

# The ORACLE

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WINTER 2021



## MADAM VICE PRESIDENT

THE MEN OF  
OMEGA PSI PHI  
GET OUT THE VOTE

“I KNOW I’VE  
BEEN CHANGED”  
*FOUNDERS’ DAY 2020*

OMEGAS LEADING  
CHARGE FOR NFL/ NFLPA  
SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES

THE MEMOIR OF BRO.  
JAMES HYLAND HAYES, JR.  
*FROM THE HISTORY & ARCHIVES*

MANHOOD, SCHOLARSHIP, PERSEVERANCE, AND UPLIFT

# The ORACLE

VOLUME 89 \ NO. 40 \ WINTER 2021

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
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*Photo:  
President Joe  
Biden with 41st  
Grand Basileus  
and family*

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# FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND BASILEUS



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Dear Brothers,

I write this letter with optimism for what I have witnessed since my last correspondence. I recognize that we are living through the two pandemics of racism and COVID-19, yet I am encouraged by the unwavering resilience of Omega men.

COVID-19 remains prevalent in our country and its effects have been devastating. Our implemented plan of attack has provided us with tools to help us cope, maneuver, and remain safe. First and foremost, we continue to look to the Supreme Basileus of the Universe to guide us through these unprecedented times. Psalms 91 reminds us “thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night nor for the arrow that flieth by day, nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness, nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.” The bible says, “I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God, in Him will I trust.”

We continue to uplift one another through the Brother You’re On My Mind challenge which is to call four brothers every Wednesday. These Wednesday check-ins have been invaluable to brothers and their families. I too have enjoyed many conversations, sharing stories and laughs with Brothers from all over the world. I thank you for thinking of me and I look forward to more of these conversations.

This past November we witnessed the election of former Vice President, Joseph R. Biden, as the 46th President of the United States. His running mate, Senator Kamala Harris made history as she became Vice President-elect. Vice President-Elect Harris is the first woman, the first Black woman, and the first woman of South Asian descent to be elected to this office. Omega men worked tirelessly on voter education, registration, and mobilization and helped this election have the highest in voter turnout in over 100 years. More African-Americans voted in this election than in any other election in our history. And Omega led the way. No matter how you voted it is clear that we must remain vigilant on the issues that affect our communities, i.e., affordable healthcare, criminal justice reform, police brutality, the creation of jobs and income equity, education reform, and all issues that disproportionately affect the black community. We must work with our elected officials to encourage the creation of policies that change the current trajectory. We must hold elected officials accountable, and to those who don’t keep their word or prove unwilling to address the aforementioned issues, we will use the same energy we did to elect them, to vote them out. Brothers, the work is just beginning, and I am confident in Omega to continue these efforts.

Our new normal has presented us with the opportunity to rethink and reimagine how Omega functions. The 2020 Achievement Week celebrations were held virtually. It was gratifying to witness the many Brothers who were awarded for their service to Omega and the chapters who adjusted their sails and continued the course. Omega men answered the call of Omega and “saw it through to the finish,” despite the current environment. I could not be prouder to see the work that continues.

Under the leadership of the International Executive Director, John F. Howard, and our expert technology team, Omega produced a stellar 2020 Virtual Founders’ Day celebration which was streamed through our official YouTube channel. This unparalleled event, which was seen by 15,597 viewers, presented the history of Omega through stunning visual imagery, insight regarding the genesis of friendship, recollections by former Grand Basilei, updates from the 41st Grand Basileus, insight from four members over ninety-years of age with one having over eighty years of service, and a captivating and timely message, entitled “The Challenge of the Difficult,” as preached by Founder, Bishop Edgar A. Love in 1962. As Omega continues to celebrate her legacy, it is fundamental that we explore different methods of capturing and preserving our history. The 2020 Virtual Founders Day Celebration will be in the history books as the beginning of this endeavor.

Brothers, let us continue to pray for the families and the souls of Brothers who have transitioned into Omega chapter. Let us continue in the fight for justice and equality and the issues that affect our community. Let us continue the work of Omega as envisioned by our Founders and let us perpetuate friendship towards one another. Remember to follow CDC guidelines to stay safe during this pandemic.

May “the Lord bless thee and keep thee; make His face shine upon thee and be gracious to thee; and may the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

In Friendship,

*David Marion Ph.D.*  
Dr. David Marion  
41st Grand Basileus





# FROM THE DESK OF THE FIRST VICE GRAND BASILEUS



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Dear Brothers,

**This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.** Thank you for holding to our fundamental values of steadfast adherence to Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. These FOUR principles have served us well and have withstood the test of time.

The year 2020 has been one of great joy and considerable pain and sorrow happening what seems like simultaneously and continually. Joy in that we saw the successful election of the Biden and Harris team to the offices of president and vice-president of the United States of America. Yet, pain and sorrow in the lives of so many of our families and friends. But we power on as Omega men do.

We called out to you to come to the aid of our fellow citizens and make your voices heard in the policy direction of the country and you did. We appreciate you for making your voices heard all around the country and the world. When we stand up, hate, violence, debasement, and other acts of overt disrespect stands down.

Brothers, in fulfilling our duty-of-care to our community, “we have miles to go before we sleep.” Our brother James Clyburn, US Representative – (D-SC) was asked recently on national TV what was important to him in terms of setting national policy. He listed these issues:

- A revisit of the 1986 national crime bill
- Broadband for every home
- Health Care Centers in every community

Each of these issues are present in the communities affected most directly by our presence. To continue to provide the leadership needed to bring uplift to our communities, we must remain engaged. There are crucial days ahead of us as we move ever so close to the beginning of the new year. We ask that you study these issues and become engaged in mitigation that is favorable to our communities. Folks are depending on our leadership and forward movement.

Thank you again for this opportunity to serve as your First Vice Grand Basileus. I am honored!

**God bless the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**

Yours in Friendship,

Ricky L. Lewis,  
35th First Vice Grand Basileus





# FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



@JHOWARD\_ED

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Dear Brothers,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope that you are safe and healthy as we migrate thru this COVID-19 pandemic. It's an honor and privilege to work as your Executive Director. My staff team and I are committed to the success of Omega and her endeavors. The strategic plan that we have aligned our efforts to be consistent of the following tenants; Membership Experience, Leadership and Management, strengthen our Brand, and Financial Strength.

Our **Mission** at the International Headquarters is to support the Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and their many constituents by providing accurate, reliable, and timely information through excellent customer service and by maintaining the organization's history, knowledge base, communications methods, and resources necessary to further its creed.

Our **Vision** is to be the PREMIER Greek Letter organization in the Divine Nine by placing customer care at the heart of our work. We will focus on members' needs by developing and providing services in response to those needs. Furthermore, we will ensure our staff maintains a positive outlook and continually improves their skills and abilities. We will achieve our vision through a flexible work environment that uses technology to be more efficient, effective, and resourceful.

Our Brothers, Chapters, Districts, and Communities are evolving. IHQ is evolving, as well. As we start fiscal year 2021, our performance goals and objectives are aligned with our vision and mission with a strong emphasis on innovation. It is important that you stay connected with us. During the past year many of our members have signed up to be a part of our communication and social media networks.

If you haven't done so already, I highly encourage you to sign up through your District Keeper of Records and Seal to join our constant contact email distribution. In addition, please follow our social media platforms listed below.

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As your new Executive Director, my immediate goals are to strengthen existing and develop new processes that support our business objectives, to encourage and facilitate creativity in everything that we do, and lastly, support opportunities that build partnership for us all to better serve our community, preserve our history, and achieve the outcomes we desire. I'm looking forward to the work that's ahead. It's my strong belief that Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. will change the world to ensure it's better for generations to come.

Be well, my Friends!

John Howard  
Executive Director



# GB41 LEADS COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS

The National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) was founded on May 10, 1930 at Howard University in Washington, DC. There were 5 chartering organizations; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

In 1931, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., joined the council, followed by Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. in 1937. The NPHC incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois in 1937, and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. joined the NPHC as its ninth member in 1997. The supreme governing authority of the NPHC is entrusted to the Council of Presidents.

The Council of Presidents is composed of the elected president of each member fraternity/sorority. Our very own Grand Basileus, Dr. David Marion is the newly elected Chairman of the Council of Presidents.

After a discussion with Bro. Editor Norman “Bougie” Senior, Bro. Kelly Martin, and 7th District Public Relations Director Bro. Sean Bland, it was suggested that I (Bro. Kelly Martin) interview Brother Grand in regard to his new role with the Council of Presidents. I sat down with 41st Grand Basileus David Marion on November 24, 2020 for a conversation to discuss this occasion as well as the purpose and goals of the Council of Presidents over the next year in regard to the Black community.



KM: Tell me what the Council of Presidents is, and what is the function of the organization?

GB: The Council of Presidents is the Executive Board of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, so in every city, chapters of the Divine Nine are encouraged to join together as the National Pan-Hellenic Council and do initiatives together that could be even more impactful collaboratively versus doing them as an individual organization. Those councils are a part of the National Organization, National Pan-Hellenic Council and the National Pan-Hellenic Council has a president Vanetta Cheeks Reeder, who is a member of Sigma Gamma Rho. The President (Vanetta Cheeks-Reader) takes direction and is supervised by the Council of Presidents and typically it's by the Chairman.

KM: Ok, now correct me if I'm wrong, but you served on the Council previously in another capacity, correct?

GB: Yes. I was the Vice-Chairman of the Council of Presidents from September of 2019 to September 2020, and in September 2020, I was elected unanimously to be the Chairman of the council also referred to as the President of the Council of Presidents.

KM: What are the overall goals for the Council of Presidents over the next year?

GB: Well, we all do initiatives individually. For example, the Sigmas and the Kappas have a mentoring initiative and of course Omega Psi Phi has the Fatherhood and Mentoring initiative, so as organizations, we do all of those kinds of things separately.

All of us do St. Jude together, all of us have chapters to raise money for St. Jude and then St. Jude honors us, generally at the Congressional Black Caucus at a St. Jude event for the works and the contributions of the Divine Nine. The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated participates in fundraisers for St. Jude through our "Game Day Give Back" program. The Game Day Give Back program is a program that was near and dear to the heart of Bro. E. D. Hall out of the 6th District who has passed on, and also near and dear to the heart of Brother Conrado Morgan and several other Brothers who basically push the program; over this past year we gave more to St. Jude than we ever have in our history.

A lot of the organizations do the March of Dimes together, all of us network with Red Cross. However, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated now networks not only with Red Cross, but with the National Weather Service, Homeland Security and VOAD (National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) that allowed me to make the decision that we needed our own emergency response/emergency preparedness team. This way we are able to assist in keeping Brothers informed about hurricanes, tornadoes and other natural disasters that may be a threat in their immediate areas. Also, this network is used to get help to the folks in our communities and connect with resources that are not always known to the masses when a disaster occurs. Lastly, this allows Brothers and Chapters to do effective service work after a natural disaster hits and to help our communities recover. As a whole, all of us (organizations) are in partnership with the NAACP, and all of us decided to work as a collective on the "Get Out The Vote" initiative.

Each individual organization has their own get out the vote program. Omega, for example has about two hundred thousand initiated Brothers, but together the Divine Nine has 2.5 million members. Collectively, we have a reach that is around 5 to 7 million and so again collectively we can do things together in a more impactful way than we could individually. Collectively, we coordinated our strategy with the NAACP to get out the vote. We got with Sybil Wilkes of the Tom Joyner Morning Show, she served as moderator for a series of panel discussions with the Council, the four Sororities got together and did some things on Oprah's show and other events to get out the vote. The Fraternities took on an initiative together to get a million more Black men out to vote for this election, so all our organizations collectively were successful in getting more Black People out to vote in this election than ever before in history.

## *The Council of Presidents, continued*

KM: Indeed, that's an absolutely beautiful thing. It's all about collaboration, and that collaborative spirit is what it takes to really affect change and have a tremendous impact on those we serve. Is there anything else about the (Panhellenic) Council/organization that you think people should know, that they may not know?

GB: I think people don't appreciate how much we work together; each of the President's gets correspondence for their respective members saying they did not know we work together to that degree. A lot of chapters don't join councils locally. If you are a part of the National Pan-Hellenic Council locally, they understand that we're trying to do some things in concert to give back to our communities. We try to give back also on college campuses, doing the same thing working together to impact our college campuses in a big way.

So I think that's what's been surprising to most. When they saw all nine of us on the Sybil Wilkes show; when they saw all nine of us at the "Bloody Sunday" commemorative march in Selma; when they see all nine of us at the Congressional Black Caucus weekend in September every year, then they begin to see collaboration they didn't even know existed.

When they see the Omegas and the Deltas on the national level put on a mental health initiative, they begin to see things they've never seen before. So I think people will be amazed how well we get along and how impactful and effective we are, because we get along!

KM: I see, and it's a beautiful thing. Again, that collaborative spirit, there is always more strength in numbers when everyone has a common vision and goal.

GB: I think there was no clearer display, when you see the Alpha Phi Alpha President, Everette Ward; Reuben Shelton, Grand Polemarch (Kappa Alpha Psi); Andre R. Manson, Grand Polaris (Iota Phi Theta); Micheal E. Cristal, International President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity who also went to Mississippi State where I went to school; President/CEO of Delta Sigma Theta Beverly E. Smith; Dr. Glenda Glover, Supreme Basileus (Alpha Kappa Alpha); Valerie Hollingsworth-Baker, International President (Zeta Phi Beta); Rashida Liberty, International President/CEO of Sigma Gamma Rho when they voted unanimously that I be the Chairman of the Council of presidents then you know how unified you are.

KM: Looking at the turnout for the recent Presidential election, what are the plans of the Council to keep voters energized and engaged for the mid-term election cycle.

GB: Well, before we get to the mid-term elections, we have to get to the January 5th races in the State of Georgia.

KM: Agreed, absolutely, continue please.

GB: Two Senate seats are up for grabs in the state of Georgia, and that can determine a whole lot of things for the incoming Biden-Harris administration; it is important that we once again focus on getting out the vote. We've already begun doing that. We've already met with the NAACP. We've also already heard from the candidates in the race. Our job now is to collectively do what we did across the United States, but now focus all of our energy on the State of Georgia.

We have been able to identify the counties that mostly impact the outcome in the State of Georgia, we are focusing on the nine counties right around the city of Atlanta because most times in a runoff we don't come out in the same numbers. We're educating our brothers and sisters in Georgia about the importance of these races, what's at stake, the same way we did education about down-ballot races and issues.

KM: As a proud product of an outstanding HBCU, The Jackson State University, does the Council have any special plans, programs or strategies on tap to assist with HBCU sustainability?

GB: All member organizations have something in place; all of us donate to and support HBCU's. As we know, six of the nine organizations that make up the Divine Nine were started on HBCU campuses. All of us have initiatives to help HBCU's, to give monies to HBCU's, I think the AKA's do a great job, they'll raise a million dollars in 24-hours slated to go to HBCU's.

Delta Sigma Theta does an outstanding job donating to HBCU's, you know right now our fraternity has the Omega thousand for a thousand initiative where we're trying to raise a million dollars for HBCU's. We understand the importance and significance of HBCU's, and we understand how hard they've been hit during this pandemic. We have also asked the Biden-Harris administration, within their first 100 days to look at a tech initiative. We know Black folks were left out of the Industrial Revolution. We don't want to see Black folks get left out of the tech revolution. Right now, we already seen signs of that, where Black folks don't have the same access to Wi-Fi devices and so on as others. What we've asked them to do, is look at this initiative to help us reduce the racial wealth disparity gap where in Boston. for example, the average net worth of a white family is \$245,000 dollars and the average net worth of a Black family is a small fraction of that. We believe one of the ways to do that is to create a high tech trained and talented workforce, and we want that tied into the HBCU's. We'd like to see bootcamps on HBCU's campuses that are funded by Congress and by those high-tech companies like Apple and Google and etcetera. Ultimately helping to create the kind of workforce that they say they want, they say and admit they do not have a diverse workforce, and this will resolve that issue. If you can get monies to HBCU's to develop curriculum and get the training to produce the kind of tech-savvy folks that you want all on the campus of HBCU's.



KM: Awesome, that is a huge deal and can be a game changer; that's good information to know. Does the Council have any plans or initiatives to promote and support Minority/Black businesses or, to encourage economic impact in predominantly minority areas?

GB: Well, I think we all have economic development as a part of our mandated programming. Anytime we do national meetings, across the board, we make a concerted effort to do business with our people. We wouldn't want to come to a town and they not come out ahead, in the black, by our being there. Just like with us, on our International website where we put up black owned hotels where Brothers traveling across the United States, could stay with and spend money with these establishments.

Again, we're always giving money to initiatives to try to help black businesses; we promote them, we promote them on our websites, we promote their books and so there's a continuous effort to make certain that we be a hub of working with one another. We're working too with Rodney Sampson who is a Brother of Omega Psi Phi. He's a very tech savvy venture capitalist, he creates and helps tech firms; so, we are working with him to bring that same type of awareness to young people. We always want to partner with organizations that are focusing on helping black folks.

Omega right now is working on an initiative with the Secretary of the Army to make certain that our Brothers are aware of opportunities with the Army not only in terms of serving with the Army but securing the civilian jobs that many are not aware of.

## *The Council Of Presidents, continued*

GB: ...I was on a call this morning with the Secret Service, they want to partner with the Omega Psi Phi and the Divine Nine just as the Army wants to do in order to get the word out about Secret Service possibilities. How to apply for the jobs and what kind to look out for early in life that you'd be eligible for employment with them. We partner with the National Park Service to get more Black interns into the Park Service. You know we partner with GE to get some of our folks into those GE positions and that partnership came about from talking with Omega Men employed at GE. So, we're constantly looking for ways to do business with our own, because we understand that's how you try to turn money over and over again. Omega Psi Phi has its own banking institution, so we encourage Brothers and others to use our Federal Credit Union to make deposits and banking so it's always a continuous effort on all of our parts to do business with each other and our people.

KM: Excellent, this brings me to my last question, what are some specific challenges faced by the Divine Nine organizations?

GB: I think it is always the challenge of people not really appreciating what all we do, ESPN has been very integral in helping to shift that image, I think people think of the fraternities and sororities as just a college experience. Therefore, they are surprised to see that membership in black fraternities and sororities extends long after ones college life; those who are aware of the existence of black fraternities and sororities, the NPHC in particular, think that all we do is hop or step and party. So when they get an opportunity to hear of the millions that collectively we give in scholarship and the service hours to our communities, they are amazed when they see our impact as a whole. I've tried as the Grand Basileus to raise our profile so people can say did you know Omega did this, Omega is doing that but they see us doing these wonderful things, it is kind of amazing to them that they just did not know we are out here doing these things.

Now what is really changing our brand and strengthening our brand is market; to ourselves because our own Brothers don't know the reach of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated. So, we have to do a better job of letting our Brothers know that we have our own financial institution, we have our own insurance company, we've applied to the UN for non-governmental organizational status. The fact is, as an international organization we are in more countries than any of the other Divine Nine organizations. That truly is a testament to the desire of Brothers to serve.

Anytime we get somewhere, and we find out there are other Omegas, the first inclination of the Brothers there is how feasible is it to start a Chapter and they start doing service projects and mandated programming in the countries where they live. In Shanghai, the Brothers work with kids who have been orphaned and diagnosed with cancer and parents can't afford the radiation treatment or chemo and so they give them up, our brothers are working with them. When you go to London, England you'll find our Brothers working at a domestic violence shelter, when you go to Dubai you'll see the same thing,



Brothers working in a domestic violence shelter, when you go to Tijuana, our Brothers there are helping people who got caught at the border and could never cross into the country and are hungry and homeless, those are the kind of initiatives that Omega does. So, we're unaware of it, we're unaware that we are in Ghana and we financed four wells for clean water there but now we've done up to 28 because Brothers are insistent that we help our people in Africa and provide water for them for years to come.

KM: Lastly, is there anything I have not asked about that you would like to address or add at this time?

GB: No, actually I think that we have a well-oiled machine right now, not only in Omega but also, with the Council of Presidents. Once we get past this election January 5th 2021, we will circle back to the table to look at what Social Action Project we want to come together on to be impactful. A lot of us have mental health initiatives that's near and dear to my heart, so look for that to be something that we do collectively to be more impactful. Numerous things are on the table to raise the profile of the Divine Nine and nothing more than being given credit for getting more Black people than there has ever been in history out to the polls and making an impact in this last election.



# OMEGA CHARITIES

## Leading from the Front!

During these trying times with people protesting all over the world against systemic racism and police brutality, we still are facing one of our biggest opponents: COVID-19! Gratefully, Omega Charities has remained resolute and continues to serve the community. Bro. Editor Norm Senior converses with the President of the Omega Charities, 4th District Immediate Past District Representative, Bro. Bobby L. Robinson, to discuss all the great things of this Omega affiliate.





Bro. Senior: Sir, how does Omega Charities maintain with everything going on in the world today?

IPDR Robinson: In times of tragedy we feel a deep need to make sense of an often-chaotic world and to find order within it by acting upon it in some way. We realize that our communities are hurting, - Omega Charities is here to accept the challenge to improve those situations.

Bro. Senior: How or why did you become involved with this organization?

IPDR Robinson: I have always been involved in charitable organizations and committees. Brother Grand Basileus Marion observed a need for additional board members for Omega Charities, and requested that I consider the position. I love the difference and impact Omega Charities makes in the lives of Black people throughout the diaspora based on various contributions. Hence, I eagerly accepted the position as a board member. Then after serving on the board for about a year, I was elected President.

Bro. Senior: What are the different projects you have recently been involved?

IPDR Robinson: We, Omega Charities, have worked on three major projects of late:

1. COVID-19 Mask Distributions
2. Boreholes for Ghana (clean water program)
3. Fundraising

First, Omega Charities ordered 50,000 three-layer civil face masks to distribute throughout Omegadom. The distributions were based on the number of positive COVID-19 tests, as recorded on [www.arcgis.com](http://www.arcgis.com). Bro. Keith Wilson, of Kool-K Entertainment, was moved by Omega Charities donation of the 50,000 masks throughout the world, and made a beautiful song, "This Too Shall Pass." Please download the video from the link: <http://koolkentertainment.com> and click on OMEGA CHARITIES FUNDRAISER tab. A portion of the proceeds from every download will go to Omega Charities. Realize you are helping us better support our Brothers during times of crisis, and equipping us to have more resources to function as the philanthropic arm of Omega Psi Phi. Let me make one more plug, PLEASE purchase this outstanding video and support our fundraising efforts.

Secondly, we must continue to collect funds from Districts, States, Corridors, Chapters, lines, and/or individual brothers to commission more boreholes for the "Water is Life Initiative in Ghana, Africa." We completed 24 boreholes by November 2020 at \$4,000.00 per borehole (we are rapidly approaching this goal). Each borehole provides clean drinking water for over 62,000 Ghanaian People. After we receive the funds, we will have Bro. Jonathan Akuamoah contact you about the designing of your signage. Bro. Akuamoah will provide photographs and video of the dedication of the borehole when complete, and he will advise the village name to which you ministered. Also, you will receive a letter from Omega Charities, Inc. documenting your tax deductible gift.

Thirdly, for Omega Charities to continue to provide disaster relief, fatherhood and mentoring support, STEM programs, and the host of other humanitarian gifts, we need funds. Hence, fundraising is a priority of Omega Charities. The board members give annually, some Districts, Chapters, and Brothers make donations, and we request this august body of Omega Men to consider making tax deductible contributions to Omega Charities at [www.omega-charities.org](http://www.omega-charities.org).

IPDR Robinson: Can I take a moment to recognize the Omega Charities, Inc. Board of Directors?

