33º
Sovereign Grand Inspector General
Charles E. Gordon Consistory #65
Orient of Pennsylvania
Keeper of the Archives
United Supreme Council, AASR, NJ, PHA, Inc.

Who passed away on September 1, 2020

*****

(When further information is received, it will be posted on the USC website)
uscnjpha.org

Sorrowfully submitted
Office of the Secretary General
9/1/2020
It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the passing of——

**Illustrious Arthur R. Crawford, 33º**

Elevated 33º – May 9, 1977
Reclassified Active on June 2007
Former Deputy of New Jersey
Serving from
2010 - 2018
Ophir Consistory #48

June 9, 2020

*****
(When further information is received, it will be posted on the USC website)
uscnjpha.org

Sorrowfully submitted
Office of the Secretary General

6/9/2020
It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the passing of

**Illustrious Leonard B. Jackson, 33º**

Sublime Prince 32º - January 31, 2001
Elevated 33º – May 30, 2005
Reclassified Active/Emeriti from May 2012

Bezaleel Consistory #15
Orient of Ohio

April 30, 2020

*****
(When further information is received, it will be posted on the USC website)
uscnjpha.org

Sorrowfully submitted
Office of the Secretary General

4/30/2020
It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the passing of———

**Illustrious Clarence W. Hayes, Jr., 33º**

Sublime Prince 32º - October 16, 1982  
Elevated 33º – June 2, 1986  
Reclassified Active/Emeriti - May 2009  
Past Active – May 2019  
Western Consistory #28  
Orient of Illinois

April 23, 2020

*****  
(When further information is received, it will be posted on the USC website)  
uscnjpha.org

Sorrowfully submitted  
Office of the Secretary General

4/28/2020
It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the passing of------

**Illustrious Daniel W. Simmons, 33º**

_Elevated 33º – May 1993_
_Reclassified Active/Emeriti – May 2009_
_Past Active – July 2014_
_Long Island Consistory #61_
_Orient of New York_

April 3, 2020

*****

(When further information is received, it will be posted on the USC website)

uscnjpha.org

Sorrowfully submitted
Office of the Secretary General

4/7/2020
It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the passing of———

**Illustrious Louis C. Colbert, 33º**
Elevated 33º – May 31, 1993
Reclassified Active/Emeriti – May 2013
Ionic Consistory #70
Orient of Wisconsin

April 3, 2020

*****

Cards and Condolences can be sent to his wife;
PSGLLLR Shirley Colbert
P.O. Box 099935
Milwaukee, WI 53209

(When further information is received, it will be posted on the USC website)
uscnjpha.org

Sorrowfully submitted
Office of the Secretary General

4/7/2020
It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the passing of------

P.L.L.R., Bettye Jean Stark, P.G.W.M.

Orient of Wisconsin

The Wife of

SGIG William R. Stark, 33º
Grand Minister of State
United Supreme Council, AASR, NJ, PHA, Inc.

Who passed away on March 30, 2020

The Funeral Arrangements for PLLR Betty J. Stark, PGWM

Paradise Memorial Funeral Home
7625 W. Appleton Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53222
Wednesday, April 8, 2020
Viewing; 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Funeral Service; 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. (Family Only)

NOTE: The service will be streamed on Wednesday, April 8, 2020
(Link will be forthcoming)

Condolences may be sent to;
Brother William R. Stark
6999 N. Beech Tree Drive
Glendale, WI 53209
(414) 581-8278

*****

Sorrowfully submitted
Office of the Secretary General
4/4/2020
Sovereign Grand Inspectors General
Sovereign Grand Inspectors General Emeriti

It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the passing of-----

**Illustrious O’Neil D. Swanson, Sr., 33º**
Elevated 33º – May 1996
Crowned Active/Emeriti - May 2014
Past Active – May 2018
Wolverine Consistory #6
Orient of Michigan

March 26, 2020

(When further information is received, it will be posted on the USC website)
uscnjpha.org

*****

Sorrowfully submitted
Office of the Secretary General

3/27/2020
It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the passing of——-

**Illustrious Robert E. Thomas, 33º**

Elevated 33º – May 31, 1993  
Reclassified Active/Emeriti from May 1996  
Deputy of Indiana 1996 - 2016  
Past Active – May 2018  
Magic City Consistory #62

March 25, 2020

*****

(There will be a private Family Members ONLY Service on Monday, March 30, 2020)

Sorrowfully submitted  
Office of the Secretary General

3/25/2020
It is with deep sorrow that we inform you of the passing of-----

Illustrious Otis L. Hightower, Jr., 33º
Elevated 33º – May 26, 2008
Crowned Active/Emeriti – May 2012
Martin L. King Consistory #86
Orient of Pennsylvania

Who passed away on January 30, 2020

Funeral Service
Sunday, February 9, 2020
Monday, February 10, 2020
Public Viewing – 4:00 – 5-15 PM
Fraternal Services – Start at 5:30 PM
At the
Bethlehem Baptist Church
712 Penllyn Pike
Spring House, PA 19477
Rev. Charles W. Quann - Pastor

Christian Church Service
will be held on
Monday, February 10, 2020 – Same Location
Viewing 9:00 – 10:45 AM
Funeral Service at 11:00 AM

Sorrowfully submitted
Office of the Secretary General

2/2/2020