

Memphis District Awards and Recognition Day: February 28, 2015 became a "red-letter" day in Memphis. Even though it was cold outside the warmth and fellowship inside took the bite out of the wintery weather. The setting was Parkway Gardens Presbyterian Church. The attire was festive and lots of colors from the star points. The results of nominations were in and now the announcements were made known! How exciting!

The District was privileged to have as WREG-TV Newscaster, April Thompson serve as gracious Mistress of Ceremonies. She was flanked by renowned presenters who assisted with the presentations. Included Internist Chris Johnson who is also author of "Dying to Live." Also, present was Mrs. Carolyn Whitney, President of the Memphis Chapter of Sisters Network Breast Cancer Survivor Group. Thanks to Worthy Matron, Karen Camper, State Representative Ramesh Akbari joined the group along with Memphis Councilwoman Wanda Halbert. Associate Deputy, Maranda Lester, was also a presenter. Worthy Matron Wanda Crenshaw provided a soul stirring solo. To top it all off, Jazz Saxophonist and recording artist, Michael Townsend opened the program by singing the Lord's Prayer and then serenaded musically throughout the entire program. Past Grand Worthy Matron Sis. Carrie T. Herron's presence made it even better.

Following a greeting from the Council and District Matrons and the Occasion by Sis. Stephanie Norfleet, the festivities began. Prior to the nominated winners, Deputy Grand Matron Sis. Sharon Franklin made the following presentations:

- Recognition to District Matron Sis. Cecelia Showers
- Recognition to Administrative Matron and Patron Council Matron, Sis. LaTashja Mosby
- Steadfast Award to Sis. Ina Luellen
- Humanitarian Award to Sis. Deanna Peppers
- Outstanding Act/Event-----Sis. Erika Johnson (4) For bring new life into Esther Day with a full skit production with costumes, etc.
- Deputy Grand Matron Franklin and Deputy Grand Master, Charles Beasley presented an award of Appreciation to Choir Coordinator, Sis. Chandra McKinner

Nominated Winners:

- Worthy Patron of the Year-----Bro. Mose Davis (233)
- Worthy Matron of the Year---- Sis. Shelia Snow (118)
- Chapter of the Year----- Adah Chapter #2-----Sis. Wanda Crenshaw, Worthy Matron
- O.E.S. Member of the Year----- Sis. Kimberly Shropshire (215)

The winner of the Sunbeam Essay Contest was Delaney Hale. The topic was: What is your opinion on the lack of youth morals and values in the African American community based on the actions in today's society? The committee worked diligently to set the criteria and rubrics, arrange for the meal and serve, as well as, beautify the room. Hats off to Sis. Monica Helton, Sis. Letarsha Brown, Sis. Deborah Bobo, Bro. Edward Leak, Sis. Betty Cox, Sis. Carmen Moore, Sis. Patricia Burdette, Sis. Essie Patterson, Sis. Cheryl Porter, Sis. Mary Strong, Sis. Melissa-Rivera Jackson, Sis. Tara Harris, Sis. Erika Johnson, Sis. Chandra and others for a job well done. Also, Bro. Jennings Bernard was thanked for making the announcements on his radio show.

But wait-----After Deputy Grand Master Beasley gave his remarks, he called all of the Master Masons in the building to join him. A number of those present were members of Charles F. Williams Lodge #86 (Rev. Ernest Gillespie, Chief Floyd Bonner, Bro. Ron Willis, Prosecutor Rick Henderson) and their presence was truly appreciated. Following the introduction of those men who joined him, Deputy Beasley made a surprise presentation to Deputy Grand Matron, Sharon Franklin. The mirrored plaque is simply beautiful and expresses sentiment of appreciation on behalf of the Memphis District Masons, P.H.A. So touching and what a wonderful surprise. For this day especially, Deputy Grand Matron Sharon Franklin saysMEMPHIS DISTRICT YOU ARE THE BEST AND WE TRULY THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR HARDWORK!!!!!!!