Bro. Senior: Sure.

## *Omega Charities*



IPDR Robinson: The Board consist of La Mar Gunn, Vice President; Michael E. Charles, Secretary; Jerome Haggins, Treasurer; Aaron Price, Esq., Counselor; Alcindor Rosier, Past President; Dr. Andrew Ray (39th Grand Basileus); Alvin Jackson; Dr. David Marion (41st Grand Basileus), Ex-Officio; Daniel Jones (Grand Keeper of Finance), Ex-Officio (transitioned after this interview to Johnny Smith (Grand Keeper of Finance) Ex-Officio), and myself.

Bro. Senior: Thank you Brother Robinson, there are some powerful Omega Men on this Board. What would you say is Omega Charities greatest achievement thus far?

IPDR Robinson: Demonstrating our philanthropy in helping first of all, our Brothers when tragedy strikes, then making a positive difference in the communities where Omega serves.

Bro. Senior: Bro. IPDR, do you have anything else you would like to say to the Brothers about your organization?

IPDR Robinson: Thank you Bro. Senior for this awesome opportunity. I will summarize Omega Charities, Inc. We are the 501(c)(3) philanthropic arm of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Our mission is to:

1. provide programs to uplift the Black Community (especially young males);
2. Foster programs and activities of economic empowerment in distressed neighborhoods; and
3. Provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in times of critical need.

We are always here to serve! We love the Brotherhood, we bid you God's speed, and finally, please donate to [www.omegacharities.org](http://www.omegacharities.org). It is our responsibility and our call. "Now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." (I Corinthians 13:13).

*Interviewed by:*

*Bro. Norm Senior*

*International Interim Editor of the Oracle*



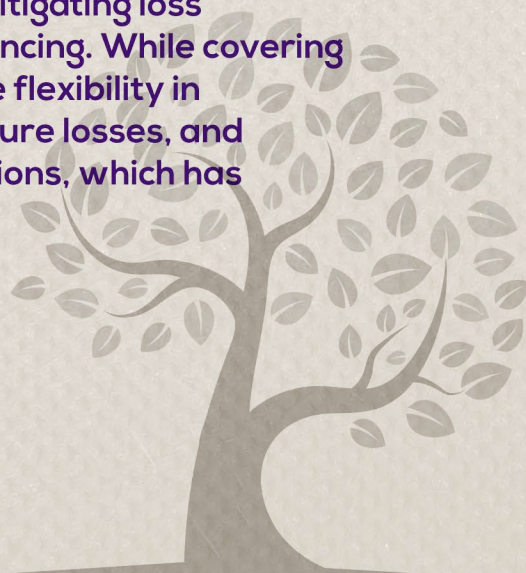
**Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (“OPP”) has formed its own insurance company. Pan Global Ltd is a wholly-owned subsidiary of OPP, a licensed captive insurance company.**

Owning a captive means that part of OPP’s premium and interest thereon that covers part of OPP’s insurance will remain within OPP’s control and not with third-party insurers. At the same time, OPP’s liability will be covered as if a third-party insurance company covered the liability.

The decision to create its own insurance company underwent years of analysis. Most recently, OPP hired Artex Risk Solutions, a subsidiary of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., one of the world’s largest Insurance brokerages, to extensively review OPP’s risk and insurance coverages. The study validated OPP’s analysis concluding coverage of OPP’s liabilities is profitable for third-party carriers. It also concluded that OPP could cover its own risk and, at the same time, maintain the profitability of coverage.

Although many did not believe that OPP could meet the prerequisites to establish its own captive insurance company, OPP did meet the stringent requirements. After intense and detailed review by the District of Columbia insurance regulators, Pan Global LTD was issued its certificate of authority on October 22, 2020.

Initially, Pan Global is providing only OPP’s excess insurance coverage. It provides excess liability coverage over OPP’s two primary commercial insurance policies while mitigating loss expense and providing stability in loss cost financing. While covering OPP’s excess liability, Pan Global gives OPP the flexibility in choosing retention levels, the ability to fund future losses, and lessen the impact of insurance market fluctuations, which has not been kind to OPP.



# OMEGAS LEADING CHARGE FOR NFL, NFLPA'S SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES

by Brother Kyle S. Yeldell



Since San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick took a knee during the Star-Spangled Banner in his team's third preseason game of the 2016 season, social justice has taken a front row seat into the world of sports.

The silent protest to bring awareness to the deaths of unarmed Black people at the hands of police set the world on fire. Many called for the players to be censored, while others applauded their demonstrations. While some NFL players carried on with life as usual, others stepped up, delved deeper and became voices of the movement.

Bro. Malcolm Jenkins, a safety with the Philadelphia Eagles, was one that did just that.

Beginning September 19, 2016 in a game against the Chicago Bears, Jenkins raised his fist in solidarity and would continue to do so throughout the 2016 and 2017 seasons. That silent protest sparked Jenkins, a Spring 2007 initiate of Iota Psi Chapter at The Ohio State University, to have a more intense focus on this issue and would be the first small step in a larger path.

Soon thereafter, Jenkins and two of his teammates took a ride along with members of the Philadelphia Police Department. Two months after that, Jenkins, along with four other NFL players, traveled to Capitol Hill and met with Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN), Rep. Patrick Murphy (D-FL), members of the Congressional Black Caucus and members of House

Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI)'s executive committee to discuss how to make policy changes.

His work would earn him the NFLPA's 2017 Byron "Whizzer" White Award, which is the highest honor given by the NFL players' union to a player "for his profound dedication to positively impacting his team, community and country". However, his work was just beginning.

In 2017, Jenkins and fellow NFL player Anquan Boldin created the Players Coalition, an organization of professional athletes across various sports that are dedicated to impacting social justice and racial equality.

*Story continued on page 22*

# INVESTING

By Brother Johnnie Smith, Grand Keeper of Finance



**Investing is a tool all Omega men should make a priority to protect and plan for the unforeseen and future.**

## *Key Factors for Investing*

- 1.** Investing is an effective way to put your money to work and potentially build wealth. As an investor you should have a strategy which will allow your money to outpace inflation and increase in value. The greatest growth potential is primarily due to the power of compounding and risk-return tradeoff.
- 2.** Investing is important to accomplish your financial goals and provide a buffer for unforeseen expenses. Investing is a long-term commitment and is the key to building wealth.
- 3.** As an investor you get to share in wealth creation.
- 4.** Investing is for people who want to generate more wealth, ready to take risk, ambitious, and enthusiastic about seeing your investment grow.

One of the most important factors in how much wealth you can accumulate depends on when you start investing and saving. Thinking you do not currently earn enough to invest and that you will start and catch-up later is a mistake. Your goal is financial security and wealth and postponing will reduce both over your lifetime.

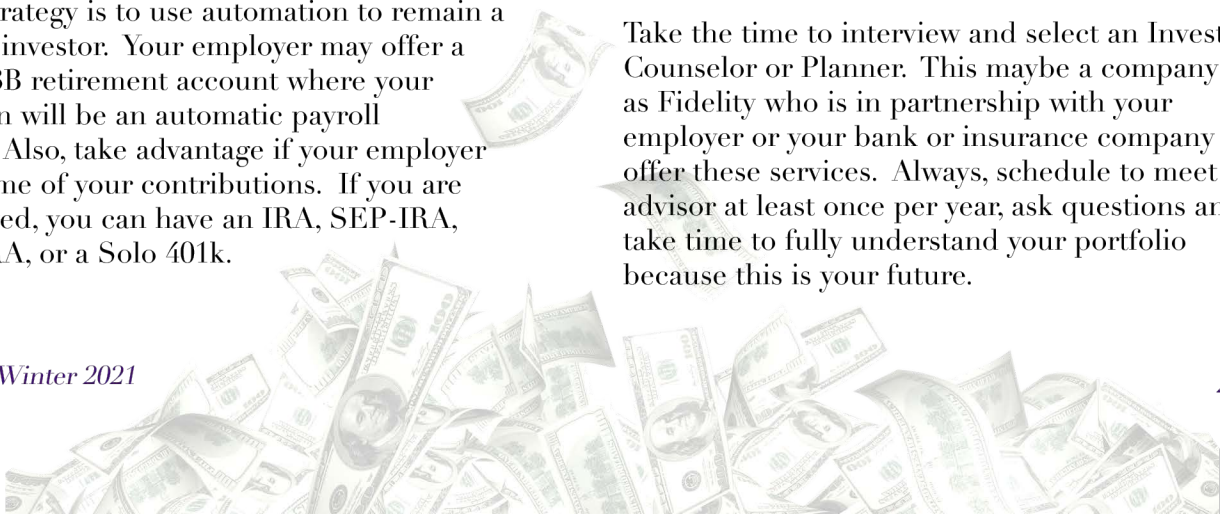
A proven strategy is to use automation to remain a disciplined investor. Your employer may offer a 401K or 403B retirement account where your contribution will be an automatic payroll deduction. Also, take advantage if your employer matches some of your contributions. If you are self-employed, you can have an IRA, SEP-IRA, SIMPLE IRA, or a Solo 401k.

Establishing automatic deposits, allows you to put money aside before it's seen or you are tempted to spend it. This is a wall you establish to outsmart yourself, so you manage money wisely. An investment strategy and approach with automatic payments is a great way to relax and systematically grow richer.

Consider investing a minimum of 10% to 15% of your gross income for retirement. Then make sure you have at least three months of savings for unforeseen emergencies. These monthly saving amounts should be like a bill with a due date you receive from a merchant. If this seems like more than you can afford, start tracking your spending carefully and categorizing it. You will identify how you are spending money and ultimately provide yourself opportunities to save more.

Retirement accounts will allow you to accumulate wealth and reduce your tax bill. When you invest, you contribute on a pre-tax basis and defer paying tax on both contributions and earnings until you make withdrawals in the future. With a contribution to a Roth 401k or Roth IRA, you pay tax on contributions upfront, but receive withdrawals completely tax-free (if certain requirements are satisfied).

Take the time to interview and select an Investment Counselor or Planner. This maybe a company such as Fidelity who is in partnership with your employer or your bank or insurance company may offer these services. Always, schedule to meet your advisor at least once per year, ask questions and take time to fully understand your portfolio because this is your future.



## *Omegas Leading Charge for NFL, NFLPA's Social Justice Initiatives*

Following a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, VA in August 2017 that left a woman dead, Jenkins and three other players wrote a 10-page memo to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell asking for the league's support in their push to promote racial equality and criminal justice reform.

Just days later, while at a rally in Alabama, President Donald Trump advocated for the NFL owners to release players that protest, classifying them as a "son of a b\*tch" in the process.

"Wouldn't you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say, 'Get that son of a b\*tch off the field right now. Out! He's fired. He's fired!,'" Trump said. "You know, some owner is going to do that. He's going to say, 'That guy that disrespects our flag, he's fired.' And that owner, they don't know it [but] they'll be the most popular person in this country."

The President's comments catapulted the protests to a larger stratosphere and fueled a more fervent passion by not only Jenkins and his fellow players, but the NFL and the NFL Players Association (NFLPA).

In December 2017, the NFL partnered with the Players Coalition to launch the NFL Social Justice Initiative, which is "a player-led platform to engage with team owners, public officials, law enforcement, academic institutions, community partners and others to identify meaningful ways to strengthen local communities and the greater society".

One of the many initiatives within this partnership is "My Cause, My Cleats," which spotlights stories of players who use their game cleats to showcase causes that they are passionate about. While started prior to the inception of the NFL Social Justice Initiative in December 2016, "My Cause, My Cleats" has been brought into the initiative and has flourished ever since. One such player who has been very involved with this initiative is Bro. Wesley Woodyard, a linebacker for the Tennessee Titans.

Woodyard, a Spring 2007 initiate of Rho Lambda Chapter at the University of Kentucky, announced that he would don a special pair of cleats that honor those suffering from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). For the upcoming game against the Denver Broncos on December 11, 2016, he began his tribute with cleats honoring former Titans linebacker and teammate Tim Shaw who was diagnosed with ALS in 2014. In doing so, he was also paying respect to his aunt, his grandfather and his wife's aunt, who each suffered and died from the disease.

Woodyard has also created The16Ways Foundation to provide programs to at-risk youth that are focused on academic, social, emotional, and professional development.

While Jenkins and Woodyard have been representing players on the field, Bro. Joe Briggs has been doing the same within the union. Bro. Briggs, a Spring 1999 initiate of Epsilon Alpha Chapter at Texas Christian University and senior counsel at the NFLPA, has been very involved as the co-chairman of the NFLPA Social Justice Task Force. Both Bro. Briggs and Bro. Carl Francis, a Summer 2013 initiate of Sigma Mu Mu and NFLPA Director of Communications, have played a role organizing as the union has continued to ramp up their work in this space. For the opening games of the 2020 season, the NFLPA distributed t-shirts to all 32 NFL teams that stated "INJUSTICE AGAINST ONE OF US IS INJUSTICE AGAINST ALL OF US" on the front and "END RACISM" on the back.

The NFL and NFLPA were also very involved with voter education, voter registration and providing support to poll workers for the 2020 election. The NFLPA also received toolkits for social media and engagement from three different organizations: When We All Vote, Black Men Vote and Black Girl Vote. This allowed the union to distribute messages on the ways that people can register to vote. The union also worked with the Lawyers Committee on Civil Rights and their subsidiary organization, 866 Our Vote on Election Protection, to distribute messages around the organization's hotline for voting questions. In addition, the NFL has committed to provide scholarship grants to and through victims of social justice.



*NFLPA Counsel Bro. Joe Briggs*

With the social and cultural climate of the last several years, the NFLPA and players like Jenkins and Woodyard understand their platform and have stepped up knowing that their voices rang a little louder due to the prestige of being or working with professional athletes.

“As a Black man, as a father, as a man and as a Christian, God has placed me in the great position to have some kind of power and influence, but more importantly to be able to be a role model for our community,” said Woodyard. “I think that so many times as athletes, we feel it is not our place to use our platform for what it is, and that is to bring positive change, to promote health within our community, and to be the light for darkness for people who can’t.”

“I used my platform to hold numerous press conferences to uplift the work of criminal justice and education advocacy groups to generate media attention,” said Jenkins. “We’ve also worked extensively in our communities to improve police-community relations.”

The Players Coalition has remained diligent in its work with social justice. “We’ve been focused on addressing the inequalities and racial disparities in our criminal justice system, our educational system and the disparate wealth in our marginalized communities,” said Jenkins. “I’ve held district

attorney town halls with other players in Pittsburgh, Oakland and Sacramento and have lobbied for the passage of the PA Clean Slate Act with teammates to seal nonviolent criminal cases after a 10-year span of having a clean record,” said Jenkins. “I’ve also attended bail hearings and successfully campaigned to reduce or eliminate cash bail.”

The work of the Players Coalition is not just confined to criminal justice. They have even breached the world of education. “Several guys in Boston lobbied for an education bill that increased the budget by \$1 billion across state and local communities to help even the playing field for those communities who have less funds in their school districts, which largely are attended by our black and brown students,” stated Jenkins.

Jenkins has been inspired by Muhammad Ali, John Carlos and Tommy Smith and credits several of his life experiences to his work in social justice, but Omega Psi Phi is one that stands out. “When I was in college at The Ohio State University, I didn’t know at the time that my Omega Psi Phi experience was preparing me for the type of leadership that I’ve stepped into, whether that’s social justice or my Foundation or as an entrepreneur,” stated Jenkins. “It also taught me a true sense of community and brotherhood, with relationships that have lasted for close to 15 years.”

Understanding the full umbrella of social justice reform, Jenkins has also added a media component to his work. “Black people are not monolithic, and we need to showcase this in creative, engaging, informative, and entertaining ways to the mainstream public with positive and realistic views of Black fathers, Black mothers, Black families and more,” says Jenkins. “I’ve been heavily involved this year with my production company Listen Up Media with the goal to create change through scripted and unscripted storytelling. Black Boys, the first film I executive produced, is currently streaming on Peacock and I’m proud of that.”

With the great work that the NFL and the NFLPA have done, much of it would not be done without the internal and external work of people like Jenkins, Woodyard, Briggs and Francis. The league and society have been better for it and will continue to be for years to come.

# I KNOW I'VE BEEN CHANGED

by Brother Reuben Sparks



**B**rothers always strive to do something new and different on each Founder's Day. The Covid-19 virus made the November 17, 2020 Founder's Day significant in its own way. This was the 109th commemoration of the event. The Fraternity developed its first virtual Founders' Day Program because of the virus. With a connection to the past and path to the future the celebration began with sincere anticipation of what was to come. As each chapter in the past conducted its own Founders' Day celebrations, this year, brothers felt pride and comradery as we watched knowing thousands of brothers around the world were watching the same celebration in unity and togetherness.

An exciting tone was set right from the start with the brothers singing "I know I've Been Changed." The song signifies the change Omega Psi Phi has made in all our lives. The current Grand Basileus and two former Grand Basilei were integral parts in the virtual experience. Having brothers stand in for the Founders helped showcase their thoughts about the beginnings of the Fraternity.



A thought-provoking part of the virtual experience was having brothers who spoke to the Founders speak about their involvement with them. As we were contemplating the various historical information being presented, the brothers upped the experience by providing “An Omega Minute” to challenge us with more information about Founders’ Day and the history of the fraternity.

The Second Vice Grand Basileus provided some thoughts for the occasion and even provided a “special hop” at the end of his presentation, an appeal to the younger brothers in all of us. Omega Trivia was added for those of us who really thought we knew everything about the Fraternity.

With the occasion at the highest levels of entertainment and enthusiasm, nothing could have brought it higher except a sermon from a founder. The evening ended with Founder, Brother Bishop Edgar Amos Love and his sermon entitled Challenge of the Difficult given at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia in April 1962. Brother Love encouraged us to “look for the challenging things, anyone can do the easy.” Brother Love told us “the presence of the Lord is always with us to sustain us.” Brother Love told us that for leaders to prepare a good a sermon “you need to take your desk out of the study and take it to the marketplace. We need to experience the lives of the people we are trying to reach. The world is looking for courageous, good men. We need to transform the world, not conform to the world. Men are not perishing today because of a lack of knowledge but men are perishing today because of a lack of the truth.” The sermon was preached in 1962 but appropriate for year 2020.

Brother Sean Bland, 7th District Director of Public Relations said about the Founders Day Program, “it was special, it was educational. It was special hearing directly from the Founders. My favorite part was the beginning with the three brothers singing and the way it made you feel. There was something for the young, old and middle-aged brothers. Everyone could see something they could relate to.”

While watching the presentation, the digital count said over 4,400 brothers watched and we know they were truly and fully immersed in the true Omega spirit.





# UNDERGRAD

## ALPHA

HOWARD UNIVERSITY - WASHINGTON, D.C.

**P**eter Lubembela is a Senior Political Science Major, Sociology minor at Howard University from Denver Colorado, by way of the Nyarugusu Refugee Camp in Tanzania. In his early years he moved from Tanzania to Fort Morgan, Colorado where he was tasked with learning English and adjusting to the broader American society. In adjusting to American society, he was forced to defend his own culture. His family later moved to Denver, Colorado where he attended Noel Community Arts School, Montbello Campus.

He and his family took on the responsibility of fighting the school board to keep his feeder middle school open. Through that fight he discovered his power as a leader and accepted the responsibility he has to his community. At Howard University, Peter founded the Colorado Club to support students coming from Colorado with acclimating to the university. His Junior year he was initiated into Alpha Chapter and thereafter elected to serve as Basileus in Spring 2020.



# ER DUATES



In Fall 2019, Peter started 10 For10, an initiative with a mission of Cultivating Generational Change Through Service, he brought 10 Black Men together with \$10 each to feed 100 people in the DC community. Through 10 For10, he intends to mobilize 300 Black Men to feed 1,000 people in DC and in his hometown Denver, Colorado. Over the summer of 2020, after the murder of George Floyd, 10 For10 organized 10 events including protests, rallies, concerts, a fashion show, and an art show in Denver, Colorado, all within a span of 6 weeks.

The events were purposed to give youth a platform to speak on issues centered around them. Moving forward, 10 For10 has restructured and will continue to create experiences centered around its pillars, Mentorship, Community, Education, Advocacy, and Wellness. 10 For10 is poised to grow into a nationally recognized service organization, with collegiate, K-12, and community chapters across the United States.



# NU PSI

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY - ETTRICK, VA

The Brothers of the Nu Psi Chapter are single handedly feeding an entire city, one family at a time. Many families in the City of Petersburg, VA have experienced food insecurity and are in the need of assistance during these challenging times. Facing this grim reality, the Brothers of the Nu Psi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., have stepped up by volunteering at every possible opportunity to provide food to this community.

Every month, in the parking lot of Virginia State University, Multi-Purpose Center, the Brothers of the Nu Psi Chapter can be found filling up carts of groceries that will feed families in need for weeks on end. Well over one hundred families fill the parking lot every month to receive food. They always express their gratitude for the Omega men that they've come to know quite well through their service feeding the Petersburg community.

As Thanksgiving approached the Brothers of the Nu Psi Chapter partnered with a local restaurant, Traditionz Wings & Grill, co-owned by Brother Sam Campbell to pass out meals to the less fortunate in the local Petersburg Community. This service to the community was a part of the "Feed the Need with a Taste of Petersburg" initiative. The Brothers of the Nu Psi Chapter were instrumental in achieving the goal of delivering 7,400 meals to individuals and families in the local Petersburg community. This was an effort to feed families both before and after the Thanksgiving holiday.

When our communities are up against a trouble, the only option is to meet it squarely face to face. The Brothers of the Nu Psi Chapter have recognized this glaring trouble in our communities, and they have tackled the problem head on, not just in their local community. The Nu Psi Chapter has also partnered with the chapters of Phi Delta and Upsilon Nu to feed families in Richmond, VA as well as the Lambda Upsilon chapter to give back to the local community of Paterson, New Jersey. As the holiday season approaches, the Nu Psi chapter plans to ramp up their efforts to assist in feeding their community and urge all brothers to do the same.



We would like to extend congratulations to Brother Guy Deweever, II, a Spring 2020 initiate of the Nu Psi Chapter. Bro. Deweever, II and his team participated in the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMC) "The Pitch 2020" competition. The TMC "The Pitch 2020" is an annual competition that involves teams of five from Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) across the country. These HBCU students were tasked with developing a solution to a proposed problem related to business, social, or educational problems. They were then tasked with delivering their best pitch to deal with the presented issue to a panel of expert judges. Bro. Deweever, II took the lead of his team and played an instrumental role in its 1st place finish.

Since winning the competition, Bro. Deweever, II has gone on to graduate from Virginia State University. He intends to continue his education in order to place himself in a better position to serve his community. He has been accepted into a dual-degree program at Johns Hopkins University. In May 2022, he will graduate with his MBA & MA in Design Leadership.

Bro. Deweever, II is committed to laying the foundation, in order to build the bridge that assists other HBCU students on their path. Upon receiving his award for winning the TCMF “The Pitch 2020” competition, Bro. Deweever, II started a scholarship fund for Virginia State University students that have been impacted by Covid-19. So far, the scholarship fund has given away a MacBook Air and hundreds of dollars in scholarships. Bro. Deweever, II has exhibited humility and selflessness in his endeavors, as he seeks to inspire the next generation of HBCU students to achieve their aspirations.



