

The 57th Most Worshipful Grand Master is Richard A. Claytor.

The Grand Lodge of Alaska

P RINCE HALL MASONRY was conceived in the state of Alaska in October 1959. Prior to this time, a clandestine lodge, Alpha Lodge No. 16, existed in Alaska. This lodge could not trace its origin to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge.

The Senior Warden of Alpha Lodge No. 16 was Austin Grice who was an acquaintance of Amos T. Hall, the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Oklahoma. Grice took the steps necessary and informed Grand Master Hall that Alpha Lodge No. 16 desired to become a viable member of the Prince Hall Family.

Through Grice's initiative, Alpha Lodge No. 16 became the first Prince Hall Lodge in Alaska. It was redesignated Alpha Lodge No. 61 of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oklahoma in October 1959. By 1964 there were four lodges chartered under the Jurisdiction of Oklahoma: Unity Lodge No. 65 (1960), Midnight Sun Lodge No. 67 (1963), and Summit Lodge No. 68 (1964).

In May 1965, Unity, Alpha and Midnight Sun Lodges sought charters from the Grand Lodge of Washington. This decision was not made lightly. It only came about because of the great expenses incurred due to the considerable distance between Oklahoma and Alaska. Unity Lodge No. 65 was reconstituted Mt. McKinley Lodge No. 50; Midnight Sun Lodge No. 67 became Midnight Lodge No. 51; and Alpha Lodge No. 61 became Alpha Lodge No. 52. Summit Lodge No. 68, however, remained under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma.

The Mother Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge of the State of Washington, set up the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge for the State of Alaska in September 1969. Alpha Lodge No. 61 became Alpha Lodge No. 1; Mt. McKinley Lodge No. 50 became Mt. McKinley Lodge No. 2; Midnight Sun Lodge No. 67 was renamed Midnight Sun Lodge No. 3. A new lodge chartered under the Grand Lodge of Washington, Arctic Lodge No. 56, chose to remain under the Jurisdiction of the State of Washington. Summit Lodge No. 68 was still under the Jurisdiction of the State of Oklahoma.

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall

Grand Lodge for the State of Alaska and its Jurisdiction held its first Grand Communication in the city of Anchorage July 19-21, 1970. The first Grand Master for the State of Alaska was the Honorable Richard J. Watts

Sr.

The current Most Worshipful Grand Master is Charles R. Davis, the second youngest Grand Master in the history of the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Lodge of Arkansas

F REEMASONRY in Arkansas, as
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