PRESENTATION SPEECH

FOR

WAYNE CAOKLEY

Hello Ladies and Gentlemen, friends, neighbors, distinguished guests, brothers, and all of you, our extended family, who are here with us today to celebrate a man who truly represents the ideals of the human spirit, our goals and our dreams, Past Grand Master Solomon Wallace. We are here to witness and acknowledge the dedication of this plaque, forged in the likeness of this great and generous man, and although he continues to inspire us every day, this plaque will serve as a signpost for our collective conscience, reminding us of the inherent goodness and humanity that guides our way to be there for one another.

Booker T. Washington said, “There are two ways of exerting one’s strength: One is pushing down and the other is pulling up. Past Grand Master Wallace knows and practices the latter. His personal history clearly demonstrates his commitment to his fellow man and to his community, always lifting people and their spirits. As a perpetually active and irreplaceable force for many years, Grand Master Solomon Wallace has stayed true to his word and his goals while making sure this community is in better shape than when he arrived. His participation on so many levels has been an inspiration and his candid, no nonsense words of wisdom always have a ring of truth and somehow are just what each one of us needs to hear to find our own way in our commitment and participation to make the world a better place. He has the incredible distinction of having been the Grand Master of Masons for twelve years consecutively, and that in itself demonstrates the selfless and continued devotion this fine man practices.

He has also made an indelible and tangible mark by being an active and respected force in the building and supporting of two tremendously influential and essential projects. Pardon the pun, but his commitment to erecting the Senior Citizens Building and the revitalization of the children’s camp, transforming it into a Class A facility that was completed for our neighborhood children demonstrate the essence and mission of the foundation of this organization. His devotion to these projects really opened my eyes and showed me what true dedication is. And these monumental projects are just a small example of his influence and participation! Our mission as a group is to care for the elderly and the future-our children, and Grand Master Wallace exerts his efforts with respect and grace for all.

This plaque may be made of bronze (?) but there is no element more precious than the inspiration and humanity we all get from Past Grand Master Wallace. May we all be inspired by his commitment to community and to the betterment of all of its citizens. He shows us that participation on any level is valued and together we are a force to be reckoned with!

To Past Grand Master Solomon Wallace, thank you for bringing us together, for uniting and leading us in a common purpose, and for showing us how truly beautiful it is to support and serve our community.

Thank you all.