## THIRD DISTRICT SECOND VICE DR BRO. MALCOLM FOX'S BUSINESS VENTURE

Bro. Malcolm Fox, 2nd Vice District Representative of the Third District, has taken steps towards achieving many goals he has set for himself. In August 2019, he, along with Bro. Nick Fox ('16 Zeta Phi) and Bro. Darick Anderson ('18 Iota Sigma), founded Gratitude Chicago. Gratitude Chicago is a Chicago-Based streetwear brand that expresses the importance of showing gratitude through clothing. In honor of the Juneteenth holiday, the trio collaborated with graphic designer Howard Griffith and released a design entitled “The Last Generation.” One hundred percent of the proceeds were donated to Color of Change and Bridging the Gap Globally, organizations that are dedicated to the economic development of the Black Community. In addition, Gratitude collaborated with *Legacy History Pride* this past September to create a voter registration t-shirt that brought light to the importance of youth casting their vote in the 2020 election. You can follow Gratitude’s Instagram [@GratitudeChicago](#) or visit the website at [gratitudechicago.com](#).

Apart from Gratitude Chicago, Malcolm is on course to graduate from Howard University as a Supply Chain Management major in May 2021. He has accepted an offer to join McDonald’s Corporation as an Operations Associate based out of Denver, Colorado upon graduating.





# IOTA PSI

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY - COLUMBUS, OH

The Iota Psi hosted the 2019 Black Male Mental Health Panel at The Ohio State University. Our panelists were 41st Grand Basileus Dr. David Marion; Bro. Chief Judge Algenon L. Marbley; Bro. Christopher Cooper, ESQ '76; and Bro. David Graham.

The Basileus of the Iota Psi Chapter, Bro. Jeremiah Mills '19 elected his chapter brothers for chapter awards. Bro. Adrian Ward '18 and Bro. Benjamin Powell '18 received the Brotherhood of the Year award. Bro. Adrian Ward '18 also received the Scholar of the Year award. Bro. Trayvon Wilburn '19 received the Superior Service award, and Bro. Braxton Miller received the Omega Man of the Year award. Citizen of the Year was awarded to Molly Peirano, Delta Gamma's Chapter Advisor.

The Advisor of the Year award was given to Bro. Jeffery A. Tarver '80. Following the event, Brothers gathered for a picture with the Grand Basileus. The event was sponsored by FourStar Frieghtliner. The Moderator for the evening was Joy Bivens, member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and Director of Franklin County Job and Family Services.

# SIGMA PSI

OHIO UNIVERSITY - ATHENS, OH



Sigma Psi hosted a record-breaking blood drive, tallying up a total of 63 units of blood. Calculated as the most units by a student organization on the campus of Ohio University.

Brothers represented are Kylan Miller '18, Redghi Remy '18, and former 2nd Vice District Representative, Juwuan Tye '18.





The Mighty 4th District undergraduate chapter Basilei and Keepers of Records and Seal attended the International Undergraduate Summit in Little Rock, Arkansas. The chapters represented are: Iota Psi, Phi Sigma, Psi Gamma, Nu Zeta, Sigma Psi, Beta Beta.



On Thursday, October 3, 2019, the Iota Psi chapter held a Voter Registration, Education, Mobilization Townhall meeting at Delta Gamma's sorority house with guest speaker Tracy Jones of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. Over 75 students, faculty, and community members of The Ohio State University were in attendance at the Town Hall.





## PHI DELTA DELTA

CUMBERLAND UNIVERSITY - LEBANON, TN

Over one hundred Cumberland University students, faculty and staff joined in on a student-led march for justice on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2020. The Anti-Racial Movement (ARM) march was organized by student athletes Jimmy Turner, Brandon Taylor and Tamim Aldarawcheh.

The goal of the Anti-Racial Movement is to include everyone in the fight to eradicate racism in all aspects of life and reach a common goal of peace. The march started at Nokes-Lasater Field, home of the Cumberland football program, and ended at the main Cumberland campus.

Cumberland student and football player Brandon Taylor co-organized the event. “ARM is about including everybody, it was put in place so that we can all be included in eradicating racism in all aspects of life,” said Taylor. “We all must come together for one cause – peace, and we must keep pushing to become the family that Cumberland presents to us everytime we step foot on campus.”

President Paul Stumb and Athletic Director and Vice President for Enrollment Services joined students in the march against racial injustice. “One of Cumberland’s core values is to respect and care for others,” said University President Dr. Paul Stumb. “With the events occurring across the nation, I want all of our students, faculty and staff of color to know that Cumberland stands with them in the fight against injustice. We strive to build a nurturing, inclusive community where all people feel safe, supported, welcomed and celebrated.”

The Cumberland Athletic Department supports student-athletes in their fight against racial injustice. “Cumberland Athletics stands in solidarity with people across the nation to say enough is enough,” said Ron Pavan, Athletic Director and Vice President for Enrollment Services. “This is about unity, not division and I’m proud of our student-athletes for stepping up and striving to make a difference in our community. They are our future leaders and I support them and this movement.”







# KAPPA KAPPA

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA - CARROLLTON, GA

The Brothers of the Kappa Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., hosted a mask giveaway for students, faculty, and staff of the University of West Georgia, on August 12th and 13th 2020. The brothers felt that with the growing pandemic and a heightened sense of concern on campus, everyone here could benefit from receiving an extra mask to have when walking around campus.

Brothers of the chapter received the masks from the East Point Fire Department (Brother Kadeem Capers 1-KK-10), and the brothers on campus at West Georgia gave out over 150 free masks. The entire event was in accordance with the CDC safety guidelines. Brothers had hand sanitizer and other PPE items on hand to ensure safety for everyone in attendance.



The Brothers will have a follow up event this spring when students return to campus. Brothers look to have all mask donated like before, and hope that students will come out and participate in an event to help curb the spread of COVID-19 and ensure that the return to campus does not result in another outbreak of the deadly virus.



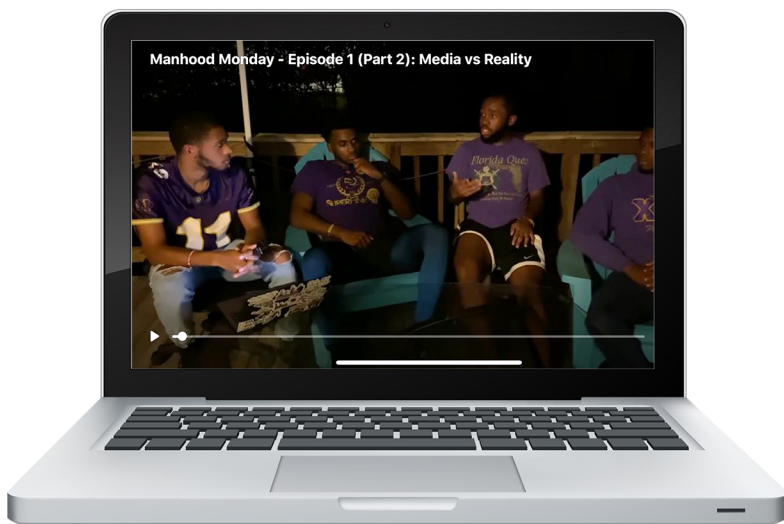


# CHI THETA

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY - TALLAHASSEE, FL

**O**n Saturday, October 17, 2020 from 12pm - 3pm brothers of the Mighty Mighty Chi Theta Chapter, attended the unveiling of a newly reconstructed basketball court at Alexander Park in Hernando, FL. The reconstruction project was spearheaded by Bro. Devonte White, 10-14 Chi Theta Chapter with the support of Bro. Shane Lawal, Solo-08 Omicron Alpha Alpha Chapter.

The renovated court serves as a place for kids who love basketball and helps them stay off of the streets. Brothers in attendance were Nicholas McFadden, Kai Tillman, Jahone Green, Damien Lindor, and Tyrik Seymour for a total of 15-man hours.



## Manhood Monday

**O**n Monday, October 26th, 2020 brothers of the Mighty Mighty Chi Theta Chapter, debuted Chi Theta TV with our monthly Manhood Monday video from 7pm-8pm. In this first installment of Manhood Monday, brothers had an open dialogue about the media's perception of men in America compared to the actual reality.

Brothers in attendance were Nicholas McFadden, Jahone Green, Khalil Younge, Damien Lindor, and Tyrik Seymour for a total of 5-man hours.

# UPSILON THETA

LAMAR UNIVERSITY - BEAUMONT, TX



On August 27, 2020, Hurricane Laura, one of the strongest hurricanes on record to make landfall in Louisiana, devastated the city of Lake Charles destroying 10,000 homes and damaging over 35,000 homes. The city was in dire need of assistance. We knew we needed to be active and do our part. Within a week, a 3 day community service project featuring the Brothers of the Upsilon Theta Chapter, was put into action.

The project was spearheaded by Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. On September 2, 2020, volunteers unloaded pallets of bulk items needed for individual care packages. The following day volunteers loaded an 18 wheeler alongside two U-Haul's with over 31 pallets of water and care packages. On the last day volunteers traveled to Lake Charles to distribute the supplies.

On September 4, 2020, volunteers worked from 6am until all supplies were distributed. We were able to give care packages to over 2,500 individuals. Overall, the project further intertwined the Upsilon Theta Chapter with the Beaumont community as well as created a relationship with the City of Lake Charles.

The year 2020 was a time of sickness and economic disaster. Many people lost means of supporting themselves and their lives. The COVID-19 virus has caused much harm and discomfort. In this time of loss and uncertainty the initiated Tau Epsilon class of Spring 2020 rose to the occasion to live out their creed in true Omega Spirit. With selflessness, ingenuity, and nerve these new members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., fulfilled their duty by feeding approximately 100 homeless residents of the historic Third ward Houston area.



# ALPHA EPSILON ALPHA

METHODIST UNIVERSITY - FAYETTEVILLE, NC



On 24 September 2020 at 7pm the Mighty Sixth District's Alpha Epsilon Alpha Chapter (AEA), under the leadership of Brother Patrick Brannen, Basileus and Brother Tyquan Eaddy, AEA Violence Prevention Chair conducted a Violence Prevention program on the Campus of Methodist University, Fayetteville, North Carolina. The purpose of this program was to inform the Methodist University student body about Date Rape and all the associated behaviors. This program informed over 100 students on the Campus and over 100 participants on various social media platforms about Date Rape. The program educated the listeners on what behaviors are warning signs and what you can do if you are a victim of Date Rape. Also, what you can do if it happens to someone you know.

Methodist University's Freshman, Sophomore and transfers students who attended this virtual program received extra credit in their MU Journey classes. The guest speaker was Mr. Charles Pennington, Program Specialist, Family Advocacy Program, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. Mr. Pennington educated Methodist University virtual attendees on Date Rape along with: Stranger Rape, Acquaintance Rape, Gang Rape and the national statistics on rape on academic institutions. After the Date Rape presentation, Ms. Stephanye Graham and Ms. Laura Walters from Methodist University's Center of Personal Development spoke about the services their office provides regarding to this topic and Violence Prevention. This program was a great success; the attending students were engaged during the program, asking several questions. Alpha Epsilon Alpha Chapter received numerous requests for an additional program on Date Rape from student and Methodist University faculty.

# XI PSI

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY - ORANGEBURG, SC

During the year of 2020, many households have taken a tremendous blow due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, leaving many of their resources inadequate. As the 2020 holiday season began to approach the Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc, 6th District decided that it would be a superb time to intervene and make a social impact amongst selected communities.

As Social Action being one of the mandated programs that Omega Men live by, the brothers of the Xi Psi Chapter (South Carolina State University) along with the brothers of Columbia, SC take to the streets to make a difference. *Continued on next page*



***Xi Psi - Continued***

Brothers purchased turkeys and various canned good items that would assist families in need the weekend before Thanksgiving. Brothers also provided those in need with a surplus of fresh packs of water and small snack bags that would sustain them for that day.

This turned out to be a great event and left the Columbia, SC community satisfied, and filled with gratitude for the holiday season.



During the year of 2020, the entire nation awaited at the edge of their seats all year for the month of November to cast their votes for the next President of the United States. This served as a pivotal point in the nations route to recovery and restoration, and each person awaited with faith and hope in their hearts. Alongside all of these key concepts, the November election also served as a great opportunity for the marvelous brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., to implement superior service amongst their one of their primary initiatives. For the 6th District, the brothers went above and beyond to assist with helping citizens cast their votes in the elections along with helping the election in any way possible.

Brothers distributed Chick-Fil-A meals to various precincts located throughout Orangeburg County, where each worker received a full meal as a token of appreciation.

*In the photo depicted, the brothers of the Xi Psi Chapter at South Carolina State University, teamed up with the local Orangeburg, SC graduate chapter Epsilon Omega to feed the poll workers on November 3, 2020.*



# OMEGA ZETA

DUKE UNIVERSITY - DURHAM, NC

## Academic Engagement

Average Chapter GPA **3.33 GPA**

## Scholarship Program

Mission Statement: To inspire brothers of the Omega Zeta Chapter to be leaders and influencers of high scholastic and extracurricular attainment within their communities at Duke and beyond.

## Statement on Academic Policy

If a brother has a below 3.0 GPA, it is mandatory that he receive tutoring once a week from another brother in the chapter.

## Rewards Program

Omega Zeta Brother of the Month: Awarded to the chapter brother who not only exemplifies the four cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift but these traits have manifested through his actions on campus.

- September - Quinton Simmonds
- October - Dhanwan Fullard
- November - David Moore
- December - Michael Carter II

## Chapter Brother of the Year

Awarded to the chapter brother who exudes the highest standards of the Omega Zeta Chapter and the cardinal principles of the fraternity in his daily interactions with the broader campus population (Must have at least a 3.0 GPA).

## Community Involvement

Brothers have participated in a range of different service events throughout the semester which have included, but are not limited to:

- Voter Registration
- Feeding the Homeless
- Clean up around Durham



*Durham Community Cleanup*

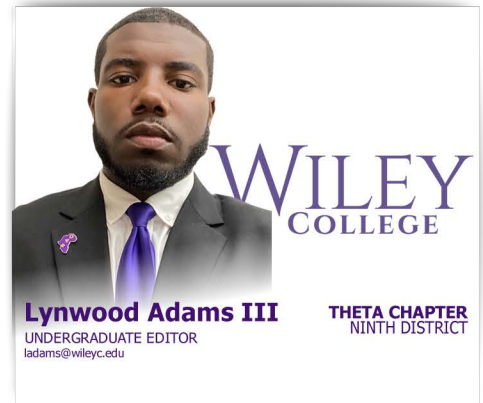


*Voter Registration, Education and Mobilization*



*Church Cleanup*

# Chapter Update



## Campus Programming

### Omega Psi Phi Achievement Weekend

- Wellness: Sexual Health Series (3 part series)
- Community Service: *Community Cleanup, Church Cleanup - Cleaned downtown Durham, Cleaned up the church and parking lot for Oak Groves AME Zion Church*

## Engagement

Brothers attended both the First and Second District Council Meetings this semester.

## Brotherhood Events

Sunday Lunch

## Chapter Management

### Public Relations

- The chapter has an active Instagram account for promoting campus events and highlighting Brothers' achievements and activities.
- Elections for new officers will be held in January



**OMEGA ZETA FOUNDERS DAY WEEKEND PRESENTS:** 2020

<b>FRIDAY 13</b> NOVEMBER	<b>SEXUAL HEALTH W/ BMU</b> 5-6 P.M.
<b>SATURDAY 14</b> NOVEMBER	<b>COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP</b> 1-2 P.M.
<b>SUNDAY 15</b> NOVEMBER	<b>CHURCH SERVICE &amp; CLEAN-UP</b> (TBA)
<b>MONDAY 16</b> NOVEMBER	<b>VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR</b> 10-11 P.M.



*Voter Registration Education and Mobilization*



# Hollins Battles Voter Suppression in Texas

By Bro. Kyle S. Yeldell

The 2020 election was one of the most pivotal in American history. President Donald Trump's election and term in office caused an increase in white nationalism and complete shift in the country's perception globally.

While this election was always going to be important, things changed drastically in March 2020 with the government shutdown due to COVID-19. Due in large part by how the President handled the virus, the economy began plummeting, people were losing their jobs and hospitals were overcrowded. The May 25 murder of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man who died with former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin kneeling on his neck, caused global protests and uprisings, which ignited even more of a fervor around this election.

Just six days before Floyd's death, a political move was made in Floyd's hometown of Houston that would have a large impact on the election.

Harris County Commissioners Court appointed Christopher Hollins, a fourth-generation Houston native, as the Harris

County Clerk on May 19, just days after Diane Trautman resigned from the position. This position generally is responsible with tracking records in the county, such as birth and death certificates, marriage licenses, and property documents. However, Hollins knew that it had the ability and authority to do more.



“As a political strategist, I have long been aware of the importance of the position of County Clerk in Texas, specifically because of the impact the Clerk can have on election administration,” stated Hollins, a Spring 2005 initiate of Psi Chapter at Morehouse College. “In 2018, a Democrat (Diane Trautman) had become Harris County Clerk for the first time in decades, but she resigned abruptly after health challenges she was facing was complicated by COVID-19.”

“I thought I was the best person to serve in that capacity because of my background transforming government organizations as a management consultant (with McKinsey & Company),” continued Hollins. “I applied for the appointment and pledged not to run for the office permanently, but to instead focus 100% of my attention on doing the job. I was fortunate enough to be selected after a few rounds of interviews.”

The timing of the appointment, amidst the national protests sparked by Floyd's death, also struck a chord with Hollins. “The murder of George Floyd hits home for me in a personal way,” says Hollins. “My father's name is George.”



He grew up in Third Ward and graduated from Jack Yates High School. George Floyd grew up in Third Ward and graduated from Yates. And just weeks after Floyd's murder, my only son was born — his name is also George. He is being reared at our home in Third Ward, where we're zoned to Jack Yates High School."

"It pains me to know that the hate my father endured during segregation, and the fate that befell Brother Floyd, could still be the state of affairs in the America that I pass down to my own son," continues Hollins. "But in the days since that terrible moment, the largest movement for justice in my lifetime has taken place — perhaps in the entire history of these United States. And at a time when so many were yearning to have their voices heard, I took office with the realization that it was my duty to ensure that they could have their say at the polls on Election Day."

Hollins, who also serves as Vice Chair of Finance for the Texas Democratic Party, entered this role with an already impeccable resume. He graduated summa cum laude from Morehouse College in 2007, where he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, and received his J.D. from Yale University School of Law and his M.B.A. from Harvard University Business School in 2013. Prior to spending most of his professional life at McKinsey & Company, he was a summer associate at the prestigious law firm Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, investment bank Goldman Sachs, and was selected to the White House Internship Program during the first year of the Obama Administration.

Soon after taking the position, Hollins, the youngest and first person of color to serve as Harris County Clerk, announced S.A.F.E., a 23-point voting access expansion program that included promotion of mail-in voting, expansion of early voting accessibility, and drive-through voting, which was a direct response to social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hollins began receiving major local support for his efforts, capped by the Houston Rockets announcing in August that they were opening their arena (Toyota Center) as a voting location and their garage as a location for drive-in voting, beginning October 13, which was the first day of early voting in Texas.

In addition, Hollins was very transparent to his constituents and political peers along both party lines about the work he was doing. "Every Friday, I hosted a meeting with senior staff members from each Commissioners Court office, of which three of those offices were held by Democrats and two by Republicans," recalled Hollins. "I used those meetings to communicate our plans and any areas where my office required support."

He faced some political stonewalling from Republicans but kept pushing forward. "When I made my request for an expanded budget, I held individual meetings with each office to go over my plans in detail and ask for each office's vote in favor of my request," said Hollins. "Despite my attempts, both Republican commissioners voted against my budget, but it passed along party lines."

While Hollins had been working in this position for several months rather quietly, at least to the rest of the nation, the month of October would thrust him into the national landscape.

On October 1, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a staunch Republican, issued a proclamation directing counties to designate just one location for ballot drop-offs. The order placed Harris County into the national spotlight because it is larger than the size of Rhode Island and has 2.4 million registered voters but is being served by only one voting drop-box location.

Democratic officials nationwide saw this as a direct and overt sign of voter suppression. Hollins shared in that sentiment. "I was deeply disappointed that Gov. Abbott bowed to partisan pressure and broke his word to Texans," said Hollins. "It was his proclamation that originally allowed Texas to deliver their mail ballots in person and he changed the rules of the election last minute after caving to right-wing zealots who wanted to make voting more difficult, especially for communities of color." *Continued on next page*

## *Hollins Battles Voter Suppression in Texas - continued from page*

Voting rights advocates and civic groups soon filed two separate federal lawsuits to block Abbott's order. Hollins decided to focus on voter education. "Our only option, besides litigation that had low odds of success, was to quickly educate voters about the rule change and to do our best to safely accommodate voters," said Hollins.

On October 10, a judge blocked the order to allow only one absentee vote drop-off point per county, on the basis that it would affect older and disabled voters. With just three days until early voting began, this judgement was very key in Hollins and the Democratic officials in Texas to halt Abbott's voter suppression.

On October 13, Harris County had an unofficial tally of 128,186 ballots received, the highest ever first day early voting count and over 5% of the county's registered voters. On October 29, several voting locations in Harris County were available for 24 hours to accommodate voters whose work shifts, or other responsibilities overlapped with regular voting hours.

When the election was over, Hollins, who had now become one of the national faces fighting against voter suppression during this election, helped triple early voting locations compared to the 2016 election, led one of the nation's first counties to

have a 24-hour voting period and drive-thru voting system, and instituted safety precautions to protect voters and election workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.44 million ballots were submitted in Harris County during the three-week early voting period, compared to the 1.3 million total voters who turned out during the 2016 presidential election. Hollins helped galvanize people to the polls with disseminating key information, but also with the assistance of several other entities. "We were fortunate to be able to forge partnerships with local organizations that provided rides to the polls, as well as with Lyft and LeBron James' More Than a Vote Foundation," said Hollins.

Hollins led Harris County through this pivotal time in its electoral history, all while simultaneously documenting and granting very important documents for Harris County residents, such as birth certificates, death certificates, property documents and marriage licenses, as County Clerk.

Now that his term is officially over, Hollins will return to his law firm Hollins Law Group PLLC and his Vice Chair role with the Texas Democratic Party, while also continuing his work in voting rights advocacy.

*We are always seeking Brothers with an opinionated view to submit an editorial. If you have those desires, please email Bro. Norm Senior at [EditorToTheOracle@opff.org](mailto:EditorToTheOracle@opff.org)*



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## TAU IOTA DELIVERS A CLEAR MESSAGE TO THE CITY OF HARTFORD

BY BROTHER DR. CHRIS FRANKLIN - HARTFORD, CT



The Tau Iota Chapter (Hartford) of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. has invested in a billboard in Hartford Connecticut to supplement its voter engagement campaign which has included weekly voter registration events. The Billboard titled “Black Votes Matter” is supported by a grant from the Legacy Foundation of Hartford. Getting out the vote requires multiple strategies to engage specific demographics using signage in the communities of the targeted audience is a proven effective strategy to reach individuals.

The billboard is located on 247 Walnut Street heading toward the Asylum Hill and North End sections of Hartford was formally highlighted/ ‘unveiled’ on Monday, October 5, 2020 with a socially distanced block gathering on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 4 PM at the site of the billboard. Members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity were outside the location highlighting the billboard and encouraging the public to prepare to vote in less than 30 days.

Bro. Joe Santana, Basileus of the Tau Iota Chapter said, “Unfortunately, voter suppression has a long standing and painful history in our community. Our goal is to highlight how important and impactful our votes are at every level of government.”

Bro. Ray Bailey, 1st Vice District Representative of the First District of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., “The men of Omega have always been active in moments of need in our community.”

## OMEGA MAN SHINES LIGHT INTO THE STREETS

BY BROTHER DR. CHRIS FRANKLIN - HARTFORD, CT

Bro. Winfred D. ‘Fred’ Phillips was educated in the Hartford School System and later at Allen University, Columbia, South Carolina, where he graduated in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. While at Allen University, Fred was initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. through Mu Sigma chapter in 1974. There he was the President of the Pan-Hellenic Council, member of the basketball team, and held the distinction of being named the first Mr. Homecoming in the school’s history.

