



The United Supreme Council

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation,
Northern Jurisdiction, U.S.A., Inc.

Statement on Tyre Nichols

Philadelphia, PA. (January 28, 2023) — Today, Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, the Sovereign Grand Commander of The United Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc., issued the following on the death of Tyre Nichols.

Today, we are faced with yet another episode of an unnecessary death of a young Black man at the hands of those who have sworn to protect and serve us. While this is undoubtedly an unfortunate tale, it is also one that we have heard far too often. And, the further irony in this tale is that this violent act was inflicted by a special unit of officers tasked with restoring peace in neighborhoods.

The United Supreme Council stands with the citizens of Memphis and every other city or town across this land where our young brothers and sisters have met an untimely demise. We are thankful for the action taken by the police department in releasing the body cam footage. And pray that through this transparency that the Nichols family can receive justice for Tyre. Also, that this swift action serve as a precedent for other police departments should this act ever occur again. Last, it is our hope and prayer that the transparency seen in this event serve as a catalyst for the needed training and necessary reform of law enforcement that our communities need and deserve.

We call on our members and citizens to peacefully share our displeasure with the events in Memphis. May this statement serve as an initial message to our political leaders, community activists and law enforcement leaders that we have a high expectation for police accountability and due process for all community engagements.

Words fail to express the sorrow felt for the family and friends of Tyre Nichols. We pray that the Great God of the Universe provides the needed solace and comfort in the time to come.

Yours in the Rite,

Melvin J. Bazemore, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander

Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, JD, is International President and CEO, of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, USA, Inc., an international service organization that is dedicated to transforming the lives of children, families, veterans, and our aging population through improving their education, health, and family economic stability.