

# A JOINT STATEMENT FROM PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE AND THE GRAND LODGE OF CONNECTICUT

**I**n the spirit of good fellowship and brotherhood, and in keeping with the Masonic principle that all walk on the level with one another, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Connecticut, F & A.M., and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Connecticut, A.F. & A.M. stand united against systemic racism and state unequivocally that Black lives matter. They always have, and always will.

This joint statement, delivered in the wake of the senseless killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police on May 25 and amid nationwide cries for racial justice, continues a tradition of friendship and cooperation between the two pillars of Masonry in Connecticut.

The late Most Worshipful Bro. Gail L. Smith was an early champion of mutual recognition in the 1970s, noting that the principles and landmarks of Masonry of the two Grand Lodges were the same. However, it was not until his son, MW Bro. Gail N. Smith, and MW Bro. Lewis Myrick of Prince Hall, were both Grand Masters in 1989 that Gail Sr.'s dream came to fruition. Connecticut Masons of all races and creeds should be proud to know that we were the first in the nation to formalize this important relationship.

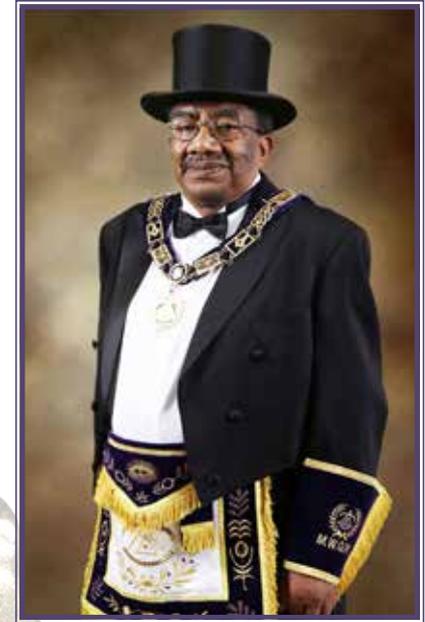
Black Americans have made gains in the decades since but, as we are seeing from the unrest in communities across the country this hour, not nearly enough. Institutions charged with protecting and serving all citizens – as well as our political leaders – need to be held to higher standards of accountability.

A Mason is taught to show tolerance and respect for the opinions of others and to be kind and understanding of his fellow human beings. Today, when it feels as if our nation is being ripped apart and divided along racial and ideological lines, that lesson has never been more relevant ... or more needed. In the eyes of the Great Architect of the Universe, we are all equal.

Let us not allow George Floyd's death to have been in vain. Together, as Freemasons and Americans, we must speak out in one voice that the status quo of violence and inequity in our society will no longer be tolerated.



*Stephen Petri*  
MW Bro. Stephen Petri  
Grand Master  
The Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M.  
of Connecticut



*David Pinkins*  
MW Bro. David Pinkins  
Grand Master  
Prince Hall Grand Lodge  
of Connecticut, F & A.M.