After graduating, Fred returned to Connecticut and began his teaching career in the Bloomfield School System. In 1978, Fred changed careers and worked as a Human Resource Officer for the State of Connecticut for 12 years, before returning to his first love, working with youth. He worked as an educator in the Meriden School System for 5 years, while also working as a Youth Services Officer for the State of CT at the CT Juvenile Training School at Long Lane for 20 years. He was honored for his years of distinctive service and named the 2002 Child Care Worker of the Year, while also serving as Union Steward and Delegate for AFSCME. Fred retired from the State of CT in 2012 and is presently active in the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Tau Iota Graduate Chapter in Hartford, and the Phillips Metropolitan CME Church in Hartford, where he has served numerous years on the Steward Board, recently completing 4 conference years as its Chair, or lead fiscal officer.



Bro. Winfred D. ‘Fred’ Phillips

In 2016, Fred founded the grassroots organization, “Men Standing Up Against Violence” and is a member of “Calling All Brothers” Men Standing Up Against Violence was founded to “fill in the gaps” for the community’s needs in the North-End of Hartford, CT. Phillips leads the members of his group into what he calls North End’s “hotspots of crime” about 40 times a year, particularly on holidays and during city events when they see more activity and violence on the streets. They have conversations with youths, mediate conflicts, and deter crime.

His group has 40 active members, many of them are retired and volunteer full-time with the group. They know the areas and the people well because they grew up there. “It’s our duty as people who grew up in the community to protect and serve,” said Phillips.

When the COVID pandemic hit the Hartford community especially hard this Spring, Brother Phillips organized a COVID-19 supplies giveaway at Phillips Metropolitan C.M.E. Church in Hartford, CT. They handed out more than 200 meals and 2,000 face masks to members of the community. “Half the supplies had been donated by local pharmacies and catering companies”, Phillips said. The other half was paid for out-of-pocket by members of the group. In addition to the work he continues to do with the chapter and Men Against Violence, Brother Phillips serves as Chairman of Phillips C.M.E Steward Board. He also is the first African American to Chair the Governor’s Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. He serves on the Tau Iota Chapter Social Action and Achievement Week committees. He is a key leader in the Chapter’s annual serving of Thanksgiving Day Meals, Turkey Drives, and Clothing Drives. He provided the location for the Annual Achievement Week Awards Night at Phillips Health and Wellness Center. Similar to the words from the Will Allen Dromgoole’s, poem titled- “The Bridge Builder”. Phillips continues to act as a Good Friend, in the path he has come. He is a Good Friend that is building a bridge for others.

## AMID PANDEMIC EPSILON IOTA IOTA CHAPTER REFOCUSSES ITSELF AND EXAMINES VOTER SUPPRESSION 2.0

BY BROTHER DR. DAVID CANTON - HAMDEN, CT



In spite of COVID 19, the brothers of *Epsilon Iota Iota* continue to do the work of Omega. The deaths of Ahmaud Arberry, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd has sparked a movement to end police violence and address systemic racism. In addition, the nation remains in a Pandemic and the brothers of Omega has followed COVID 19 protocol, but continued to have social programs. In May, the Social Action Committee of EII started an Omega Uplift Series. Every other Wednesday, we invited three or four panelists to discuss their area of expertise. One brother moderates the event and another brother solicits questions from the chat and asked the panelists.

*Continued on next page.....*



## ***Amid Pandemic Epsilon Iota Iota Chapter refocuses itself and examines Voter Suppression 2.0 - Continued***

In May of 2020, the chapter hosted its first Omega Uplift Series event and the topic was “COVID 19 and the Impact in the Black Community and What You Need to Do to Survive.” The three panelists discussed how COVID 19 has disproportionately impacted the African American community. All the panelists agreed that health disparities were a function of systemic racism they need a systemic solution, such as affordable health care. The second Omega Uplift series was held on Wednesday, May 27th and “COVID 19 and What You Need to Do Survive Financially” addressed personal finances and the economic impact of COVID 19 on the black community. COVID 19 forced many small businesses to close and unemployment rates increase. The panelists urged the brotherhood to be cognizant of their credit score and how to make informed financial decisions. The third event covered the topic “How To Deal With Stress in Trying Times” and addressed mental health during the Pandemic and Black Lives Matter Protests. During the last few weeks there have been numerous images of dying black bodies. A number of Omega men across the country have been asked to discuss racism and inequality. Many brothers of EII have participated in marches, protests, and voter registration drives in New Haven County. On November 3, 2020, the work paid off and the Democratic Party won the White House and turned Georgia blue; this is only the first step because this nation had walked down this path before.

During Reconstruction Era (1865-1877), black and white republican politicians created policies that assisted black and white southerners. Black elected officials advocated black male and female suffrage and they supported public education. In Charleston, SC, black male voters elected a sheriff, desegregated the University of South Carolina, and had a black superintendent of schools. As soon as black voters had an impact on southern society southern white Democrats wasted no time trying to suppress the black vote.



In order to prevent expanding black political power white southern Democrats passed policies to decrease the number of black voters. Southern Democrats passed the grandfather clause, that allowed black people to vote if their grandfather voted, literacy and understanding clauses, where white poll watchers required black voters to interpret the Constitution, and the poll tax, where black citizens had to pay a tax in order to vote. For example, the grandfather clause had a major impact in the number of black voters in Louisiana. In 1896, there were 130,000 black male voters and by 1904 there were 1,342.

In 1965, the Black Freedom Struggle forced the federal government to pass the Voting Rights Act. In fact, Bayard Rustin, a member of our beloved fraternity wrote a famous essay “From Protest to Politics” where he encouraged African Americans to engage in electoral politics. From 1965 to 2020, there have been a significant increase in the number of black congresspersons, Senators, and the nation elected a black president. During the last 55 years, the Republican Party have tried to limit the impact of the Voting Rights Act.

Black voting power reached its apex in 2008, when the nation elected Barack Obama, the nation’s first black President. Obama inspired young black voters and they made a huge difference similar to 2020. However, Obama’s election galvanized racist white voters and this resulted in the election of Donald Trump. In addition to racist rhetoric, Trump’s victory was a result of the 2013 United States Supreme Court Case Shelby vs Holder. This case allowed states to redraw voting districts without obtaining federal clearance. As a result, southern states instituted new voter id laws, closed thousands of poll stations, and decreased early voting, a tradition that black communities have used to get out black votes. Black voting power was the reason why the Republican Party continues to support voter suppression.

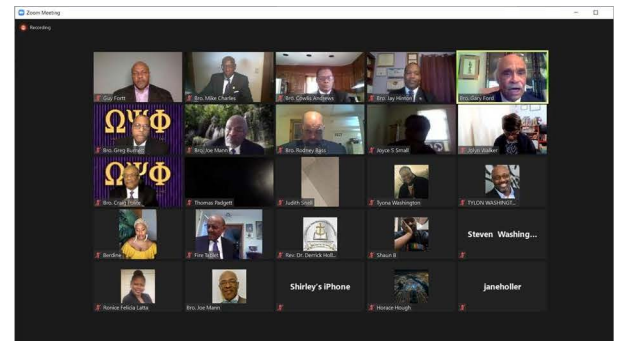
# ALPHA NU HOST VIRTUAL ACHIEVEMENT WEEK AWARDS PROGRAM

BY BROTHER BRO. JOSEPH E. MANN - STAMFORD, CT



The Brothers of the Alpha Nu Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., held their 2020 Achievement Week Program on Saturday November 14, 2020 via Zoom, in which they recognized members of the community for their outstanding works with the Citizen of the Year and Community Service Awards; and recognized fraternity members for their achievements and contributions to society with the Founders, Superior Service and Omega Man of the Year Awards.

In keeping with the need to be safe, in light of the Coronavirus Pandemic, the program this year was conducted virtually via Zoom. Brothers DeNorris Crosby and Rodney Bass put together a program that was informative and exciting and the selection of Bro. Jubalani (Jay) Hinton was the absolutely correct one in that he was outstanding in his ability to keep the program flowing and interjecting the requisite humor and seriousness as we moved along.



Alpha Nu Virtual Achievement Week Awards Program

Our Keynote Speaker and Citizen of the Year Awardee was Mr. Guy Fortt who currently serves as the President of the Stamford Branch NAACP. Under his leadership the Stamford NAACP has been in the forefront of providing thousands of masks and gloves to over 2,800 households to ensure that all of Stamford could obtain these critical safety items to protect their health. Ms. Jolyn Walker was selected as the Community Service awardee on the basis of a long history of community service. Most recently Jolyn's commitment in Milford and surrounding communities includes her work to help dismantle race issues. Jolyn is now serving as Chair for Milford's Black Lives Matter Book Discussion Series and recently hosted a discussion on the book "White Rage" by Emory University's Professor Carol Anderson.

Ms. Berdine Joseph, a former two time winner of the Alpha Nu Chapter's Talent Hunt provided live music with heartwarming renditions of "Smile" and "Hero". Brother Donald Thomas, who serves as the chapter's Chaplain and Fatherhood Chair was the chapter's Founders Award recipient based on his continuous outstanding service to the Chapter, the District and the Fraternity. Brother Michael Charles, Chair of Ways and Means was the recipient of the Superior Service Award, in part, for his long-serving and consistent effort in managing the chapter's finances.

Finally, Bro Gary Ford, Sr. is the Alpha Nu Chapter's Omega Man of the Year. His selection is in recognition of his excellent leadership and unselfish service as Chapter Basileus over the past two years. Brother Ford expressed appreciation to all Alpha Nu brothers for their collective effort in working in service to our communities, including our ability to have provided thousands of masks to Norwalk and Stamford residents, free haircuts that we make available for returning school students, the greeting of students on their first day of school, a backpack giveaway with the Salvation Army, the feeding of the homeless, creation and distribution of thousands of Get Out the Vote flyers and the honoring of father figures at our annual fatherhood luncheon.



# MU OMEGA CHAPTER CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL

THE "PEARL OF PHILADELPHIA" CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE, COMMITMENT, DEDICATION AND LEGACY

BY BROTHER DARRYL BLACKWELL - PHILADELPHIA, PA

On Saturday, October 3, 2020, the Brothers of the "Mighty" Mu Omega Chapter celebrated 100 years of service to the Philadelphia region, as well as countless contributions to the Fraternity as a whole. The Chapter's Centennial Committee initially planned for a series of in-person events, but due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, an adjustment in activities was required. Brother William Smith, serving as the Chapter's Centennial Chairman, called upon Brothers Darryl Blackwell and Khyel Dicks to lead the "Virtual Centennial Committee" which had the charge of producing a high quality virtual centennial celebration – the first Chapter to attempt such an endeavor.

It was decided to work with Brothers Robert Scott Production Company," the same firm that Their expertise and attention to detail was platform, the Chapter's Virtual Centennial program could take place with maximum participants.

Invited dignitaries from the Fraternity Marion, First Vice Grand Basileus Ricky Kelvin Ampofo. There was also and local political scene. Giving Congressman Dwight Evans, Pennsylvania Representative Jordan Harris, and City Councilwoman Katherine Gilmore-Richardson. The National Pan-Hellenic Council gave words of welcome through the National President, Ms. Vanetta Cheeks-Reeder, and the President of the South Eastern Pennsylvania Chapter, Jennifer Santiago, Esq. Lastly, Ms. Carrie Robinson, the Great-Niece of Founder Oscar J. Cooper gave reflections of Dr. Cooper's life as a dedicated family man and impassioned member of Mu Omega Chapter.

The virtual centennial program was both historical and entertaining. The rich history of Mu Omega Chapter was captured in a sixteen-minute video presentation that was narrated by Bro. Darryl Blackwell (Virtual Centennial Co-Chairman), and is currently featured on the International Website of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. This video, produced by Bro. Todd Inman of "Tinman Creative Productions," chronicles just how influential Mu Omega Chapter members have been to the Fraternity, past and present. Also featured throughout the program was video footage of a 2018 "Brotherhood Through The Arts" presentation that occurred at the Mu Omega Fraternity House. The BTIA Committee is led by Bro. Michael Andrews and features the artistry (i.e., poetry, Mu Omega Chorus, artwork, etc.) of the Brotherhood and promotes comradery through the genuine appreciation of the Arts.

The Chapter was founded on October 1, 1920 by our esteemed Fraternity Founder Dr. Oscar James Cooper along with seventeen other renowned Brothers residing in the city of Philadelphia. At its founding, the Chapter was identified as Mu Chapter and was the thirteenth Chapter of the nine year old Fraternity. Known as the "Pearl of Philadelphia," Founder Cooper served as its first Basileus, serving from 1920 to 1922. In 1923, under the direction of Grand Basileus J. Alston Atkins, the Chapter was renamed Mu Omega in order to distinguish between the graduate and undergraduate chapters.

Fast forward to present day, under the leadership of Basileus Mark A. Edwards, Sr., the "Mighty" Mu Omega Chapter is poised to continue its trailblazing efforts in the City of Brotherly Love and will always be a force within the Mighty 2nd District. To view the virtual centennial event, please visit us at [www.muomegaques.com](http://www.muomegaques.com)



and Greg McKoy, from "Two Brothers Video produced the virtual 82nd Grand Conclave. second to none. By using the Zoom Webinar Committee was guaranteed that a quality exposure and minimal risk to all

included Grand Basileus Dr. David Lewis, and Second District Representative representation from the federal, state, congratulatory comments were U.S. State Senator Sharif Street, State



# MU NU STORY OF THE BIKING BRUHZ

BY BROTHER LARRY L MELTON, JR. - SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND



**T**he Biking Bruhz<sup>®</sup> are a group of like-minded men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. who organize their health and wellness cycling activities under the theme of “Fitness with a Purpose”. The Cycling Team is committed to making healthy choices, while uplifting the community. They have raised over \$36,000 in the last six years to fight diabetes, support children with special needs and fund other socially conscience programs.

## Humble Beginnings

The Biking Bruhz was created after six Brothers started complaining about their expanding waistline following the 2nd District’s Mu Nu Chapters monthly meeting in Silver Spring, MD. After some good old fashion ribbing, the Brothers came to realize they all had a fondness for cycling and committed to a short ride the following Saturday. That short ride turned into monthly group rides on the 3rd Saturday of every month (March through November) for the next six years. Today, the group consist of over 800 active cyclists around the world and in every District of our beloved Fraternity.

## Fitness with a Purpose

As their numbers increased, they began to look for more organized and socially conscience activities to support the monthly meet ups. The Biking Bruhz started participating in events to raise awareness of the impacts of diabetes in the African-American community. They helped promote fitness and bike safety through rides in cities like New York and supported kids with special needs with rides in Maryland, Virginia and Georgia. The Biking Bruhz and their signature uniforms (kits) have become a fixture at many charity rides across the Country.

## Friendship through Nationwide Cycling Challenges

As we all struggled in 2020 with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Biking Bruhz have been committed to finding safe ways to continue their health and wellness activities, while adhering to the safety guidelines laid out by local and national experts.

*Continued on next page.....*



## The Story of the Biking Bruhz - Continued

With safety at the forefront, they organized virtual Summer and Fall Cycling Challenges with Omega Men participating from around the world. The Brothers competed for bragging rights in several categories to include, Team and Individual Total Miles; Team and Individual Total Elevation; Team Average Elevation; Individual Longest Ride; etc.

They had 157 riders in the Summer Challenge and 214 in the Fall Challenge. The combined total mileage and elevation ridden for both Challenges was well over 50,000 miles in distance and 1.1 million feet in elevation. The brothers pushed each other, supported each other, and came together in the true spirit of Omega. Top Bragging rights in the most categories went to the 2nd District in the Summer Challenge and the 9th District in the Fall Challenge.

The capstone event for the Cycling Challenges was the Tour de Cure virtual ride. Several Brothers traveled to DC to support the Tour de Cure from as far away as Richmond, VA; Detroit, MI; and Atlanta, GA. Because of this great national support, the Biking Bruhz were the TOP fundraising team for the Tour de Cure in every category raising almost \$11,000.

**Fitness with a Purpose!**



## CHI RHO VIRTUAL ACHIEVEMENT WEEK AWARDS CEREMONY

BY BROTHER C. GREEN - SUFFOLK COUNTY, NY

Chi Rho held its 1st virtual Achievement Week Awards Ceremony on November 22, 2020. Numerous national and district officers were in attendance and it was well received by the community. The keynote speakers Bro. Delrecole Gales & Bro. Dana Farmer, both delivered powerful messages of perseverance and uplift, so vital during these challenging times of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Omega Man of The Year was awarded to Bro. Basileus Donnie Daal, The Founders Award was received by Bro. Vice Basileus Charles A. Lloyd. Bro. Michael Williams received the Superior Service Award, and Bro. Dr. Michael Winfield and Bro. Rodger Muschett were awarded the Basileus Award. Bro. Louis Hertzog Jr. was honored with an award as Keeper of Records and Seal Emeritus and Bro. William Tyson was also honored with the award of Basileus Emeritus.

The Achievement Week Essay contest attracted (13) contestants from various school districts and the submissions were graded by an independent group of local educators. The contest awards were presented to three high school students who wrote essays that focused on the importance of today's youth participating in the election process and how to keep young people motivated and engaged in politics. The 1st place winner was Ms. Summer Green of Grace Church School. All of the essay contest winners received a Certificate of Achievement, and a cash award to help them with their continued scholastic achievements and academic uplift.



Bro. Basileus Donnie Daal, Chi Rho Omega Man of the Year

# IOTA NU CELEBRATES ACHIEVEMENT WEEK

BY BROTHER MICHAEL GRIM - ABERDEEN, MD



The Iota Nu and Alpha Delta Gamma Chapters of Aberdeen, Md and McDaniel College respectively, hosted a Virtual Achievement Week Awards Celebration on November 16, 2020. The Award celebration was the highlight of activities hosted by the two chapters during achievement week and honored Omega men and individuals for their contributions in uplifting the community.

William Martin was presented Iota Nu's Citizen of the Year award for his leaderships serving as Mayor of Havre de Grace, MD and partnering with Iota Nu throughout the year. Amanda Gelber was presented Alpha Delta Gamma's Citizen of the Year Award for her contributions in her role as Director of Student Engagement at McDaniel College. Brother Darryl Walker (IN) and Brother Azagio Herd (ADG) received the Col. Charles Young Military Leadership Award for their outstanding contribution to the fraternity and the military; Brother Anthony Dorsey (IN) and Brother DeAndre Tackett (ADG) received the Superior Service Award for outstanding contributions and concerns for the activities of their chapters; Brother Emil Cromwell (IN) received the Founders Lifetime Award for exhibiting the highest ideals of Omega's Four Cardinal Principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift; Brother Dwayne Adams received the Dr. Ernest E. Just Advisor Award for his exemplary service as Advisor to the ADG chapter; Brother Elton Hawkins, Brother Hermon Smith and Brother Dwayne Adams of the IN chapter were presented Basileus Awards; Brother Major General James Monroe was presented 50th Chapter Anniversary Award for his dedicated fifty years of service to the Iota Nu chapter and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; and Brother Charles Gibson (IN) and Brother Aris Mayfield (ADG) received the Omega Man of the Year Award for making significant contributions to the fraternity and the community.

Omega Psi Phi conducts an annual High School Essay Contest in conjunction with Achievement Week. The theme for this year was *"Against the backdrop of the global "Black Lives Matter" movement, why it is even more important for young people to become and remain politically engaged?"*. Christine Kim was recognized as the winner of Iota Nu's 2020 and received a \$500 scholarship.

The guest speaker for the joint Virtual Achievement Week Award Ceremony was 39th Grand Basileus, Brother Dr. Andrew Ray. Brother Ray, who is a distinguished scholar and public servant provided an outstanding presentation that addressed the 2020 Achievement Week theme, "Omega Men Ushering Social Change". Other activities conducted by IN during Achievement Week included worshipping at Friendship Baptist Church, a Virtual Founder Day Celebration, Boys and Girls Club membership donation and PPE donation of 400 surgical mask to aid in combatting the Covid-19 virus, and a laptop donation to the Edgewood Elementary School.



## GAMMA NU NU HOSTS THE 2020 VIRTUAL CORRIDOR IV FOUNDERS DAY

BY BROTHER JOHN W. PIERCY, III. - COLUMBUS, NJ

On Sunday, November 15, 2020, the Brothers of Gamma Nu Nu hosted the Virtual Corridor IV Founders Day event. Vice Basileus Bro. Sean Hoggs served as the Master of Ceremonies. Invocation was given by Immediate Past Basileus Bro. Eric R. Teel, who also gave welcoming remarks following a soulful rendition of “Lift Every Voice and Sing” by Kirk Franklin.

Standing in for our illustrious Founders were:

**Bro. Bishop Edgar Amos Love** – 37th Second District Representative Bro. Kelvin Ampofo

**Bro. Professor Frank Coleman** – First Vice Second District Representative Bro. Delrecole C. Gales

**Bro. Dr. Oscar James Cooper** – Corridor IV Representative Bro. Leon M. Smith, II.

**Bro. Dr. Ernest Everett Just** – First Vice Corridor IV Representative Bro. Jeffrey Spratley

A brief video history of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated was then presented. Immediately following, Keeper of Records and Seal Bro. F. Tarkin Jones introduced the Keynote Speaker for this event, Past Grand Keeper of Records and Seal Bro. Kenneth E. Rodgers. Immediately following his speech, Basileus Bro. Dennis Dones gave remarks, with the invocation given by Corridor IV Chaplain Bro. Jason Jennings.

The event ended with a video of Gamma Nu Nu’s inaugural year, accompanied by the playing of “Omega Dear.” Closing the event was a video compilation of our Founders, along with the line photos of the Gamma Nu Nu Charter members. Brothers and Civilians honored as Achievement Week awardees include:

Omega Man of the Year: Bro. F. Tarkin Jones

Superior Service: Bro. Eric R. Teel

Citizen of the Year: Ms. Jennifer Ohmer

Community Service: Bro. Aaron Cooper

COL Charles Young: Bro. LTC Richard D. Giles, II.

Founders: Bro. J. W. Piercy, III.

Replays of this event can be found on the Chapter YouTube page at <https://youtu.be/drRYgTM0jXk>

## IOTA PHI TURKEY GIVEAWAY

BY BROTHER CARLTON HEYWOOD - PITTSBURGH, PA

As the holiday season gets closer there is a realization that folks might need a little help. On Saturday, November 21, 2020, several Brothers from the South Western PA region, 7th Corridor including Iota Phi and undergraduates from Omicron Psi and Epsilon Kappa chapters masked up, set up tents within the community and passed out over 450 turkeys to local residents. The turkeys were evenly distributed throughout three neighborhoods.



The Brothers erected tents along the streets in the Pittsburgh neighborhoods of Manchester, a section of Northside’s Charles Street and the historic Hill District so that drivers could stay socially distanced and have their car trunks loaded with a special Thanksgiving gift. The Turkeys were graciously sponsored by individuals and organizations including The Pittsburgh Project, Manchester Citizens Corporation (MCC), Ebenezer Baptist Church, Zellars Construction, Law Office Of Albert G. Reese, UPMC, Devin L. Patterson Mental Health Services, Embroidery Vector Solutions, The Ladies Of Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc., and The Ladies of Alpha Alpha Omega chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. The Iota Phi chapter has been in Pittsburgh since 1925.

## PI OMEGA ACHIEVEMENT WEEK & FOUNDERS DAY OBSERVANCE

BY BROTHER CRAIG OWENS - BALTIMORE, MD

November 14, 2020. The Brothers of Pi Omega held the chapter's Brother Walter G. Amprey Memorial Achievement Week and Founders Day virtual event. The chapter's Achievement Week is named in honor of the late Walter G. Amprey, a former Baltimore School Superintendent and Grand Keeper of Records and Seal. The theme of the program was "Omega Men Ushering in Social Change."

Brother Michael Freeman reflected on the contributions of Brothers Walter Amprey and George McKinney, two influential Pi Omega stalwarts, known not only for their Omega service, but also their educational and law enforcement acumen, respectively. Brother Joseph McNeill reinforced the meaning of brotherhood and the importance of friendship, humility, and togetherness.

Brother Jedan Phillips, MD—family practitioner and college professor from New York City, served as the keynote speaker. Dr. Phillips emphasized the significance of remaining vigilant as COVID-19 cases continue to spike at a record pace across the country, advocating how we must adhere to safety measures to protect our families and communities from the spread of the virus. Moreover, Brother Phillips emphasized how it is "imperative that black men make it a priority to obtain regularly scheduled physicals and check-ups."

During award presentations, the chapter recognized Ms. Gabrielle Carter as the **National Essay Contest** winner. Two **Howard Lee Cornish Humanitarian** Awardees included Baltimore Ceasefire 365, a grass

roots organization focused on eliminating murders in the city, and Black Girls Vote, a nonpartisan organization founded by Nykidra Robinson, created to represent the concerns of women of color while helping them understand the public policy decisions impacting their families and communities. Mr. Robert Harrington, business owner and Chief Sponsor and Facilitator of the Baltimore City Department of Public Works Small Business Development Program, was awarded **Citizen of the Year**. His program ensures minority businesses are prepared to receive over \$3 million in utility work.

Pi Omega Brothers were recognized for their National, District, and Chapter level service. Brother Lamonte Tyler, the **George K. McKinney Graduate Omega Man of the Year** award recipient, is the current Mardi Gras Chairman, and actively engaged in several other committees including Undergraduate Activities, eMedia, and Political Actions, to name a few. Brother Tyler is dedicated to community service and can often be found providing meals for the homeless or teaching self-defense classes throughout Maryland and neighboring states. Brother John Berkley, a 39-year member of Omega Psi Phi, received the **Founders Lifetime Achievement Award**. A sample of Brother Berkley's work includes current Financial Secretary for the National Pan Hellenic Council (NPHC) of Metropolitan Baltimore, the Area 1 NPHC Coordinator, Pi Omega Chapter Talent Hunt Committee Chair and Second District Chairman of the NPHC Committee. Lastly, Brothers Robb Ferguson, Joseph McNeill, and Lester Buster were **Basileus Award** winners for their leadership and dedication

## NU LAMBDA LAMBDA CHAPTER GIVES AWAY OVER 130 BACKPACKS DURING VOTER AND CENSUS REGISTRATION SOCIAL ACTION EVENT

BY BROTHER KEITH CUMMINGS - JERSEY CITY, NJ

On August 30, 2020, brothers of the Nu Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. teamed up with the Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa Inc. (National Sorority of Black Educators) for a community and civic action event for Jersey City residents. The event consisted of Voter Registration, 2020 Census Registration, and a backpack and school supply giveaway. Both organizations collected backpacks and school supplies for the event. The combined effort resulted in over 130 backpacks full of school supplies being distributed. Additionally, we registered 20 Jersey City residents for the upcoming election. We would like to thank our Social Action Committee Members Bro. Andre Johnson & Bro. Kenneth McKindra for their consistent hard work and dedication in the Jersey City Community.



## EPSILON PI BROTHER LEADS THE CHARGE ON VOTER REGISTRATION

BY BROTHER JOSHUA KING - CHESTER, PA

James Harper Jr., was born and raised in Chester, PA and attended Grambling State University. He is a strong advocate for equality and empowers a work force that can better serve the communities in which he holds so dear.

He began working for Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) in 1991 as a unionized employee and currently holds the position as Business Manager. His father, James Harper Sr., was the Business Manager from 1977 until his death in 2011.



Not only is Bro. Harper a Business Manager, he is also a political organizer. He leads the charge of voter registration in the Chester area as well as the chairperson for Epsilon Pi's chapter committee. He, along with volunteers within the community, work year around to engage and provide its residents with materials and knowledge that discuss the importance of voting locally and nationally. He goes door-to-door, speaks to parents and families in the community as well as local games and wherever else he can engage in conversation. He strives to make sure the community is engaged in the political landscape of the area and the country.

Over the years, he has worked with several politicians and has recently worked closely with the Biden campaign. His efforts came to light when President-elect Joseph Biden visited Bro. Harper's office personally to thank him for the work he continues to do in the community. Bro. Harper is a man of integrity and exemplifies what it means to be an Omega man.



## GAMMA NU NU SPONSORS BOOK DRIVE DURING ACHIEVEMENT WEEK

BY BROTHER J. W. PIERCY, III - COLUMBUS, NJ

In upholding our second Cardinal Principle of SCHOLARSHIP, the Brothers of Gamma Nu Nu held a book drive to collect donations of reading materials. These reading materials are planned to be donated to the Helen A. Fort Middle School located in Pemberton, NJ to be utilized within their educational system. This initiative is also in line with the Second District's "Read Across the District Day," whose goal is to promote culturally relevant literacy among the schools in our respective areas.



In addition to the donated books, Gamma Nu Nu also collected Highlights magazines for donation to younger aged students. A donation was made to the Discovery Place Pre-School located in Yeadon, PA with more donations to follow in the upcoming months.

The Highlights Foundation is based in Pennsylvania and is a 501(c)3 supported by individuals, publishers, and writers' organizations committed to improving the quality of children's literature by helping authors and illustrators hone their craft.



**OMEGA  
NETWORK  
FOR ACTION**

*You may make contributions to the Omega Network for Action*

*[oppffcu.com/payments](http://oppffcu.com/payments) to send a deposit via PayPal.*

*Please be sure to reference name of the account when sending the funds.*

***Omega Network for Action, Inc., was created to help African Americans and others in underserved and under-resourced communities achieve their highest true social parity. It is designed to promote economic empowerment through education and job training, workforce, housing and community development, entrepreneurship, and the creation of optimal health and quality of life for disadvantaged communities.***

***Mission:***

Omega Network for Action is a 501(C)(4) organization designed to promote economic empowerment through education and job training, housing and community development, workforce development, entrepreneurship, optimal health and quality of life for the stated underserved community. Furthermore, to achieve our goals, Omega Network for Action will:

- ▶ Develop and advocate for legislation, regulations, ballot measures;
- ▶ Encourage financial and human capital contributions to advance ONFA's purpose;
- ▶ Advocate and educate on policy priorities;
- ▶ Conduct research on policy issues of importance to ONFA; and
- ▶ Train future leaders to obtain elected and appointed offices;
- ▶ Publicize legislative positions of elected officials.

***What is a 501(c)(4)?***

A 501(c)(4) refers to a section of the U.S. federal income tax code concerning social welfare organizations.

[1] Corporations that have been granted 501(c)(4) status by the Internal Revenue Service are exempt from federal income tax.

[2] A 501(c)(4) may engage in political lobbying and political campaign activities. This includes donations to political committees that support or oppose ballot measures, bond issues, recalls or referenda. A 501(c)(4) organizations can educate candidates on issues, sponsor debates, and "endorse candidates and publicize its endorsements."

***What is the relationship between Omega Psi Phi and Omega Network for Action?***

Omega Network for Action is an independent organization affiliated with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity linked together by its board members. ONFA is comprised of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws with the express purpose of promoting social welfare within the African American and underserved communities. The corporation shall develop and advocate for legislation, regulations, ballot measures; advocate and educate policy priorities, train targeted populations to obtain elective and appointed office; encourage financial and human capital contributions; and conduct research and publicize positions of elected officials concerning these issues affecting underserved communities.

***ONFA is a not for profit organization, its members are not paid members and they are members of the Fraternity.***

***The charter board members are as follows:***

President: Dr. David Marion, Secretary: Sedrick Spencer, Treasurer: Kenneth Rodgers, Members: Johnnie Smith, Benjamin Crump

***How can District, Chapters, and members support ONFA?*** The Corporation seeks to engage Districts, Chapters, and members of the Fraternity by soliciting views, concerns, and issues that affect their communities. The ONFA seeks to be the political voice of the fraternity, members are encouraged to share political issues, legislation impacting their community, identify candidates running for local, State, and national office. In turn, ONFA, will vet the issues, legislation, and candidates and determine a political stance that represent the concerns of the Fraternity.

***How can you help?*** You can make financial contributions to Omega Network for action. The Corporation may accept gifts, grants, legacies, and contribution from any source, including persons, corporations, trusts, charities, and governments and governmental agencies. Your contributions are tax deductible and will be recorded per IRS requirements. Your contributions will be used to support political endeavors to lobbying on legislative issues, contributing and endorsing candidates that represent our views, and a small percentage of contributions will be used administratively for postage, and other handling of corporate business.

# NU PSI ESTABLISHES MEMORIAL





Nu Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was founded by Dr. Luther Porter Jackson on December 12, 1927 on the campus of Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia. Throughout his career, Dr. Porter not only contributed to our beloved Fraternity in many ways, he was also a strong proponent of the Civil Rights Movement and served as a distinguished faculty member at Virginia State University.

From his initiation in 1923 until he entered the Omega Chapter in 1950, Dr. Porter truly exemplified the four cardinal principles through his scholarly works and his community service. In accordance with Dr. Porter's vision of excellence, Nu Psi Chapter members have held several key positions within the Fraternity both at the District and National level. We have also continued to maintain our reputation as a premier Chapter known for our unique stepping and branding styles.

### Memorial

Our goal in establishing this memorial was to honor our founder and acknowledge his lifetime of achievements. The memorial also provides an opportunity for past and present chapter members to be a part of Nu Psi's and Virginia State University's growing legacy.

Prior to receiving approval from VSU, a committee was formed to begin planning and designing Nu Psi's memorial. The committee consisted of the following individuals with initiation dates ranging from the 1970's to 2014:

- ▶ Jamaal S. Claggion, Ph.D. #3 '96 (Chair)
- ▶ Rodney King #2 '05 (Co-Chair)
- ▶ Jerry Jones #4 '72
- ▶ Garvey Wright #10 '87
- ▶ Fitzgerald Barnes #5 '87
- ▶ Eric Copeland #17 '92
- ▶ Walter Joseph #12 '96
- ▶ Donfred Napoleon #2 '96
- ▶ Michael Paige #9 '98
- ▶ Rashad Joyner #11 '00
- ▶ Darien Kearney #9 '09
- ▶ Jose Quervo #2 '09
- ▶ Deshawn Faulks #1 '14

Conceptually, the committee's mission was to create a memorial that was very different from the existing organizational plots on VSU's campus and Omega plots across the country. The idea was to develop a design that required very little maintenance over time. Having committee members with backgrounds in Real Estate Development (Claggion #3 96) and Architecture (#12 96 Joseph), we were able devise a plan that included materials such as black granite and grey wall block to give the memorial a more distinct and classic appearance.

After attending numerous meetings with Virginia State University (VSU) over the course of 12 months, we were granted permission to proceed with the project.

Nu Psi also received unanimous approval by the Art and Architecture Review Board for the State of Virginia on 7/15/2020. *Continued on next page*



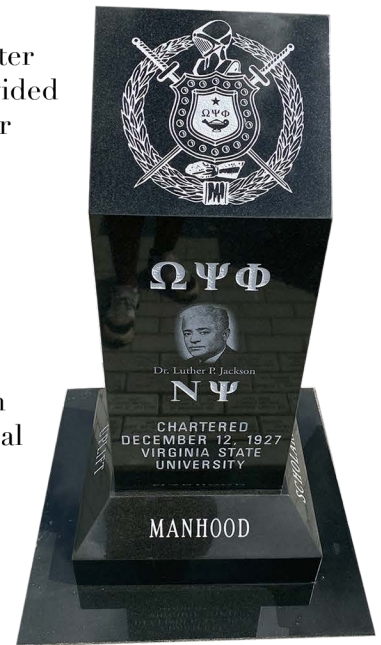
## Nu Psi Establishes Memorial - Continued

Further, during the approval process the committee was able to encourage the Chapter to participate in a successful fundraising campaign that exceeded our goals and provided the financial support to build the memorial. Within a 7-month period Nu Psi Chapter had collected the funds necessary to begin construction.

Throughout this process the committee made a concerted effort to ensure that our monument aligned directly with our Chapter traditions and the beauty of VSU's campus. Each side of the monument features historical aspects of Nu Psi Chapter and Omega Psi Fraternity, Inc., as a whole.

Since completion, our memorial has received recognition from VSU's Administration and other Chapters within Omega Psi Phi Fraternity across the country. Our memorial is a true reflection of Nu Psi's history and serves as a symbol of leadership that positively represents Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Lastly, we thank Brother Jay Smith (86' Mu Epsilon) of Smith Family Monuments for providing the granite work that is featured in the memorial. This project is a true testament of bridge building and Omega men working together.



## PHI PHI CHAPTER FEEDS OVER 4,500 DURING THANKSGIVING

BY BROTHER JAY ALLEN - RICHMOND, VA

Over three weekends during the annual Thanksgiving season, the Phi Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., holds food drives at three Kroger stores throughout the greater Richmond community (Short Pump 11895 West Broad St. Richmond, VA 23233, 9480 West Broad St Richmond, VA 23294 and 10800 Iron Bridge Rd Chester, VA 23831). In 2019, internal goal was to provide 800 Thanksgiving meals to families. Under the direction of our Committee Co-Chairs Brother Kenny Williams and Brother Terrell Fowler, and the support of Richmond, we exceeded our goal. Through semi perishable food and monetary donations, we received \$27,500.00 needed to be a blessing to 1150 families of four or more (4,500 people). This Service Project has grown tremendously since its humble inception. Five years ago, the Chapter impacted the lives of 8 families. Four years ago, Phi Phi fed 135 families and last year, 840 families. The partners on the community service project include Kroger, AARP Virginia, Arnold Bread Company, and the Coca Cola-Consolidated Bottling Company, as they all made significant contributions in support of the vision.

In 2015, and as a new initiate, Brother Kenny Williams quickly identified himself as a true conduit of service. His desire to not “just exist” on the Social Action Committee quickly caught the attention of the leadership team. A plan was quickly devised to maximize our current existence in the greater Richmond Community. While the first year was a huge success (135 families of four), the Chapter quickly identified it could do more and more were needed. 840 families were provided a complete Thanksgiving meal. Due to COVID-19, the 2020 food drive was halted amid safety concerns. This year, the Chapter was still able to impact the lives of 100 families of 4 or more. The current administration under the leadership of Basileus Charles “Chuck” Fordham and Committee Chair Brother Terrell Fowler, have already surpassed the previous benchmark. As stated by Basileus Fordham, “Our energy and enthusiasm grows every year, just as our support radius to provide the Greater Richmond Community with thanks, for supporting our service project.”



# ALPHA OMEGA CHAPTER PROJECT GIVE BACK

BY BROTHER C. DELRAY BROWN- WASHINGTON, D.C.



To be selfless during traumatic times is a true sacrifice! Such is the charge of the men, women and children who volunteer in support of Project Giveback. Since 1995, Project GiveBack has been making a difference in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area. In those 25 years, a dedicated group of volunteers have been consistent in coordinating service events that touch the lives of those in need. The need is magnified even more this year, now that we are in a global pandemic that has impacted everyone.

During 1995, Brother Ransom Miller, III decided he wanted to make a difference in the lives of others. That year, Brother Miller collected donations to feed six (6) families. Over the years with the support of the Brothers of Alpha Omega Chapter ([www.alphaomegachapter.org](http://www.alphaomegachapter.org)) and members of the Alpha Omega Social Action and Scholarship Foundation (<http://www.aosasf.org>) and many other volunteers and donors, Brother Miller and the Project GiveBack team continued to be a blessing in the lives of more and more families. This year, for the 2020 Project GiveBack Thanksgiving Food Distribution, Brother Miller shared an aggressive goal of making a difference in the lives of at least 2,500 families. As you will read in this article, under Brother Miller's leadership, Project GiveBack exceeded that goal - even with COVID restrictions being in place and increased food costs. This year, each family received a minimum of a turkey, a whole chicken, sirloin tips, sweet potatoes, onions, potatoes, carrots, celery, elbow macaroni, breakfast sausage, apples, and oranges. Brother Ransom Miller III and the Project GiveBack ([www.projectgiveback.org](http://www.projectgiveback.org)) volunteers truly made a difference in the lives of others. And, Brother Miller will always tell you Project GiveBack's goals can only be accomplished with the unyielding support of selfless and generous volunteers and donors. If you want to see a sermon, look no further than Brother Ransom Miller, III.

Per the founder Bro. Ransom Miller, "The tragic reality of the pandemic has taken lives, disrupted the economy and challenged our collective spirit. Despite it all, several have chosen to make a difference in our community and serve our brothers and sisters in need. As my wife mentioned Saturday, in addition to the underprivileged families we usually serve, there is a new demographic of people financially affected by the pandemic. Now more than ever we must continue to find ways to GiveBack!"

Yet, the event couldn't proceed as normal due to local Pandemic restrictions and safety concerns for the 700 volunteers made up of friends and family who gathered at the DC Armory annually. Thus, the planning team for Project Giveback orchestrated establishing nine mini food basket assembly and distribution sites covering two days.

*Continued on next page*



## Alpha Omega Chapter Project Give Back - Continued

On the weekend of 21-22 November 2020, the 26th Annual Thanksgiving Food Distribution took place at the following sites:

*Saturday's five distribution sites:* Clinton Baptist Church – Clinton, Maryland | Columbia Heights Educational Campus – Washington, DC | Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School (SOMD PGB) – Waldorf, Maryland | KIPP DC – Washington, DC | Turkey Thicket Recreation Center – Washington, DC

*Sunday's four distributions sites:* Community of Hope AME Church – Hillcrest Heights, Maryland | Dematha Catholic High School – Hyattsville, Maryland | Emmanuel Brinklow Seventh Day Adventist Church – Ashton, Maryland | Tree of Life Ministries in partnership with Prince George's County District 9 Councilman Sidney Harrison and | Purposeful Living and Giving – Clinton, Maryland

Also, this year Project Giveback has experienced growth in participation! An example was the establishment of the Southern Maryland chapter led by Prince Brown of Tau Lamda Lamda chapter which has expanded the organization's reach. In addition, Project Giveback's Northern Virginia Chapter distributed 300 gift cards as well. Overall, for two days the volunteers were able to bless 3,300 families, exceeding the initial goal of 2,500. This amazing accomplishment would not be possible without sponsors. This year's Project Giveback's Champion Spirit Sponsors include Bailey Real Estate Holdings, DC Housing Finance Authority and UPS.



## GAMMA EPSILON CHAPTER VIRTUAL SUMMIT

BY BROTHER F. TARKIN JONES - HAMPTON, VA

During the many months of the COVID pandemic, the brothers of Gamma Epsilon Chapter decided to hold their first ever Virtual Summit in July. While encouraging fellowship, increasing education and knowledge of brothers across all eras, the main purpose and mission of the GE Summit is to uphold the principles, standards, history, and traditions of our beloved Chapter and the Fraternity as exemplified in and through our nationally mandated programs.

A typical in-person Summit, since the first one in 2002, had been scheduled during non-clave years, but considering the current state of affairs and the inability to physically fellowship as a chapter at any events the majority of the year, this was proposed as an alternative. Bro. F. Tarkin Jones 3-GE-95 coordinated the event with assistance from Bro. Brandon Grooms 4-GE-02 and Bro. Josh Mangana 7-GE-04.

The participation was overwhelming, with over 215 Brothers attending and participating in the event. Brothers spanned 73 years of the chapter's existence of all ages, from our oldest chapter Brother Jerry T Hodges 4-GE-47 to the youngest chapter Brothers from the newly initiated 2020 line.

The agenda consisted of:

- Prayer
- Virtual Protocol
- Roll Call
- Keynote Speaker
- State of the Chapter Address
- Current State of Affairs on the International Level
- Current State of the Alumni Chapter
- Undergrad to Grad transition
- Committee Reports
- GE Alumni Association Update
- National Park Service
- GE Website and GE Mobile App demonstration
- Memorial Tribute & Prayer
- Closing Remarks
- Announcements
- Closing Prayer

The undisputable highlight of the event was keynote speaker, Bro. Dr. L. Julian Haywood, the chapter's charter member. Bro. Haywood illustrated in detail the establishment of our beloved chapter and the first group of brothers he initiated as the charter line in 1947. When asked what qualities he was looking for in those first six Hampton students to be Omega men, Bro Haywood promptly responded he looked for men that were "serious, capable and had character". By the end of 1947, the chapter had 27 Brothers and the Light of the Third District began to shine brightly. After graduating from Hampton, he returned to Howard for medical school. He moved to California and arrived at Keck USC School of Medicine as a resident in 1956 and practiced academic medicine at the medical center continuously since that time. Most notably, he is credited with Digital heart rhythm monitoring which was developed for the purpose of detecting heart rhythm abnormalities in heart attack patients. The technology was developed and first implemented in 1969 in the Coronary Care Unit at L.A. County General Hospital, the first such facility on the west coast, established by Dr. Haywood in 1966. The physical console and related software were developed on-site to Dr. Haywood's specifications. For his outstanding contributions over 55 years on various aspects of cardiology and on providing outstanding service to the Los Angeles community, the Los Angeles County+ USC Medical Center renamed their Coronary Care Unit to the Dr. L. Julian Haywood Coronary Care Unit in 2016.



After his speech, as a token of the chapter's appreciation, they presented him with a plaque, paid for his Lifetime Membership, and paid for a brick to be laid in his honor with his name inscribed at The Atrium located on the campus of Hampton University. Unfortunately, on December 24, 2020, Dr. Haywood entered Omega Chapter due to COVID-19. Gamma Epsilon knew at the time of the virtual event that they were truly blessed and honored to have him participate in the virtual event and hear him talk about establishing our chapter. However, after his transition, it makes it much more special to have been able to share this moment in his last year of life in the middle of a pandemic. Our thoughts and prayers are and will continue to be with his wife of 67 years, Betty and their son Tony. We will be eternally grateful to them for sharing him with us.

His speech was followed by a State of the Chapter in which the newly initiated brothers from GE 2020 provided an update on what was going on with the university and their current college experience in this type of environment to their older chapter brothers.

Brothers Kirk Weems 9-GE-85 and Derrick Lowery 22-GE-84, discussed the current state of the fraternity in terms of new initiatives, areas of concern, active undergraduate and graduate chapters and the financial impact this has on the fraternity as a whole.

Bro. Jones drilled down to address the current state of GE alumni and cited that although the chapter average of the 500+ Brothers that have come through GE that are financial, is above the national average, there is work to be done and room for improvement. In addition, Brothers were provided with names of graduate chapters in many of their respective areas they could consider in support of Reclamation and Retention. and illustrated the fact that numerous Brothers hold or have held prominent positions in their respective graduate chapters or districts. In fact, four of the newly chartered chapters in 2019, specifically in China, Tijuana, New Jersey and the Middle East each have charter members from GE.

*Continued on next page*



## Gamma Epsilon Chapter Virtual Summit - Continued

This conversation led to a discussion on the transition from undergraduate to graduate chapters and stressed its importance. Bro Morris Brailsford 3-GE-12 highlighted how this effort also helps with retention and reclamation in aligning common goals such as graduating and becoming financial with a local graduate chapter. There has been a concentrated call to action for brothers to be financial and more engaged on the graduate and district levels. Furthermore, an initiative to utilize the Credit Union to get more Brothers as Lifetime Members has already helped some brothers achieve this status, and a strategy was created to help even more.

