



Dear Brother:

The purpose of this letter is to enlist your moral and financial support for a patriotic initiative that is moving forward in the city of Cambridge, MA. As the attached letter from the Mayor of Cambridge indicates a memorial has been designed to recognize the efforts of an entire category of forgotten patriots. They are the African-American men and women whose contributions helped to forge, in the crucible of Revolutionary Era military, political and social conflict, the freedoms that we enjoy today.

Prince Hall has been chosen as an exemplar for this entire category so that in honoring him this monument honors them all. Born circa 1735 Prince Hall has been described by authors Emma and Sidney Kaplan in their book, *The Black Presence in the Era of the American Revolution*, as Boston's most prominent black in the era of the revolution. They go on to say "He was the founder of the world's first lodge of black Freemasonry. But more than that, he was, in a sense, the first organizer in American history of a black society for social, political, and economic improvement." In addition to being Grand Master of the Grand Lodge that was renamed after him subsequent to his death, Prince Hall was a leather dresser, a peddler and one of the pre-eminent caterers in the Boston of his day. He owned a small house and a leather shop. He was a social activist who participated in the movement to abolish slavery and he started the first school in Boston to educate black children.

As proud members of the Craft we know that it was Prince Hall's commitment to the tenets of our profession, Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, that fueled his zeal. When queried about the abrasive attitudes of some contemporary white Masons toward black Masons, Prince Hall was quoted as saying, "Harmony in general prevails between us as citizens, for the good law of the land does oblige every one to live peaceably with all his fellow citizens, let them be black or white, We stand on a level, therefore no preeminence can be claimed on either side. As to our associating, there is here a great number of worthy good men and good citizens, that are not ashamed to take an African by the hand; but yet there are to be seen the weeds of pride, envy, tyranny, and scorn, in this garden of peace, liberty and equality."

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Freemasonry in America has always acknowledged that we stand on the shoulders of those who have come before us. Our constituent lodges in every jurisdiction represent knowledge, loyalty, tradition and first principles handed from one master to the next in an indissoluble chain. As brethren we know that Masonry unites men of every country, sect and opinion, and conciliates true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance.

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts has by a vote of its Board of Directors committed to making a \$5,000 direct contribution as well as a \$20,000 matching contribution to the Prince Hall Memorial which will stand on the Cambridge Common. We will match all contributions made by Masonic organizations, including appendant and affiliated bodies, received after August 5, 2009 up to the cumulative amount of \$20,000.

We write you to ask that your Grand Lodge consider making a donation as meaningful as your cable tow will allow to this worthy cause. Your support *is* needed. Our contributions when added to the funds already received or pledged will take the Fund past the halfway point of its fundraising target to install this wonderful memorial as designed. Should your Grand Lodge so decide, its contribution should be made payable to The Friends of Prince Hall Monument Fund P.O. Box 391307 Cambridge, MA 02139.

In the interest of transparency we would like to make clear that this is not a Masonic endeavor. It is a citizens' initiative which honors a famous Mason who we know as a stalwart builder of the Craft. We have confirmed that the Fund is a 501(c)(3) and we are giving this initiative our full and unqualified support.

You may find further information at www.princehallmemorial.org. Should you have additional data requirements or have any concerns or questions for us they may be directed to Lawrence J. Smith, Jr., our Grand Treasurer. For many reasons, including public relations, positive publicity and donation matching purposes, it would be helpful if your contribution, should you decide to make one, is not made anonymously but designates clearly its Masonic origin.

Please accept our best wishes for health, happiness, peace and prosperity for you and yours and for the Craft, wheresoever dispersed.

Cordially and fraternally,

M.W. Brother Roger William Pageau
Grand Master
Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts