

**Archives**  
**Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas**

**Finding Aid, Papers of Grand Master Robert E. Connor, Jr**

Finding Aid prepared by Donald Gross, April 2012

**Summary Information:** Robert E. Connor, Jr served as Grand Master from 1994 until his death in 2003. Connor was the twentieth Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas. The collection is Connor's copies of his correspondence as Grand Master.

**Creator:** Robert E. Connor, Jr

**Biography:** Robert Edmund Connor, Jr. was born in Weimar, Texas on July 24, 1953. He graduated from Columbus High School in 1971 and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Prairie View A & M in 1975. He was a life member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Connor had a long association with law enforcement. He began his career with the Prairie View Police Department. He spent four years with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission and ten years in the Harris County Sheriff's Department. On November 13, 1989 Connor was sworn in as the first African American chief of police of Columbus, Texas. He was a member of the Texas Peace Officers Association, International Association of Police Chiefs, and the first president of the Afro-American Sheriff's Deputy League.

In 1973, Connor was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Prince Hall Lodge No. 18, Columbus, Texas. He was elected Grand Junior Warden of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas on June 24, 1987. He served in that position until June 29, 1994 when he was elected Grand Master.

Connor brought the Prince Hall Grand Lodge into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. His administration was noted for the establishment of the Prince Hall Youth Camp and other community service programs. However, there was controversy over a number of unpopular decisions, suspensions, and lawsuits. Connor died of cancer on September 16, 2003 in Houston.

**References:** Robert L. Uzzel. *Prince Hal Freemasonry in the Lone Star State: From Cuney to Curtis, 1875-2003*. Austin: Sunbelt Eakin Press, 2004.

**Abstract:** General correspondence between 1996 and 1999 is mainly filed chronologically. The collection is artificially organized and where appropriate, subjective files were established.

**Scope:** .75 linear feet organized in one series of forty folders in one box. Dates: 1995 – 1999, bulk 1998 – 1999.

**Content:**

Box 1

F1	District 1 Reports
F2	District 6 Reports
F3	District 7 Reports
F4	District 14 Reports
F5	District 15B Reports
F6	District 16 Reports

F7	District 19 Reports
F8	District 24 Reports
F9	District 25 Reports
F10	Grand Lodge Building
F11	Grand Master Communication 1996
F12	Grand Master Communication 1997
F13	Grand Master Communication, July 1995
F14	Grand Master Communication, January 1998
F15	Grand Master Communication, February 1998
F16	Grand Master Communication, March 1998
F17	Grand Master Communication, April 1998
F18	Grand Master Communication, May 1998
F19	Grand Master Communication, June 1998
F20	Grand Master Communication, July 1998
F21	Grand Master Communication, August 1998
F22	Grand Master Communication, September 1998
F23	Grand Master Communication, October 1998
F24	Grand Master Communication, November 1998
F25	Grand Master Communication, December 1998
F26	Grand Master Communication, January 1999
F27	Grand Master Communication, February 1999
F28	Grand Master Communication, March 1999
F29	Grand Master Communication, April 1999
F30	Grand Master Communication, May 1999
F31	Grand Master Communication, June 1999
F32	Grand Master Communication, July 1999
F33	Grand Master Communication, August 1999
F34	Grand Master Communication, September 1999
F35	Grand Master Communication, October 1999
F36	Grand Master Communication, November 1999
F37	Grand Master Communication, Miscellaneous
F38	1999 Convention
F39	Court Case
F40	Expense Record