An update on the Gamma Epsilon Alumni Association was also given by Bro George White 6-GE-78 and Bro Kenny Jackson 8-GE-95. The association is the first Greek lettered organization to have such an association at their “Home By The Sea”. The Gamma Epsilon Endowment Committee outlined the status of endowment funds which has raised almost \$100,000 since its inception. The endowment committee discussed plans to continue to give back to Hampton on an individual and corporate donor level in order to grow the endowment that supports scholarships for Gamma Epsilon undergraduates.

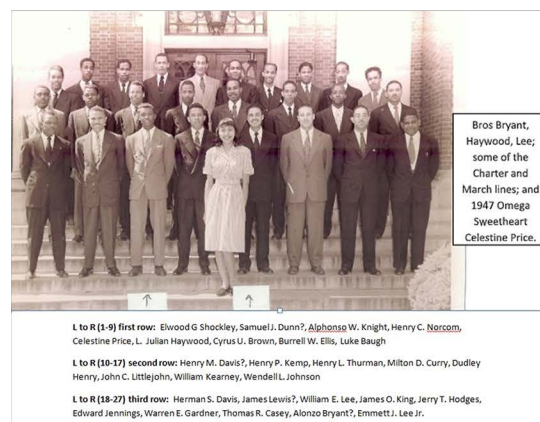
The Mentorship Committee outlined plans to connect undergraduate chapter members with alumni brothers through a formal mentorship program. This program is executed on a regional basis aligning undergraduate brothers with alumni brothers with similar career pursuits and passions. Furthermore, the Gamma Epsilon Alumni Association was approached to partner with the university for a Career Fair. Conversations are now being held to determine if this will be virtual in the near future or in-person after the pandemic is under control.

The Mental Health Committee reported on initiatives that align under the fraternity’s “Brother You’re on My Mind Initiative”. The committee currently conducts a prayer call on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 6am which culminates in a quarterly “Uplift Sunday” zoom session that discusses recognizing and handling depression, facing anxiety and fears, making healthy living choices, and dealing with substance and alcohol abuse. The quarterly session is instrumental in brothers dealing with the stressors and challenges that come with living in a COVID environment.

The GE 75th Anniversary Committee outlined plans for the 75th Anniversary Gala to take place on February 12, 2022 at the Marriott Newport News, Virginia. The 75th Anniversary Gala will celebrate the chartering of the Gamma Epsilon Chapter on Hampton University’s campus on February 12, 1947. The gala will be a black tie affair that connects the Gamma Epsilon Chapter’s past to its future in honor of 75 years of being the “Light of the 3rd D”.

The Community Initiative Committee discussed its initiative to highlight businesses owned and operated by Hampton University women. Both undergraduate and alumni brothers posted simultaneous social media posts that highlighted businesses and services owned and operated by Hampton University women. The event was a day of uplifting our services and sharing goods, products, and services to our extended network. The committee plans to have more initiatives like this in the future.

The role of Omega men in the National Park Service was presented and followed by a discussion about the new website and a new mobile app demonstration. The website will be one of historical record and I resource for everything a Brother might need, where the mobile app will be dynamic and will be used to send alerts to the chapter alumni quickly regarding committees, news, events, and more. These tools will mimic each other in style and feel and capture our history, but also to increase communication and information disseminated to the chapter Brothers across the country and those abroad.



The Summit concluded with a memorial tribute to those Brothers that recently passed and a concerted recognition and effort to stay in contact with more of our Brothers and consistently check on our collective psychological and physical health and wellness.

The success of the event has led to the development of other virtual events including an “Oil Spill Hour” where older Brothers share GE history with the chapter. Furthermore, the chapter holds a weekly Fellowship every Thursday night that is well attended and typically runs until at least 4am with Brothers talking from everything from their time on the yard, running the yard, current campus affairs, current politics, their roles in the community and workplace, mentorship, fatherhood, navigating this pandemic, overall health and wellness, and the state of the fraternity and Gamma Epsilons role in it. All the above is in effort to facilitate communication, networking and fellowship and ensuring the power stays on for many years to come!



## PSI NU’S “STREET TEAM” SUPPORTS EARLY VOTING AWARENESS AS PART OF HISTORIC #PSINU5000 INITIATIVE

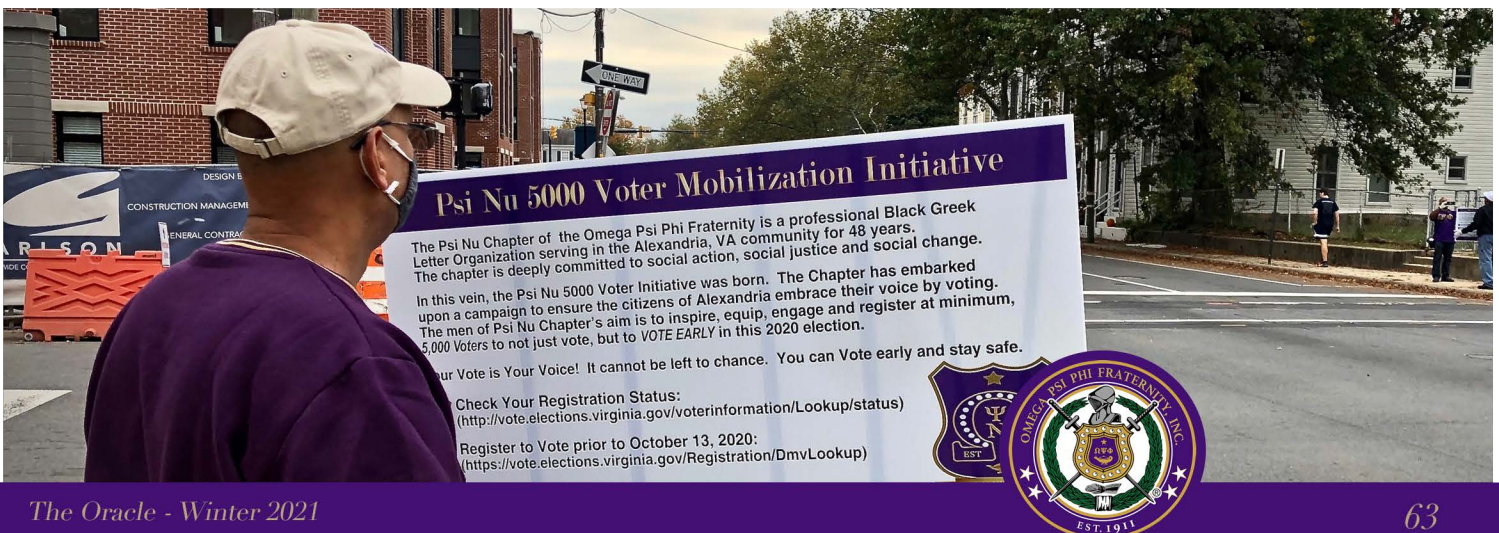
**BROTHER GARRETT JAMES - ALEXANDRIA, VA**

The Brothers of the Psi Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. supported their #PsiNu5000 initiative by hitting the streets on October 27th to share the message of and importance of voting. The #PsiNu5000 initiative seeks to inspire, empower, engage, and mobilize at least 5000 Alexandria, VA voters to get to the polls early. “To have a thriving democracy, it’s citizens must actively engage in the political process,” said Marvin Chambers, the Psi Nu lead for the initiative. “Voting is the ultimate form of civic engagement. It serves as a powerful and ever-present reminder to those entrusted to govern that the will of the people is their aim to date.”

To date, the Psi Nu Chapter has donated over a hundred volunteer hours to support the City of Alexandria become vote-ready in large numbers. The goals of the #PsiNu5000 include ensuring Psi Nu Chapter brothers vote, supporting the entire Alexandria, VA in voter education and working with local organizations such as churches and civic organizations in order to help residents register and get to the polls.

Please click the following link to view a recap of the outing: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=981720762320190>

The Brothers of Psi Nu Chapter thank the community for its support and encourage all to vote both early and on November 3rd. For more information on the activities of the Psi Nu Chapter, please visit <http://www.psinuques.com>.



## 4TH DISTRICT PROMOTES VOTER EDUCATION THROUGHOUT BROTHER MARCUS BETHAY AND BROTHER DAMON SCOTT



**B**rothers throughout the Fourth District, under the direction of the 29th District Representative, Brother Lamar T. Cole, and appointed Voter Registration, Education and Mobilization (VREM) Committee chair, Brother Mayo Makinde, worked tirelessly to be a part of the most controversial and most discussed elections of all time. Across Ohio and West Virginia, Brothers of Omega worked in local communities to provide accurate information and resources needed to help ensure all registered voters could have their voices heard.

As a District, the Brothers of the VREM Committee and District Council organized and hosted a virtual town hall discussion titled “Black Votes Matter.” The District partnered with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation for this virtual event that focused on the issues most impactful to the Black community, and more importantly, to discuss action items to achieve common goals. This virtual event was wide-reaching, as it was broadcast live; it also was recorded so that it can be viewed later. The event has been viewed over 1,000 times! Beyond this effort, the VREM Committee provided the framework for local chapters to safely execute “Roll to the Polls” events in their individual markets. Roll to the Polls encouraged individuals to drop off their mail-in ballots, early and in-person, to avoid expected delays or other obstacles. This campaign included letters written to nonprofit organizations to gain community buy-in, best practices to assure safety, and promotional materials for each chapters’ event being made available.

Aligned with the District’s efforts to connect with audiences in local communities by utilizing the virtual platforms, the Brothers of Beta Iota Chapter in Cincinnati, OH hosted a virtual session titled “Historic 2020 Elections.” This conversation highlighted the importance of the 2020 election season, especially the impact of local elections on everyday life. The townhall discussion included elected officials, candidates running for office, and community members as panelists. The Brothers of Beta Iota also partnered with Psi Theta Chapter at the University of Cincinnati, Tau Xi Chapter at Miami University, and the Cincinnati graduate chapters of the National Pan Hellenic Council (NPHC), for a “Roll to the Polls” event at the Hamilton County Board of Elections.

In Southern West Virginia, Brothers from three chapters came together to work towards the District VREM goals. Brothers of Xi Alpha in Institute, Chi Alpha in Bluefield, and Psi Beta Beta in Huntington, worked in concert to register, educate, and mobilize voters. The Brothers in these communities helped host two physically distant and COVID-19 conscious drive-in movie nights, bringing out dozens of families in the greater Charleston community. These movie nights included screenings of the Marvel hit Black Panther, complete with pre-packaged candy and popcorn. The highlight of the event, however, was the opportunity to educate and provide literature on voting rights and registration status to the adults who attended. *Continued on page 66*



# ZETA OMEGA'S PUREFOY REPRESENTS FOUNDER COLEMAN DURING FOUNDERS' DAY OBSERVANCE

**BROTHER DELL ROBINSON AND BROTHER DAMON SCOTT**



In late October, in the midst of a global pandemic, battling for social justice and educating the community ahead of one of the most controversial national elections in history, Fourth District Representative, Brother Lamar Cole (1989 Psi Theta), began making calls to bring some exciting news to the brothers in the Cleveland, OH area as Founders' Day was approaching. His first call was to Zeta Omega Basileus, Brother Kendrick Jackson (1993 Lambda Gamma). He explained that Grand Basileus Brother Dr. David Marion had sent out a call for District Representatives to submit names of senior brothers who were at least 80 years old and with at least 60 years of service to Omega, to potentially participate in a virtual Founders' Day celebration.

DR Cole further explained to Basileus Jackson that in responding to Brother Grand's request, he had submitted the name of one of the eldest and still very active, stalwart brothers in the Fourth District, Zeta Omega's Brother George Purefoy (1946 Zeta). The DR was happy to report that based on his record of service to Omega, Brother Purefoy was indeed one of the four elder brothers selected to participate in this unique and innovative event! Brother Purefoy would be representing Omega Founder Frank Coleman.

Basileus Jackson was given the honor of sharing this great news with Brother Purefoy himself. When he did, the elder Brother, affectionately known as "4-46-Zeta," confirmed that he was honored and definitely would participate.

*Continued on next page*



## Zeta Omega's Purefoy - Continued

The next step would be to set up a time and location to video record Brother Purefoy's Founders' Day message. To help organize this process, the DR enlisted the help of Brother Damon Scott (1990 Mu Iota). Brother Scott had twice interviewed Brother Purefoy; once for an Omega Legends article titled "The Three Georges of Zeta Omega" for The Oracle, and a second time as part of Zeta Chapter's Centennial Celebration at Virginia Union University's 2019 Homecoming. Brother Scott would help prepare Brother Purefoy for the script that he would recite for his Founders' Day message.

The last, and most important, component was the actual video recording of Brother Purefoy. For this task, the services of Brother Reggie Ware (1983 Iota Psi) were enlisted. When contacted, Brother Ware, a professional videographer, was happy to lend his talents to this worthy project. The four Zeta Omega Brothers set up a conference call to work out all the details. Their preparation led them to properly mask up and meet with Brother Purefoy to record his message. After about a two hour session, Brother Ware had enough footage to work his video-graphic magic that resulted in a 90 second message that included 4-46-Zeta representing Founder Frank Coleman. It was included, along with messages from three other elder Brothers representing Founders Ernest Everett Just, Oscar James Cooper, and Edgar Amos Love, in a very impressive video presentation celebrating the 109th anniversary of the Birth of Omega. The presentation was aired on the Fraternity's YouTube channel on November 17, 2020. A link remains on the channel for Brothers and guests to view at their leisure.

When asked to share his thoughts about the experience, the well-respected Brother Purefoy, initiated into Omega 74 years ago, stated **"It was indeed one of the greatest honors that can be bestowed upon a brother . . . to be afforded the opportunity to represent one of our great Founders, in this instance Founder Frank Coleman, for me."**

## 4th District Promotes Voter Education - Continued

The efforts in Columbus, OH saw the Brothers from Eta Nu Nu (formerly Zeta Beta) join with the undergraduate brothers from Iota Psi chapter at the Ohio State

University for their "Roll to the Polls" event. The brothers traveled through neighborhoods encouraging individuals to go vote and the brothers even provided beverages and snacks for those waiting to vote early in another event in Columbus, OH Brothers of Mu Iota chapter delivered a very clear message, that it is not just important to vote, but it's important to encourage everyone you know to vote as well. Mu Iota Basileus, Brother Kenneth Marshall was interviewed by local news stations where he emphasized the point that local politics affects the average citizen far more than what happens on the national level in Washington.

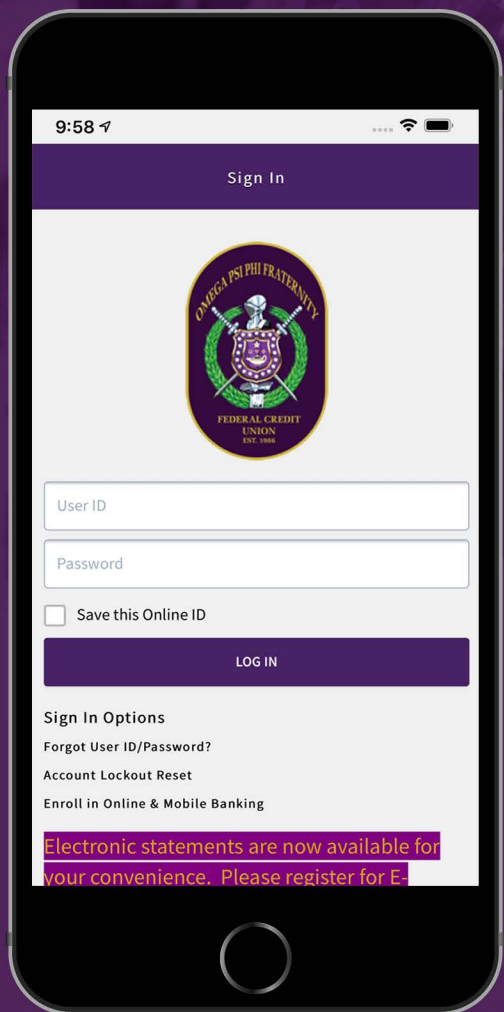
The Brothers of both chapters in the Greater Cleveland, OH area, Zeta Omega, and Zeta Kappa Kappa, joined forces in a unified front to accept an invitation from the ladies of the Greater Cleveland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., (GCAC/DST). The two organizations joined forces to address three huge needs in their community: expanding access to free Covid-19/Coronavirus testing; registering people to vote, some for the first time, others for absentee/vote-by-mail applications; and, for completing the 2020 U.S. Census. The event, known as the Community Check-In and Check-Up, was the brainchild of GCAC/DST. Other cosponsors included Care Alliance Health Center, Black Nurses Rock Cleveland, the U.S. Census Bureau, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, and the Cleveland State University Black Student Union. By the end of the event, Care Alliance had administered 111 tests, 31 community residents responded to the Census, 27 registered voters completed applications for absentee/vote-by-mail, and 15 people registered to vote for the first time.

The Fourth District is inspired to remain active in the political process by registering, educating and mobilizing our communities. This work is not complete simply because the 2020 general election is now complete. The Fourth District and chapters across Ohio and West Virginia will continue to push for more representation in elected positions at all levels of government.



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## 5TH DISTRICT VIRTUAL ACHIEVEMENT WEEK CELEBRATION

BY BROTHERS QUINCY SNIDER, RICHARD THOMPSON, REV. DR. BISHOP CARTER III

The Legendary Fifth District (KY/TN) – The Men of the Legendary Fifth District conducted its second annual District Wide Blood drive in honor of Brother Dr. Charles R. Drew and to execute one of our Fraternity’s mandated programs as part of the 5th District Achievement Week 2020 commemoration. The Undergraduate and Graduate Chapters partnered together to complete this Achievement Week project in our major cities.

Combining resources as a District to conduct simultaneous blood drives in our focus cities of Memphis, TN, Jackson, TN, Nashville, TN, Murfreesboro, TN, Chattanooga, TN, Knoxville, TN, Bowling Green, KY, Louisville, KY, Lexington, KY, Fort Knox, KY, Clarksville, TN and Cumberland University, TN versus having every chapter complete multiple blood drives at different times of the year. This unified approach aided the Brotherhood in promoting relationships, friendships and building community partnerships within Fifth District chapters. This mandated program project was led by the District Social Action Committee under Committee Chairman Bro. Charles Griffith and under the District leadership of Bro. Sam McKenzie, 23rd District Representative. One of the goals of the District Representative was to move our Committees from “Good to Great”, what better way to move toward this directive than to have a monumental District Wide Project. The project consisted of nine (9) focus cities and several stand-alone locations in the Fifth District where simultaneous blood drives were executed. Brothers, Church members, Students, Military and the Community donated blood and platelets in the name of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and Charles R. Drew.

The Fifth District Social Team created a plan that allowed the blood donors from our Brotherhood, Church members, Students, Military and our respective Communities to participate in this life saving philanthropic deed to make an appointment in the name of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc with the Red Cross, Vitalant, and other blood collection partners. During the week of November 16th – 21st the Fifth District Chapters in their respective focus cities came together to execute the CRDBD across the states of Kentucky and Tennessee. The Legendary Fifth District conducted the second annual District Wide Blood Drive Project. The primary focus of this effort was to inform, motivate and encourage Chapters in the Legendary Fifth District to successfully plan and execute a District Wide Blood Drive in honor of Dr. Brother Charles R. Drew. This allowed the men of the Fifth to educate the brothers and the Community about the importance of blood donations in our communities and specifically how this is a vital action that is needed in the African American community.

Bro. Griffith worked with Bro. Richard Thompson, DKRS and Bro. Irwin Todd, DDPR to deliver all materials that would be needed to facilitate this District Wide project that included: standardized posters and flyers, press release, marketing and advertising materials and strategies and Project plans to name a few of the materials.



Gamma Theta Chapter with Chapter Advisor



1. Fifth District FVDR Bro. Quincy Snider  
 2. Rho Psi Chapter Achievement Food Drive  
 3. Bro. Ron Griffin, Bro. Robert Jefferson, and Bro. John Douglass (L-R)  
 4. Gamma Theta Chapter Blood Donation by Chapter Advisor Bro Julian Leslie  
 5. Bro. Glenn Sessoms, Epsilon Phi Chapter

The Fifth District was able to showcase live pictures of the simultaneous blood drives throughout the District on the newly created Instagram account [@thelegendary5th](#). This Instagram account has helped promote the great work of the Fifth District by showcasing all positive events related to Omega Psi Phi and the Legendary Fifth District. Those that follow [@thelegendary5th](#) were able to see the Community and Brothers in the various cities donating blood for the Charles R. Drew Blood Drive. The Fifth District has received several invitations from colleges and community leaders to partner with them next year to increase the awareness of donating blood especially in the African American community. All the Brothers of the Legendary Fifth District offers thanks to the community that made this project a successful event and the brothers will make this an annual District Wide project and plan on making it bigger and better each year.

The Brothers of the Fifth hosted their first Fifth District Achievement Week Program honoring the accomplishments and heroes of the Legendary 5th District and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. This virtual celebration included a presentation of Fifth District historical milestones and the origin of our Omega's Achievement Week. One of the highlights of program was the presentation of the first Fifth District Living Legend Award, presented to Bro. Robert Jefferson the eighth Fifth District Representative, was a well-respected councilman who served the city of Lexington, KY 2nd District from 1988 until 2000.

Bro. Jefferson also was involved in getting Harry Sykes, the first black elected City Council Member in Lexington to be elected to the city council in 1963. Bro Jefferson was recognized in 2019 for the 20th anniversary of the Fairness Ordinance. On July 8, 1999, the city of Lexington outlawed discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in housing, employment and public accommodations. This groundbreaking, county-wide ordinance was the first in Kentucky to provide these protections. Bro. Jefferson is now retired and resides in Lexington. He served in the Air Force from 1947 until 1954, has been a member of the board of the Lexington Urban League and has been involved in the Lexington community since 1957. Bro. Jefferson was initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. through the Psi Psi Chapter on the campus of Kentucky State University in 1955. The Legendary Fifth closed their Achievement Week with a virtual Worship Service hosted by the Fifth District Chaplain Bro Bishop Carter, III who blessed the Brotherhood with words of encouragement and ideas of gratefulness for our Fraternity and life achievements.

The Legendary Fifth District held its first Virtual Worship Service, observing the 109th Anniversary of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. The district-wide service was a salute to Achievement Week, raising awareness of the invaluable contributions of the Chaplains within the District. Fifth District Keeper of Records and Seal Bro. Richard Thompson served as master of ceremony. Bro. Samuel P. McKenzie, the 23rd Fifth District Representative and recently-elected State Representative in Knoxville, TN, brought greetings and heartfelt introduction of Grand Chaplain Bro. Dr. Walter T. Richardson. The service, itself, was inspired by Fifth District Chaplain Rev. Dr. Bishop E. Carter III, one of the Fraternity's longest serving District Chaplains. Bro. Carter created a program, featuring Brothers who shared their talents through prayer, songs and poem. Bro. Carter delivered a sermon entitled, "An Omega Man Walks With God," reading from Psalm 1. Indeed, the service promoted Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, highlighting the fraternal mandate of community service through public worship. To God be the glory.





## 5TH DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE SAM MCKENZIE ELECTED TO THE TENNESSEE STATE HOUSE

BY BROTHER IRWIN W TODD II 5DDPR - KNOXVILLE, TN

Newly elected TN 15th District Representative is a “servant leader” with a heart for his community. Brother McKenzie, also the 23rd Fifth District Representative ran on a platform of equitable education opportunities, healthcare for all, criminal justice reform, and providing the opportunity for youth and work development. Representative Elect McKenzie believes that all children deserve quality education and teachers deserve quality pay. The current TN state voucher program is not the solution and he is vehemently opposed to this measure. Fully funding the Basic Education Program (BEP) would be a significant step toward improved outcomes in our urban schools.

