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CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY

Mayor Schaefer's Message

I, William Donald Schaefer, mayor of Baltimore, congratulate the Prince Hall Masons, the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and the Myra Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, on this the occasion of their 112th Observation of the Emancipation Proclamation.

It is an historic occasion and the City of Baltimore with all its citizens is grateful to Grand Master Samuel Daniels and others of our leaders for renewing our belief in Freedom.

Abraham Lincoln, in signing the Emancipation Proclamation to go into effect January 1, 1863, carried into practice the convictions he had expressed publicly for years, and gave the greatest possible backing to the anti-slavery movement which resulted in the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment on December 18, 1865.

As an individual and as a lawyer, Lincoln demonstrated his belief in human dignity again and again.

As a politician, he took a public stand against slavery, even though his advisors predicted he would never be elected if he made his ideas on this subject known to everyone.

As President, Lincoln knew that he did not have the legal right to abolish slavery, but he continued to work for abolition within his constitutional powers.

When the course of the Civil War made it possible for the President to issue the Emancipation Proclamation as Commander-in-Chief of the United States armed forces, he did so, although he was again advised against such a course of action.

In issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, Abraham Lincoln acted on his own high principles; he did what he "sincerely believed to be an act of justice." And, he gave the people of the United States (in the midst of a horrifying war), an unassailable example of courage and hope for the future.

Lincoln, with his Emancipation Proclamation, as in so many other actions, pointed the way for the United States and for each American. He believed, at a time when our Country was in great danger, that the basic justice of our Constitution, founded on the belief in human rights and human dignity, would win out. He believed that those ideals deserved to be protected, and that Americans would continue to protect their ideals.

Today, in living and acting on the ideals of Lincoln and of our Constitution, we must see those ideals very clearly. Our American belief in the quality of human rights is a broad idea — it covers ALL human rights of ALL people and groups.

So, our dedication to the cause of human rights must extend to ALL. We can only ensure that our own rights are protected, by acting to defend those same rights for every person.

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John Murphy Jr. was a staunch Mason

John H. Murphy Jr., (1880-1973) who died at the age of 93, was the last of the incorporators of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers.

Next to the AFRO, his greatest pride was in the fact that he followed the family tradition in his fraternal activities.

In 1905 he and his father joined the Enterprose Lodge No. 3, Prince Hall Masons. Like his grandfather, Benjamin Murphy, he served as master of the lodge.

John Jr. was twice elected Imperial Potentate of the Shriners and served with distinction and made friends across the nation.

33rd DEGREE MASON

He was 33rd degree Mason and member of the Supreme Council. A month before his death in November, 1973, he was honored by the Shriners who presented him with a special Past Imperial Potentate citation.

His father before him had been Imperial Potentate. John Jr. had been Potentate of Jerusalem Temple No. 4.

Active pallbearers at the Nov. 21, 1973 funeral and the Masonic rites were members of Enterprise Lodge No. 3.

Honorary pallbearers included Jerusalem Temple No. 4, the Supreme Council, PHM. Past Imperial Potentates Council, W. Sampsonmbrooks Lodge, Nobles Mystic Lodge, and Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order.

CHURCH MEMBER

Married to Mrs. Marie Spriggs Murphy, who survives him, Mr. Murphy was a charter member of Douglas Memorial Community Church where the Rev. Dr. Marion Bascom is pastor.

The church was named for his longtime pastor and friend, the late Rev. Frederick Douglas.

In memory of Mr. Murphy at Douglass Memorial are a large open Bible, the chimes for the pipe organ and the stained glass window directly opposite his favorite pew at the rear of the sanctuary.

THE AFRO FAMILY

John Murphy Jr. was born on, W. Saratoga St., Aug. 4, 1880, the son of John Henry Murphy Sr. and Mrs. Martha Elizabeth Howard Murphy.

Small in stature but big in heart, Mr. Murphy was the last of his generation of the AFRO founding family which included four brothers, Carl, George, Arnett and Daniel and five sisters, Mesdames Rose Murphy Oliver, Lillian Murphy Thompson, Susan Murphy Purdy, Harriett Murphy Gilbert and Miss Francies Murphy.

AFRO officials today include John Jurphy III, chairman of the board and son of Daniel urphy; John J. Oliver Sr., president, son of Mrs. Rose Murphy Oliver and vice-president, Mrs. Elizabeth Murphy Moss, daughter of Dr. arl Murphy.

MR. JOHN WAS A PRINTER

John Murphy Jr. was graduated from the old Colored High School, then located at Charles and Saratoga Sts., in a building which once housed a police station. Then he attended the Polytechnic Institute, then at Lemmon and Freemont Ave., where he was one of six students, all of whom graduated with honors.

He then went on to Kittrell College in North Carolina for three years and then returned to Baltimore, where he began teaching printing at the Old Colored High School, themat Pennsylvania Ave. and Dolphin St.

There he became head of the Printing Department until he resigned to become a member of the AFRO staff.

He was a printer, typesitter, linotype operator, pressman, salesman and, in fact, worked in every department of the plant. His longest tenure was 30 years as Circulation Manager and thenndirector.

When he retired in 1942, he had to his credit 45 years as employee, a voting trustee, director and treasurer.

LAST PHOTO OF John H. Murphy Jr. was made in October, 1973, a month before his death, after Shriners' Imperial confer special potentate honors on him. Like his father before Potentate of the fraternal Masonic order. Mr. Murphy, 93, was the sole surviving incorporator of the AFRO AMERICAN Co., a firm founded in 1892 for the rights of all people. Mr. Murphy is shown here with John Edgehill, Imperial Potentate, Jerusalem Temply No. 4.