



The United Supreme Council

Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation,
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Office of the Sovereign Grand Commander

Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, 33°

Honoring the Extraordinary Legacy of Reverend Brother Jesse Jackson, Sr. upon His Retirement as President of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Philadelphia, PA. (July 24, 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 statement in honor of Reverend Brother Jesse Jackson, Sr. upon his retirement as president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition.

It is with respect that we recognize and celebrate the career and profound impact of Reverend Brother Jesse Jackson, Sr. on the occasion of his retirement as the esteemed leader of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition. With unwavering dedication and an unyielding commitment to civil rights, Reverend Jackson has been a driving force in shaping a more just and equitable society for over five decades.

The Rainbow PUSH Coalition is a Chicago-based nonprofit organization formed as a merger of two nonprofit organizations founded by Reverend Jackson; Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) and the National Rainbow Coalition. The Rainbow PUSH Coalition is an organization devoted to empowering African Americans and marginalized communities by addressing issues such as economic empowerment, educational opportunities, and social justice. Under his visionary leadership, The Rainbow PUSH Coalition grew into a force for positive change and touched the lives of people around the world.

Throughout his tenure as the leader of The Rainbow PUSH Coalition, Reverend Jackson spearheaded numerous transformative initiatives. He advocated for fair housing, access to quality education, and economic advancement for underserved communities. His unwavering commitment to voter registration and political engagement paved the way for increased representation of minority voices in the democratic process.

Reverend Jackson's influence transcended national borders. He became a global advocate for human rights and social justice, championing causes that addressed poverty, discrimination, and inequality on an international scale. His leadership in fostering dialogue and understanding across diverse communities has been instrumental in promoting peace and cooperation worldwide.

In 1987, Reverend Jackson was made a Master Mason by Grand Master Senter of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois.

As we recognize Reverend Jackson upon his well-deserved retirement, we celebrate a remarkable career and a life devoted to the betterment of humanity. We express our gratitude for his selfless service and unwavering commitment to justice, hope, and unity.

I, as Sovereign Grand Commander, and our organization will strive to continue the noble work of Reverend Jackson in pursuing a more equitable and compassionate world.

Yours in the Rite,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Melvin J. Bazemore". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large, stylized 'M' and 'B'.

Dr. 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.