Born and raised in Knoxville, TN. Bro. McKenzie along with his two brothers Reginald and Raleigh attended public schools and are proud graduates of Austin-East High School. Sam went on to attend Fisk University earning a B.S. in Physics and obtained his M.S. in Solid State Physics from the University of Memphis. Sam is a life member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Sam returned to Knoxville after college to start his 30+ year career at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Sam has been involved in the community for many years in various capacities and serves on numerous boards. Sam enjoys officiating football at high school and collegiate levels and worked championship games at both levels. Sam is a proud husband, father and grandfather. Sam and his wife have a blended family of 6 children.

Brother McKenzie feels that all citizens deserve access to healthcare services and health insurance and that Medicaid Expansion is a step in the right direction to ensure funding is available to citizens of Knoxville. Currently, over 300,000 Tennesseans are without health insurance and hospitals are negatively impacted with several rural hospitals closing as a result, leaving those residents without services. McKenzie, is heavily influenced by the teachings of his father, a lifelong social worker reasons that there must be an aggressive focus on breaking the prison pipeline and this can be accomplished with strategic investment in rehabilitation and preventive services. He is determined to develop preventive programs for young children and teens partnering with guidance counselors and juvenile court systems to identify at risk youth. Bro. McKenzie is focused on supporting adult rehabilitative and transitional housing that is critical to ensure those coming out of incarceration have a safe and stable environment. Partnerships with companies willing to provide internships is a major component and these measures will decrease recidivism and reduce crime.

McKenzie’s goal is to propose legislation to repeal laws that incarcerate individuals for low level drug offenses, McKenzie truly believes that people deserve a second chance. The 15th District encompasses a full socioeconomic spectrum. From the affluent to the minimum wage workers Sam’s goal is to close the gap between this spectrum. At the end of the day the people of the 15th District are hard-working and deserve a true Living Wage. This can be done through recruitment and incentives that foster quality jobs and business development opportunities. Sam has worked with both ends of the wage equation and will put the full weight of this position to move the 15th Forward! Workforce Development is key!

# FEED THE VOTE

BY BROTHER DR. ROBIN COLE - MEMPHIS, TN

Brothers of Epsilon Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. partnered with First Baptist Church-Broad and the NAACP to provide food, voter awareness, and COVID-19 testing to the of Binghampton Community in Memphis Tennessee. These men assembled 150 food boxes consisting of dairy, fruit, vegetable, and poultry products and distributed the food boxes to those individuals seeking COVID-19 Participants were able to drive through the food distribution line and the food was placed in their cars for them, for their convenience. After they picked up their food boxes then the participants were directed to a line where they could then go and receive their COVID-19 test. The food boxes also included flyers informing individuals of early voting dates and also the date for general voting, as well as a link where they could locate their voting precinct and locations.



The event took place on Saturday October 24, 2020. The current Global Pandemic has placed numerous restrictions upon daily life and has been proven through research to have a greater and more devastating impact on people of color. With Memphis having such a significant African-American population these restrictions have impacted the community both economically and socially. This includes the Democratic process of the vote during this 2020 election. More Black communities may feel disenfranchised when it comes to voting and the ability to get out and vote, so creating voter awareness and providing information on where and when to get out and vote is just as vital. With the current pandemic there is even a greater need to coordinate activities that can support an increase in COVID-19 testing within the Black Community. African Americans in Shelby County, in which Memphis is located, have over a 60% positivity rate and account for 65% of the death rate of those who have contracted the virus.

# 2020 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD

BY BROTHER RIGO WALKER - LEXMARK PRESS RELEASE - LEXINGTON, KY

On October 1, 2020, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear presented Lexmark International with the Department of Defense Freedom Award. The award is the highest U.S. government honor given to employers for support of National Guard and Reserve employees. The award was accepted by Lexmark President and CEO Allen Waugerman and Bro. David Jenkins. Bro. Jenkins nominated Lexmark to receive the award and is a Brigadier General and serves as Assistant Adjutant General for the South Carolina National Guard. This year's Freedom Award recipients were selected from more than 2,600 nominations received from guardsmen and reservists who express how their civilian employers go above and beyond to support them. *Continued on Next Page*



(L-R) Bro. Jenkins, CEO Allen Waugerman, Gov. Andy Beshear



## 2020 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award - Continued

The Freedom Award began in 1996 and there have only been 295 recipients

“Lexmark values the leadership skills veterans bring to the table and recognizes the partnership that inherently exists with the Reserve Components of the U.S Armed Forces,” said Jenkins. “From Captain to Flag Officer, through deployments and international expatriate assignments, Lexmark has enabled me to advance and realize my potential as a leader in both corporate America and the Army National Guard. I could not maintain the high tempo demanded of my military service without the unwavering advocacy and support of my colleagues at Lexmark.” ~**BRO. DAVID JENKINS**



Bro. David Jenkins was initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. through the Xi Psi chapter at South Carolina State University in 1988.

## THE MEMPHIS JAZZ SHOP



While living in New York, Memphis Jazz Workshop founder Bro. Stephen Lee had the privilege of meeting and befriending several talented young musicians. Not long after meeting these young musicians, Lee noticed that they were operating at a higher skill level at a very young age compared to their counterparts. They were incredible performers who were hanging with jazz legends at world-renowned jazz clubs, and most were enrolled in performing arts schools. It was very clear these musicians benefitted from extra mentorship, private lessons and group practices – things that the average public school music program cannot provide. “Not everyone wants to be a doctor or lawyer” said Lee. Some kids want to be professional musicians and make a living playing jazz, and I hope I can help them make their dreams become a reality. A big part of my job is to show students the steps they need to take to achieve their goals and use my personal experiences as an example.” Lee said, or; “Even if it’s not a professional pursuit, there are so many life skills that you learn in jazz improvisation – confidence, self-motivation, work ethic, time management, self-awareness, critical listening. It’s more than simply learning how to play an instrument.”

After moving to Memphis in 2009, Lee taught public school for three years then moved on to working with nonprofit arts organizations like Visible Music School and Memphis Music Initiative. As he became more curious about how nonprofits work, he sought counsel from a friend who is an expert in that space. What he took away from those conversations was that nonprofits address a need that isn’t being attended to in the community, rather, they solve a problem. The problem he identified was that there was nowhere to learn the history and legacy of jazz in Memphis. He saw the need for young musicians to learn the music of jazz and performance skills specific to the genre. Lee knew that he could provide an opportunity for kids to play jazz on a more elite level. He also knew that students could benefit from the wealth of knowledge he had accumulated over the past 20-plus years as well as his connections to some of the genre’s most talented and well-respected artists. Seeing that learning gap, and armed with confidence in his own abilities, Lee knew that he was ready to transition into something more impactful in music education. He wanted to make a difference in the lives of young musicians. From there, Memphis Jazz Workshop was formed in 2016. The first camp was held in summer 2017 at Visible Music School. It was free of charge and catered to 20 students. Since that first camp, MJW has experienced steady growth. Enrollment has doubled year over year and there are now 70 students in the after-school program and 80 students in the summer program. The Memphis Jazz Workshop has experienced growth in other ways as well, having performed at approximately 65 events around the city since its launch. In addition, every high school senior enrolled in the program has graduated and entered college. And, as of 2019, Memphis Jazz Workshop has partnered with the Memphis Mayor’s MPLOY summer jobs program, which paid 50 students to participate in the summer workshop. Memphis Jazz Workshop has come a long way in a short time, but the journey is just beginning. The organization seeks continued growth in engagement, enrollment and support from the community. The bigger vision will revolutionize learning in Memphis as Lee looks to one day build a performing arts school which will rival the Duke Ellington School of Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. or Lincoln Center School in New York.



**BROTHER,  
YOU'RE  
ON MY  
MIND**

*Changing the National Dialogue  
Regarding Mental Health Among  
African American Men.*

**[WWW.OPPF.ORG/BYOMM](http://WWW.OPPF.ORG/BYOMM)**



Omega Charities, Incorporated is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, which functions as the philanthropic arm of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated.

Our Mission is to provide programs of Uplift to the Black community (male youth in particular); to foster programs and activities of economic empowerment in distressed neighborhoods; and to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in times of critical need.

**[OMEGA-CHARITIES.ORG](http://OMEGA-CHARITIES.ORG)**

# THE 6TH DISTRICT PARTICIPATES IN THE VREM 2020 ELECTION CYCLE

The 6th District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., played an active role in Voter Registration Education Mobilization (VREM) during the 2020 Election Cycle.

Led by Brother Randall Eaton of the Zeta Alpha Chapter, the 6th District VREM Committee participated and took the lead in many voting events across North Carolina and South Carolina.

With the use of the 6th District VREM Strategic Plan, chapters were able to execute Voter Registrations for the 2020 Primaries and the 2020 November General Elections. Chapters also participated with early voting in N.C. and absentee voting in S.C. Absentee Ballot request forms were shared across the 6th District. Brothers also shared that resource with others throughout the NC and SC communities.

The 6th District VREM Committee also participated in both the N.C. and S.C. Divine Nine Legislative Days. Other collaborations include the NAACP, Federal Census Bureau, and the NC Black Alliance.

The highlight of the season was the participation in the 6th District September 2020 Empowerment Month. Such events included Candidate Forums and GOTV Roundtable discussions with various speakers:

- ▶ Brother Jim Clyburn - U.S. Congressman
- ▶ Marlon Kimpson - S.C. State Senator
- ▶ Cheri Beasley - N.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice
- ▶ Brother Ben Crump - OPPFI Grand Counselor
- ▶ Joe Cunningham - U.S. Congressman
- ▶ Jamie Harrison - U.S. Senate Candidate, and
- ▶ Brother Rick Wade - U.S. Economic Development Representative.



Brother Eaton challenges all brothers of the 6th District to stay engaged in 2021, now that the 2020 Elections are over. Be active in Local Elections. Support Incumbents and Support Newly Elected Candidates. Let's continue to do our part.

## ALPHA OMICRON ASSISTS IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION ROCKY MOUNT, NC

The Alpha Omicron (AO) Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. partnered with The Mercer Foundation, Inc. (TMF) to assist Nash, Edgecombe, and Rocky Mount communities during the COVID-19 Pandemic with food distribution.

AO and TMF have made it their mission to provide donated food from the Eastern and Central North Carolina Food Bank to those in need and helping the elderly of our communities not only during the COVID-19 pandemic but year-round.

# MARCH TO THE POLLS

WINSTON-SALEM, NC



The Mu Epsilon, Eta Beta Beta, and Psi Phi chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. came together on Saturday, October 17, 2020, to host a “March to the Polls.”

The brothers of Omega Psi Phi met at the clock tower located on the campus of Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) at 9:00 AM. The Mu Epsilon chapter led the charge with Chapter Basileus Bro. Dantrell Clark leading the way. Bro. Clarke spoke on the importance of getting out to vote in front of a small crowd consisting of students and fraternity members. Bro. Clark was determined to pour into the young WSSU students, enlightening them about the importance of voting in this highly anticipated Presidential election.

Among the crowd of an estimated thirty, several young men were first-time voters. It was essential to break through to these young students during these trying times within our great nation. Eta Beta Beta Basileus Bro. Richard J. Hooker facilitated the event along with Psi Phi chapter Basileus Bro. Tim Smith. After addressing the crowd, the brothers collectively led the way to the on-campus voting site, located at the Anderson Center of WSSU.

The event caught the attention of several other organizations: Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Sigma Gamma Rho, and Phi Beta Sigma. Upon arrival, the brothers were greeted with high energy, praise, and cheers by voters, workers, and their Divine Nine affiliates.

As election day draws near, we can only hope that our efforts have left a lasting impact on a better tomorrow.

## Alpha Omicron Assists In Food Distribution



During these unprecedented times, AO members have answered the call to serve. Alpha Omicron Chapter Basileus Calvin Balance, and the chapter members collaborated to help pick up, assemble, package and distribute over 35,000 pounds of donated food to area residents and helped more than 350 families during the months of June, July, August, and September.

“It is times like this that test our commitment, strength and resolve,” Bro. Balance said. Alpha Omicron Chapter’s Social Action Committee also participated in Voter Registration and passed out Census flyers between August and October 2020.



## PHI CHI 2020 VIRTUAL ACHIEVEMENT WEEK BANQUET CONCORD, NC



This year the Phi Chi Chapter of Concord hosted its Virtual Achievement Week Banquet on Saturday evening November 14th via Zoom. Phi Chi took the opportunity to honor its Brothers and citizens of the community for their diligence and service to others. Phi Chi Basileus and current Sixth District Chaplain, Bro. Travis W. Alexander, served as Master of Ceremony for this year's banquet. 42nd Sixth District Representative, Bro. Kurt Walker, provided an astounding keynote address that centered around the theme of "Omega Men Ushering in Social Change". As he shared his compelling journey to Omega as well as addressing key aspects of the story of Cain and Abel, Bro. Walker captured the hearts and minds of Brothers by demonstrating the importance of brotherhood. Keeping up with tradition, Phi Chi honored its Brothers for their dedication to serving Cabarrus County.

Congratulations go to this year's honorees Bros. John Black, Jr. (Lifetime Achievement Award), Tommie Hanks (Superior Service Award), Thaddeus Howie (Basileus Award), Tyrone Williams (Earl J. Willie Award), and Mrs. Viola Barrett (Citizen of the Year). Bro. Corey Ball was the recipient of this year's highest honor, the Omega Man of the Year Award. Phi Chi was also proud to honor Hickory Ridge High School Senior, Jaleah Taylor, for her award-winning essay "My Voice is Powerful". The aspiring lawyer, who currently serves as Student Body President, is the current Harrisburg Youth Council Chair, member of the S.A.V.E Club Public Relations and runs on the track and cross-country team.

## HONORING A BRIDGE BUILDER BROTHER WILLIAM CLAYTON MARSHALL

On Saturday August 8, 2020, the Brothers of Sigma Theta Chapter (Voorhees College), in conjunction with the Sigma Theta Alumni Association, erected a memorial bench in honor of our beloved Advisor Emeritus, Brother William Clayton Marshall.

The Sigma Theta Alumni Association was the brainchild of Brothers Vernard Grice and Allen Little during the 2010 Grand Conclave in Raleigh, North Carolina, with the association's establishment in 2011. The first goal of the association was to identify a landmark on the Voorhees College campus to honor and pay respect to our advisor, W.C. Marshall, affectionately known as "Brother Marshall" by all students on campus. As part of the Sigma Theta Chapter 50th Anniversary Celebration, the idea of memorializing our esteemed advisor with a memorial bench culminated with the placement of the bench in front of the Saint James Building Auditorium, where he taught business classes for years. This was truly a historic day for all who were touched by his presence, especially the Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Brother Marshall not only taught his students in the classroom, he was also a mentor, a life coach, an advisor, and a father figure. He groomed many young men into becoming real Omega Men. He did this as an advisor for the Sigma Theta Chapter Brothers and for all young men on the campus. He was a bridge builder, who prepared young men and women for life after college, and he did this with seriousness, and from the heart; it was second nature to him.

The Brothers of Sigma Theta Chapter, in conjunction with the Sigma Theta Alumni Association, will remain steadfast with continuing

its celebration once the college and the nation re-opens after the Covid-19 pandemic. Our priority is to keep everyone safe. The Sigma Theta Alumni Association and the 50th Anniversary Committee is excited about the goal of our fundraising event to complete the Sigma Theta Fifty Thousand Dollar Scholarship Endowment to Voorhees College in honor of our 50th Anniversary. \$50,000 for our Fiftieth. Has a nice ring to it, don't you think? Job well done Brother Marshall. We hope and pray your legacy will live on forever. Your star will continue to shine bright through us, "where there are no others greater than the Brothers of Sigma Theta". Continuing to build bridges!

A special thank you to Bro. Darryl Johnson (Bench Committee Chair), Bro. Allen M. Little (Co Chair), Bro. Anthony Jordan (50th Anniversary Committee Chair), Bro. Brian K. Dirke (Sigma Theta Alumni Association President), all committee members, all Brothers in attendance who participated in the installation, and Mr. Atiba Smith (Corner Stone Innovations - Installer) of Columbia, SC.

Sigma Theta Chapter would also like to thank Dr. W. Franklin Evans (Voorhees College President), Mr. Willie Jefferson (Student Affairs), Voorhees College Security and many others who assisted in this endeavor. We are eternally grateful.



# SPECIAL AGENT COLTER

## AN INTERVIEW

Special Agent Eddie Colter is a graduate of The Citadel, class of '90, where he pledged the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Beta Mu Chapter, in the spring of 1989. After serving six years on active duty with the South Carolina Army National Guard, Colter joined the U.S. Secret Service as a Special Agent. During his nearly 27 years of service, he distinguished himself by serving on multiple Presidential and Dignitary protective details to include Presidents Clinton, Bush, Obama, and numerous foreign heads of state and government. Now a senior leader in the agency, Colter is the Special Agent in Charge of the Secret Service's Liaison Division at the Secret Service Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He resides in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area with his wife and two children.

*Q: What inspired you to pursue a career in the USSS?*

A: From a very early age, I wanted to be in law enforcement. I grew up in the small town of St. Matthews, South Carolina where the South Carolina Highway Patrol left quite the impression on me. They had a reputation of being all business while still helping others. I knew that was the kind of job that I wanted to do. My parents raised my three siblings and me to be respectful, treat others the way you want to be treated, and to help others. That was what inspired me to want to be in law enforcement/military.

I was also inspired by the advice and encouragement from my college faculty advisor and mentor, Dr. Gardel Fuertado – the former Dept. Head of the Political Science Department at The Citadel. He had an impressive career with the federal government and shared some of his very unique and extraordinary experiences that I found captivating and inspiring. Finally, the cardinal principles of my fraternity- Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift, along with the lifelong friendships I developed throughout my life and career, have also been as inspiring.

*Q: What do special agents do?*

A: We have a dual mission. We provide protection of the nation's highest leaders (President, First Family, Vice President, Second Family, Foreign Heads of State and Government (and their spouses) We also investigate fraud against our nation's financial and payments systems such as counterfeiting, bank, computer, and access device fraud, and cyber-crimes. Every agent begins his or her career by doing both investigations and protection. The more experience you gain, the more responsibility you are given. Depending on the office you start in determines the amount investigative and protective experience you will receive.

*Q: What do you like most about your job?*

A: The sheer uniqueness of the Secret Service mission – both investigations and protection. Throughout the course of my career, as a young agent, I've conducted million dollar fraud investigations, and testified in an international federal criminal court. Perhaps more excitingly, I witnessed President Obama receive the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway; shook the hand of Nelson Mandela; and now, supervising the protective detail for the spouse of Vice-President Kamala Harris, Because of my job, I've protected the world's most powerful leaders, traveled the globe, and witnessed history before my eyes.

*Q: What impact has being a part of Omega Psi Phi had on you?*

A: I entered The Citadel, Military College of South Carolina, in 1986. At that time, the institution was all male and predominately white. African-Americans only made up about 5% of the cadet population on campus so we literally all knew each other. It was during that very difficult and challenging time that I got to know the men of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. I found the fraternity's cardinal principles: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift, along with the way I was raised, significant in my growth as a young man and my successes in life. As a black male, I live 'Manhood' each and every day. As a recent graduate of the American University KEY Executive Leadership

Certificate Program, I continue the pursuit of ‘Scholarship’ attainment in order to make me and those around me better. I ‘Persevere’ continually in order to survive for many reasons that inspire me and hopefully others. Lastly, I am committed to the ‘Uplift’ of others, which is key to creating progress and positive momentum for all. Being a member of Omega Psi Phi has taught me that life is a series of accomplishments and I am living proof.

*Q: What is it like being an African American Special Agent? Is it a diverse workforce?*

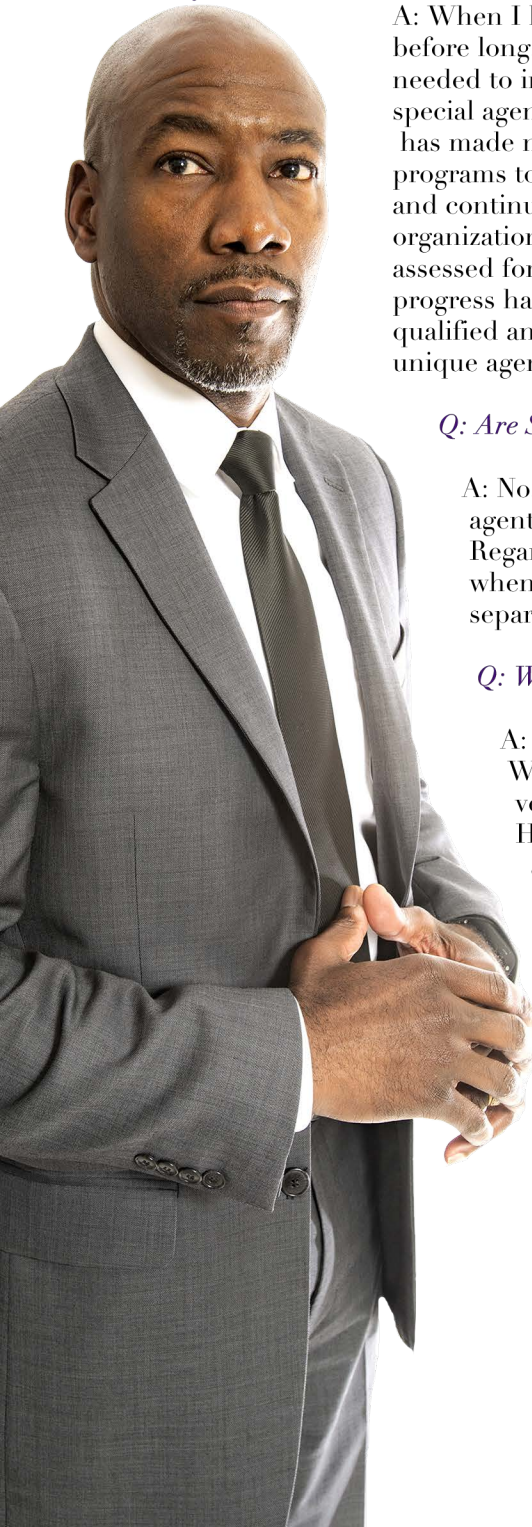
A: When I began my career as a new agent in 1993, before long, it became apparent that workforce diversity needed to improve. It was most noticeable within the special agent ranks. Since that time, the organization has made noticeable progress with regards to equal opportunity, like developing engaging programs to educate the workforce, implementing more effective measures of accountability, and continually making a deliberate effort to recruit qualified diverse personnel. The organization even revised how employee performance is evaluated, as well as how they are assessed for promotions and reassignments. We aren’t perfect - no organization is – but progress has been made. As long as we continue to focus on building and maintaining a qualified and diverse workforce, the Secret Service will continue to improve and remain a unique agency worth serving.

*Q: Are Special Agents a certain “type” or personality?*

A: No, we all have very diverse backgrounds, which I believe strengthens us. There are agents with all types of personalities: outgoing, adventurous, quiet, and reserved. Regardless, we all have strong work ethics and attitudes that don’t allow us to quit when things get challenging. Those things, along with a high degree of integrity, separate us from everyone else.

