



The Most Worshipful

Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio

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...Free and Accepted Masons
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“Remembering Every Accomplishment and Climbing Higher”

EDICT RME 2023-5

To: Worshipful Masters, Wardens, Past Masters, and Brethren of all Subordinate Lodges of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio, Free and Accepted Masons

Greetings:

As we welcome in the new year, we cannot help but notice a movement that continues to perpetuate misinformation, suppression by books being removed from the shelves in schools and libraries, and the rewriting of our history. It is very important that we not allow this to happen to us.

In 1976 Black History Month was created under the administration of then President Gerald Ford. Coincidentally it happens to be the shortest month of the year. (Have you ever wondered why?)

Therefore, in the interest of continuing to present our hard-fought history to our members and to those who we can convey the message, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio, Free and Accepted Masons will not be restricted to such a limited time frame and will recognize not Black History Month but will institute Black History Year for both 2024 and 2025.

Each lodge will receive monthly and or quarterly information from our history committee, under separate cover, that will be read each month during your work night. This will take place for the entire year, as an educational segment that will be known as “Who Am I”. The purpose of this exercise is to inform and engage our members of the importance of the contributions that Black Americans have made to this country. We will not be limited to just a few select names such as Dr. Martian Luther King.

This segment is not to interfere with your traditional degree work but can be added if time permits to your meeting when and if candidates are present, at the discretion of the Worshipful Master of the Lodge. The time frame for the presentation should be limited to 15 to 30 minutes but could be longer if the craft wishes to engage for an extended period of time.

Let us continue to present the facts and not the fiction that some would have us believe about our heritage. “Someone has to say something” and who better than the members of this great fraternity. The better we are informed, the better we can expound on “Who We Are, and What We Do.”

This communication is to be read at your February, March and April meetings.

Given under my hand and the private seal of the Grand Master at Dayton, Ohio this 13th day of January, AD 2024, AL 6024. I remain.

Respectfully and Fraternaly,

Robert M. Estelle, Jr. 33°

Robert M. Estelle, Jr., PM #115
Most Worshipful Grand Master
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio F&AM

