

P.H. Profile / Joseph A. Walkes, Jr.

Joseph A. Walkes, Jr.

1933-2006

Joseph A. Walkes Jr., was born in New York City on November 12, 1933 to Unitha Lawrence Walkes and Joseph A Walkes, Sr., from St. Lucia, West Indies and Christianbol, Panama Canal Zone, respectively. His Grandfather, Cyril C. Walkes, was born in Barbados, West Indies, the paternal Walkes' homeland.

He attended schools in New York City and later graduated from Park College, Parkville, Missouri with a BA in Criminal Justice Administration. He served in the United States Army from 1951 to 1973, when he retired at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He became an Administrative Assistant at the U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, retiring in December 1993. Bro. Walkes was made a Master Mason on October 15, 1965 in Cecil A. Ellis Sr., Lodge No. 110, Karlsruhe, Germany, on the rolls of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Maryland. He served as Master of the Lodge from 1966-1967, and currently holds membership in King Solomon Lodge No. 15, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

He is an honorary member of Panama Canal Zone No. 175 and Amos Johnson Lodge No. 148, Kansas City, both Lodges on the rolls of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri and an honorary member of Mount Olive Lodge No.3, Leavenworth, on the rolls of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Kansas, and an honorary member of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina. He served the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri as Editor of its official organ, The Masonic Light from 1968-1973. He was appointed Special D.D.G.M. (Military) for 1970 -1973 and in this capacity assisted in the formation of Canal Zone Military Lodge No. 174 in Panama and Pythagoras Lodge No. 175 in Athens, Greece.

He was Special Deputy at Large and Ambassador of Good Will for the Prince Hall Grand Lodge. In 1966, Bro.Walkes was elevated to the 32nd degree in Prince Hall Military Consistory No. 304, Frankfurt, Germany and presently holds membership in Kansas City Consistory No.7. He was coronated an Honorary 33rd in Los Angeles, California in 1978, and became an active Emeritus 33rd in 1982 by the United Supreme Council 33rd, AAS.R. Southern Jurisdiction. He serves that body as Editor of its official organ, The News Quarterly. He is also President of the Norris Wright Cuney Class of 1978. He is a member of Allah Temple No.6, A.E.AO.N.M.S. Kansas City, Missouri and is an Honorary Past Potentate, receiving that honor in 1982.

In 1985 he was appointed Imperial Historian of the Imperial Council of the Shrine, and in 1993 was honored by being named Honorary Past Imperial Potentate, at the 100th Anniversary of the Shrine in New Orleans. He received its Honor of Legion Award in August 1996. He is a member of Allah Temple No.6, A.E.AO.N.M.S. Kansas City, Missouri and is an Honorary Past Potentate, receiving that honor in 1982. In 1985 he was appointed Imperial Historian of the Imperial Council of the Shrine, and in 1993 was honored by being named Honorary Past Imperial Potentate, at the 100th Anniversary of the Shrine in New Orleans. He is a Past Patron of Mary T. Allen Chapter No. 71 O.E.S., Karlsruhe, Germany, and also Past Patron of Fidelity Chapter No.9 O.E.S. of Leavenworth, Kansas. He holds membership in Celestial Chapter No. 102, O.E.S., Kansas City, Missouri. He is also a charter member of Bathsheba Chapter No. 14, O.E.S. Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He received the Amaranth Degree in Mary E. Douglas Amaranth Court No.2, Mannheim, Germany in 1966. He is a member of George E. Jenkins Chapter No. 82, RAM, located in Rougemont, North Carolina. Member of Turner Means Commandery No.8, Knights Templar, also in North Carolina.

In 1973, he founded the Phylaxis Society, an international Masonic Research Society for Prince Hall Freemasons, of which he is presently President Emeritus. He was made a Fellow of the Society on March 6, 1976, received its Certificate of Literature on March 6, 1979, and received the John G. Lewis, Jr. Medal of Excellence in 1980. In 1996 he founded the Scottish Rite Research Institute (PHA). In 1984, he was made an Honorary Member of the Iowa Research Lodge No.2, Jurisdiction of the (Caucasian) Grand Lodge of Iowa A.F. & A.M. and in 1994 he was made an Honorary Fellow for Life of the Philaethes Society (Caucasian). Bro. Walkes is the author of The Documentary History of King Solomon Lodge No. 15 (1971); Black Square & Compass: 200 Years of Prince Hall Freemasonry (1979); A Prince Hall Masonic Quiz Book (1983) (the first and only book ever written by a Black Prince Hall Freemason and published by a White Masonic body, the Iowa Research Lodge). In 1984 he wrote John G. Lewis, Jr. - End of an Era: History of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Louisiana 1842-1979. In 1993 he wrote The History of the Shrine (Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Inc., Prince Hall Affiliated): A Pillar of Black Society. He also revised "The Prince Hall Primer" and "The Prince Hall Digest" by Harry A. Williamson, expected to be published soon.

In 1994 he wrote The History of the Prince Hall Masonic Family in North Carolina, also waiting to be printed. In 1995 he wrote, Prince Hall's Mission: The Rise of the Phylaxis Society, in 1996 writing the history of The United Supreme Council, A.A.S.R., Northern Jurisdiction P.H.A, U.S.A and hopes to write the history of The United Supreme Council, AAS.R. Southern Jurisdiction, P.H.A, U.S.A He has written hundreds of Masonic articles, which have appeared in numerous magazines around the world. In February 1997 he was named a Friar by the Society of Blue Friars, a society of Masonic authors, thus being the first Prince Hall Freemason to be so honored by this highly respected organization.

Special Note:

The late Joseph A. Walkes, Jr. made one of his final trips, before becoming very ill, to Detroit, MI. -- November 6, 2004. From that visit, hosted by Corinthian #38, he went on to give a similiar lecture in Harlem, NY. -- April 2005 hosted by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York.