*Q: What’s your most memorable experience from your time in the Secret Service?*

A: The most memorable moment in my career was when Nelson Mandela came to Washington D.C. in late 1994 as the first black president of South Africa. I was a very young agent standing post in front of the Blair House (President’s Guest House) when his motorcade pulled up. It was a state visit so it was high profile and a very big affair for all. I remembered being kind of scared, but in awe at the same time. When he got out of the limo, the first thing he did was walk over to a very large and excited crowd, shook everyone’s hands, and hugged them. I was just amazed at what I was seeing. After that, he walked up the steps to the Blair House where I had moved just inside of the front door. As a young African American agent, knowing the history of apartheid in South Africa, I was almost frozen as he came closer. Surprisingly, he stopped, looked me directly in the eyes, and reached out and shook my hand. I could not believe what had just happened. That was the most memorable thing on the job out of my nearly 27 years. There were others, but that had to be the most memorable.



# 1ST BLACK SHERIFF OF COBB COUNTY

BY BROTHER AARON FRYE - COBB COUNTY, GA

Omega Man becomes the 1st Black Sheriff of Cobb County, GA, November 4th, 2020, was one of the most important elections that many Americans have ever seen. This election wasn't important just for the Presidential candidates, this included many local candidates as well. Specifically, for the Cobb County, GA ballot, Bro. Craig Owens made history as the 1st Black Sheriff elected for Cobb County. Bro. Owens is an initiate of "The Elite" Chi Gamma Gamma chapter of the 7th District, #4-2012.

He is married with two children. Bro. Owens holds multiple degrees and certificates of scholarship mostly from institutions in his home state of GA. He has over 30 years of police experience from the Cobb County Police, Military Police, and in the U.S. Army as a Division Commander of over 14,000 troops in the USA, Afghanistan, and S. Korea. Bro. Owens was inspired to run for the Cobb County Sheriff position while working in the local police department. He had discussions with other members of law enforcement magnifying issues stemming from the Sheriff's department. The disconnect between the Sheriff's department and the local community was alarming. There were over 50 deaths in the detention centers with the current Sheriff at the time. Families of the victims were not receiving proper communication or closure of what led up to the deaths on the previous Sheriff's watch.



Bro. Owens believed it was time to impact the community by running for Sheriff to bring honor and integrity to the position. His biggest hurdle to persevere through was learning how to be a politician. He realized his experience in the law enforcement and military campaigning wasn't quite as transferable to political campaigning. Bro. Owens surrounded himself with the right team and the support of the Fraternity, he came out victorious in the election, but not prior to setting a few records. Bro. Owens received the most votes of any candidates for any position on the Cobb County ballot. This confirms that even Republican voters believed in his integrity to bring honor to the position. He was the first candidate to be disqualified from the running based on not producing a high school degree document, and then was able to return to the ballot and win the primary against two additional candidates without a run-off election needed. When the election was over, he said "This was an extremely stressful experience but honored that the hard work didn't go to waste". Bro. Owens stated that the key objectives in the role early on include but are not limited to:

- Revamping the detention center's security measures;
- Forensic audit of historical fund allocations ;
- Eliminate the 287 program that assist the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) agency and reallocate those resources; and
- Bridge the communication gap in multiple minority communities to rebuild comradery and trust.

He knows his work has just begun but with the support of the fraternity surrounding him, he will see it through!

## ZETA MU NU'S ANSWERS 7TH DISTRICT CALL FOR PERSEVERANCE

BY MARVIN ENGRAM - JONESBORO, GA

The bold Brothers of Zeta Mu Nu (ZMN) were actively involved in the 7th District' Perseverance Project that partnered with other brothers from various chapters in Metro Atlanta to show their support for the 2020 U.S Presidential Election. Due to the high number of active brothers in ZMN, brothers were able to support multiple poll sites in Clayton and Henry counties. Between both groups, there were approximately 20 brothers that participated in this great project. *Continued on page 82*



# IN TRYING TIMES KBB EXTENDING HANDS OF LOVE IN WIREGRASS DOTHAN, AL



The scourge of Covid-19 has drastically changed everyday life. Fear, uncertainty, and restlessness abound as people try to maintain a sense of normal in abnormal times. As each day breaks, ‘Hope’ is renewed and the light at the end of the tunnel seems a little closer than it did the day before. Following their hearts, the Men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. have been working diligently in their respective communities to be that light and foster hope with KBB since taking on his new post at Beulah and vows to continue to work with the Chapter to provide relief efforts during the pandemic. *Continued on next page*

## Zeta Mu Nu’s Answers 7th District call for Perseverance - Continued

Voter support consisted of ZMN brothers providing water, coffee and a variety of small snacks for ALL voters and poll workers. Brothers were present at the polls throughout the day from 8:00am to 7:30pm. Members donated their time in 2-4-hour shifts. ZMN brothers were seen interacting and making positive connections with various groups of people that visited the poll sites to cast their vote. Throughout the day a larger number of voters and poll staff verbally expressed their gratitude for ZMN brother’s presences and contributions to community residents. It was the goal of ZMN to have a visible and positive presence in the communities of Clayton and Henry counties. Based on the reactions of voters and poll workers, brothers from ZMN left an everlasting and positive impression with most community members. ZMN brothers have committed to working with community partners on Metro Atlanta’s Southside for the foreseeable future, to identify ways they can continue to uplifting residents of both Clayton and Henry counties.



# THE C. BURSE INITIATIVE

BY BROTHER K.O. MARTIN - CANTON, MS

The year of 2020 has no doubt been an interesting and challenging one on many fronts; the global pandemic known as Covid-19 has created unusual circumstances for us all. One of new challenges created from the fallout of Covid-19 is Virtual Learning in the K-12 public school system. Having always been a huge proponent and supporter of the local school system in Canton, Mississippi, Epsilon Kappa Kappa saw a void and stepped up to address and fulfill a need for students in and around our base of service. Brother Creston Burse approached chapter leadership with the thought of assisting students with needs created by the development of Virtual Learning instruction and the sometimes-exorbitant costs that can be associated with that method of delivery. After conducting a needs assessment in the five square block radius of the Uplift Center, several households were chosen to assist with internet service. Additionally, two young scholars who regularly attend community events at the Uplift Center were brought to the attention of the Brothers as remarkably bright students with outstanding academic prowess; however, they lacked the devices needed to fully participate in the District's Virtual Learning program.

Upon completion of the needs assessment and having a fruitful discussion amongst Brothers, Bro. Creston Burse made the suggestion that we adopt/mentor these two young scholars and assist them with their iPads and internet service in order to keep them fully engaged and immersed in their academic studies. Brothers paid the technology fees for the two scholars as well as assisted and followed through with their guardian on setting up a discounted internet service provider and allowed them access to the wireless signal at the Uplift Center. In addition, Bro. Melvin Bonds, Bro. Creston Burse, and Bro. Kelly Martin provided tutoring sessions to familiarize the scholars with their new devices as well demonstrate how to navigate the various applications used for classroom instruction. While conducting a planning session trying to decide how else we could get the most bang for our buck and have an impact on students in a similar situation, the perfect opportunity fell into our lap. An educator who happened to be within earshot of the discussion chimed in and stated that her school was in desperate need and just so happened to be one of the schools that we often work with locally.

After a vigorous discussion, the Brothers issued a challenge to the Scholarship Committee to generate and make a significant monetary donation to assist McNeal Elementary in short order. Using some good old-fashioned ingenuity, committee members tapped into some well-respected and historic institutions in and around Canton to provide assistance for this worth endeavor. Within 24 hours, \$1,200.00 dollars were raised in support of this campaign and within 72 hours, \$2,800.00 dollars was placed in an envelop and on its way to Principal Dr. Shana Whitehead at McNeal Elementary School. Even as Brothers sat in the office awaiting to deliver the bestowment, checks were being delivered from out of state to contribute to the initiative. When it was all said and done, a grand total of \$3,500.00 dollars was awarded to cover the technology and device fees for students at McNeal Elementary and They now have 100% student participation in their Virtual Learning program becoming the first school in the district to achieve this feat. As a result of what we have named the C. Burse Initiative, nearly 100 students were able to secure educational devices (iPads/Chromebooks) and have their technology fees waived via the donation from EKK. Also, Brothers have pledged to track, encourage, and support the two young scholars. We will assist them from their current grade-levels, through the completion of their high school studies in order to assure that they are never found lacking for the tools necessary for their future successes.



## ***In Trying Times KBB Extending Hands of Love in Wiregrass - Continued***

Members of the Chapter have mobilized to combat ills created directly by the Covid-19 virus. Initially, panic ensued as governments at every level took restrictive measures to slow the spread of the virus. Falsehoods about the transmission, symptoms, and treatment of the virus spread like wildfire. It became vital that health care experts educate the public to raise awareness and prevention in an effort to flatten the curve of the spread of Covid-19

On Monday, April 6, 2020, in conjunction with the Carver Interpretive Museum of Dothan, KBB Member, Dr. Kenneth Brown, provided an informative webinar that was broadcast internationally about the dangers of Covid-19. During his presentation, Dr. Brown offered fact-based evidence that dispelled some of the misconceptions about the virus. Dr. Brown also reiterated the importance of social distancing and sheltering in place as ordered by the government.

In tandem with Dr. Brown's presentation, the chapter targeted needs in the local Wiregrass community. KBB partnered with KBB Brother LaDray Gilbert's law firm and the Wiregrass Omega Lamplighters and made a special donation. The Royal Special Heart Food Pantry, founded by Z'yon Norton, daughter of KBB Brother Rafeal Norton, received a \$2,500 check to assist her in providing meals for first responders and other essential employees during the Covid-19 pandemic. The pantry was, initially, created to help feed Z'yon, a 9-year-old critical heart patient and less fortunate classmates that were going hungry at times. Based on KBB's contribution, Ms. Norton intends to extend her efforts of giving to make her community a better place. In addition to helping feed essential workers the Chapter also provided financial assistance as well.

Kappa Beta Beta sponsored the tuition of the child of an essential worker that has been experiencing financial setbacks due to lack of hours. The Beulah Land Academy, housed at Greater Beulah Baptist Church of Dothan, Alabama, received a check for \$1,500 to cover the cost of a year's tuition to ensure that a child's education would not be interrupted due hardships caused by the pandemic. The church's Pastor, Darryl Roberts, is also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Pastor Roberts has been active with KBB since taking on his new post at Beulah and vows to continue to work with the Chapter to provide relief efforts during the pandemic.

## **SIGMA ALPHA CHAPTER VOTER INITIATIVE**

***BY CLAYTON GUTZMORE - MIAMI, FL***

The Sigma Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. unleashed a massive effort in getting the local community engaged in this election cycle. Throughout October, Sigma Alpha hosted and participated in a series of events to get people to the polls. On Saturday, October 3, Sigma Alpha held a voters' rally in Miami Gardens, FL. Over 30 brothers from the chapter gathered at the intersection of 183rd street and 27th avenue with signs encouraging locals to vote in the upcoming presidential election. The chapter also had a space inside the Tax Drz.com office for people to register to vote. This initiative was organized by Social Action chair Bro.

Reginald Lee and Bro. Shelly Rochelle. "Voting is an expression of our commitment to each other, the country, and the world. Voting is easy, but getting the country motivated to vote is our responsibility," said Lee. The push continued as on Saturday, October 24, the chapter collaborated with the Miami Chapter of the NAACP to ride a party bus to and from the Miami Gardens library to encourage people to vote. Sigma Alpha assembled over 20 brothers along with the young men in the chapter's Lamp Lighters program to pass out pamphlets and educate the residents on the importance of voting. Finally, on November 1, Sigma Alpha got all Ques on deck to give one last push for citizens to cast their ballot. The chapter partnered again with the Miami NAACP for a voter's rally called Black the Vote Reunion 2020. Another set of brothers from Sigma Alpha participated in a local "Souls to the Polls" event in Miami Gardens. Sigma Alpha hosted its own voters' rally at the North Regional Miami-Dade Library. Overall, the chapter put forth a huge endeavor to get people to vote. With all that was at stake for this election, Sigma Alpha ensured everyone was educated and motivated to fulfill civic duty.



# MISSISSIPPI ORGANIZATION COMBATS COVID-19

BY BROTHER K.O. MARTIN



**E**ta Tau, Nu Xi, Delta Mu Nu, Theta Iota Iota, and Epsilon Kappa Kappa, and Psi Mu Mu in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture were able to provide boxes of fresh produce and/or proteins to Mississippi residents in Fayette, McComb, Meridian, Southaven, and Canton. Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Brothers have developed a partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture to provide free boxed protein/produce to citizens. The protein/produce is to help families and the elderly supplement their diet with meats and fresh fruits/vegetables amid the rising costs of feeding a family all while people are being laid-off and struggling to pay bills during these uncertain times.

In addition to the boxes provided via the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Brothers cultivated a relationship with the Mississippi Department of Health and provided PPE and free on-site Covid-19 testing at these various venues. Eta Tau/Nu Xi - Mask and Produce Box Distribution. Brothers partnered with the Mississippi Department of Health and Department of Agriculture to provide over 3,000 masks and 600 protein and produce boxes to the residents of Natchez, MS. Tobacco-free Mississippi was also on hand to provide literature on the dangers of smoking and tips on how to quit the terrible habit, and 40 residents were tested for Covid-19. Delta Mu Nu - Mask/Produce Box Distribution and Free Covid-19 Testing. Over 2,000 masks and 500 boxes of produce were distributed to the residents of McComb. Additionally, over 20 residents were tested for Covid-19. Theta Iota Iota - in partnership with the Mississippi State Department of Health and the Meridian Envision Center. Over 116 families received PPE kits.

The Brothers of the Theta Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. have been working with the Envision center on the Strong Families Initiative, Fatherhood Initiative, and Voter Registration, Education, and Mobilization (VREM) initiatives. Epsilon Kappa Kappa – in partnership with Mississippi Department of Health collected a total of 3,500 face masks for adults and children and 1,000 bottles of hand sanitizer to be distributed in the City of Canton. Having built a strong and gratifying relationship with The Canton Housing Authority, Epsilon Kappa Kappa reached out to Stanford Beasley (Executive Director) to determine where our efforts could be most beneficial. After thorough planning and preparation, the brothers of Epsilon Kappa Kappa decided on a three-pronged approach to serve the citizens of Canton with a face mask and hand sanitizer distribution day.

The Uplift Center served as the headquarters and distribution point for the community service effort. Teams of volunteers including members of the Madison County Greek Council and Anderson Lodge 9 F & AM were dispersed throughout the city to distribute the PPE packets via a knock-and-drop delivery method. Teams visited the Joe Prichard Homes, Pat Doherty Homes, Lula B. Covington Retirement Apartments, and Camden Park Apartments delivering adult and child packages to every unit. The on-site drive thru distribution at The Uplift Center allowed residents to drive up to distribution points on either side of the street and receive bags containing five (5) masks, a bottle of hand sanitizer, and voter registration forms. While Brothers and community service partners were manning the drive thru stations, others walked a two-block radius from the Uplift Center passing out PPE packets and protein boxes to members of the Southside community along Cameron, Tuteur, Lee, and South Hickory Streets.

At the conclusion of the day, the brothers of Epsilon Kappa Kappa distributed 3,500 masks, 1,000 bottles of hand sanitizer, 500 voter registration forms, 85 protein boxes and fed over 100 first responders. Psi Mu Mu-Tough Covid-19 times have left thousands in the Mid-South without access to healthy food and needed products. But the Mid-South food Bank has been helping as many people as they can with their Mobile Food Bank Drives. In a normal month, the Mid-South Food Bank distributes about 1.3 million pounds of food to families in Memphis and the surrounding area. The Psi Mu Mu Chapter sorted and packed food, helped direct traffic, and loaded cars with the needed food.



## CHI TAU VOTER INITIATIVE

BY BROTHER VERNE J. WASHINGTON - APOPKA, FL

From October 23 - 25, 2020, the Central Florida Community held a three-day Vote Fest. Hundreds of people flooded into the venue to listen to A-list music artists, radio personalities, and community leaders. The Brothers of Chi Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and the Central Florida NPHC came out in full force to support the community to get individuals to realize that their vote counts. Brother Delbert Clarke and Brother Verne J. Washington Sr organized the brothers to attend and support this successful event. Also at the direction of Brother Russell Drake, the Orange County Democratic Black Caucus Vice President, the Brothers of Chi Tau came in force to the City of Apopka, Florida to pass out water and various snacks to the voters while they waited in long lines on a hot Florida day to vote.



On November 3rd, 24 brothers from Chi Tau Chapter descended on their respective precincts at 5:45 AM to perform their various duties at their polling stations in Central Florida. Brother Roderick Taylor, Brother Russell Drake, and Brother Manual Jones were the Head Poll Clerks in charge of their precincts. Chi Tau had to share our wealth by loaning out Brothers to complete other precincts. Brother Nigel Bowman and Brother Zeller Holmes took the lead on assisting other precincts in being successful on election day. When it was all over, Orange County Florida (Home of Chi Tau) was one of only a few counties that went blue in Florida. The hard work From the Brothers of Chi Tau did not go in vain. All in all, it was a great day. Fourteen hours went by incredibly fast due to hard work and great fellowship.



# UPSILON OMEGA BROTHER PAUL DRAKE RECEIVES CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL PRESIDENT'S AWARD

*CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL PRESIDENT'S AWARD 2020 PRESENTED TO PAUL DRAKE*

*BY BROTHER JAYSON "JAY" JONES - ST. LOUIS, MO*



*Brother Rick Stevens President of Christian Hospital presents award to Brother Paul Drake*

**R**ick Stevens (Alpha Iota Iota Spring 94) president of Christian Hospital in St. Louis, MO presented Paul Drake (Upsilon Omega) with the 2020 Christian Hospital President's Award. The criteria for this award was set up as follows: an individual who exhibits professionalism, models the organization's values of Care; Respect, Excellence, Safety and Trust (CREST), delivers results, and is an enthusiastic Christian Hospital ambassador to our employees and the community. The award shall be made at the President's discretion bestowed only when an awardee is an obvious choice; not on a scheduled basis.

Paul Drake the recipient of the 2020 President's award exemplifies outstanding commitment to our community. Paul Drake embraces a "do whatever it takes approach" to help improve the health of our community. He has been recognized for his leadership in educating our community in chronic disease management and education. Paul Drake has coordinated diabetes education and support at The Ferguson Empowerment Center. Paul has assisted in leading the Pathway to Health goals to reduce health disparities in existing high-risk zip codes. Paul has been instrumental in assisting our community during the COVID-19 crisis. He has partnered with the National Urban League and Beyond Housing to assist with food box deliveries. He has also assisted in delivering Meals-on-Wheels to our older adults, coordinating community resources for our quarantined patients such as basic needs and hygiene kits; food, cleaning supplies, and toiletries. He has been providing telephonic outreach and continuing to build relationships. Urban League-Save our Sons, Beyond Housing, Federally Qualified Health Centers, American Heart Association, Beverly Hills Pharmacy, YMCA and many other community partners have worked closely with Paul. In addition, Paul continues to coordinate mammogram services and PSA screenings for high risk areas in North County. It was Paul's empowerment skills that assisted a patient from the throws of depression, homelessness, and chronic conditions, toward a path of self-sufficiency. Paul works beyond his shift, donating his time to help our community. Brother Rick Stevens states "Christian Hospital is honored to have Paul as part of the Christian Hospital family to advocate and provide uplift for our community."

## BETA UPSILON MAKES HISTORY IN NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HISTORY

The COVID-19 pandemic has made things exceedingly difficult for athletics. One phase of athletics that has been affected especially hard is sports officiating. Numerous cancellations have left many scrambling to get more games under their belt. However, with all the chaos that COVID-19 has caused, history was made on the football field in Omaha, and an Omega Man was involved.

Brother Skyler Johnson of Beta Upsilon was part of the first all-Black football officiating crew in Nebraska high school sports history.

An official in high school sports since 2012, Brother Johnson has dedicated himself to learning the ins and outs of officiating. From football, basketball, and baseball, Bro. Johnson strives to make himself knowledgeable of the rules of each game thoroughly.

“It’s a lot of learning that people don’t even realize takes place in sports officiating. The last thing you want to do is to make a bad call due to lack of knowledge.”

“You have to be on your “p’s & q’s” because you will have a lot thrown at you throughout your career as an official, angry coaches, parents, and angry players. But you cannot let your nerves desert you when people say you are wrong. It’s just part of the process.”

Brother Johnson credits Brother Latrell Wrightsell for getting him into officiating.

“Latrell has played a huge role in my development as a ref. Without him, I would not be taking part in this industry and would not have been a part of this moment. He is a bridge-builder. I thank him for that.”

As far as his feelings about being selected to be part of the first all-black officiating crew in Nebraska high school football history Brother Johnson said the following, “It was pretty monumental to be part of history and to be thought of so highly by my colleagues that they felt I should be one of the officials to be selected for this tremendous honor, it means a lot to me.”





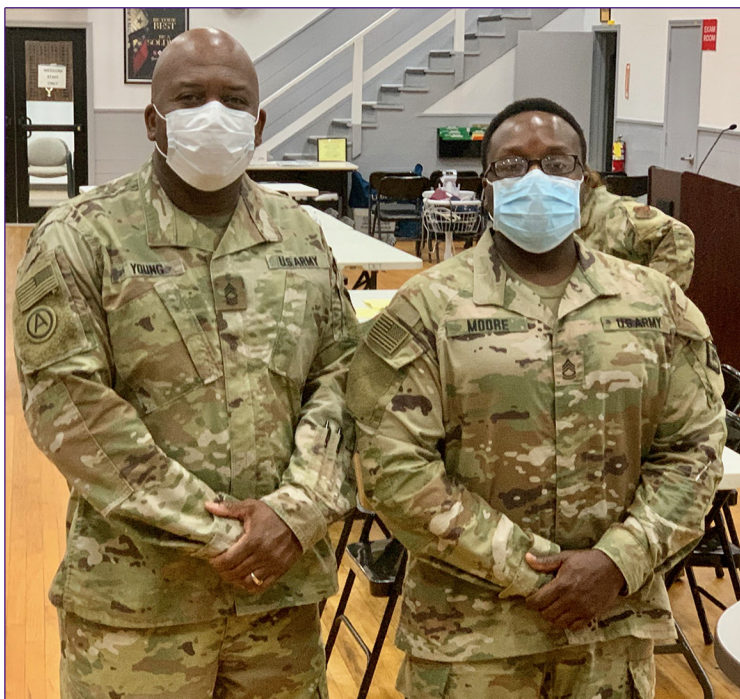
## GAMMA GAMMA HURRICANE LAURA DISASTER RELIEF

BY BROTHER ZEMRY IVORY - GRAMBLING, LA

The Hurricane Laura Relief Mission occurred in the salvaged area of Lake Charles, LA on September 19, 2020. The Brothers of Gamma Gamma assisted the state and local agencies in their effort to impact the community. Hurricane Laura surfaced within the region on August 26, 2020. Brothers lent a helping hand passing out supplies to the families of the SWLA neighborhood. Although the faith of the city never lowered, it is monumental that any brethren representing Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. across the 13 districts stand with the same people who power us to be successful. Members of the community did a fantastic job in coming out and participating. It is vital that generations to come, the powerful citizens that make up that community will know the brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. stood alongside them.

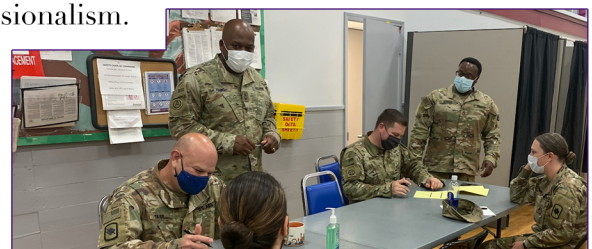
## COVID-19 MILITARY SUPPORT

BY BROTHER DERRICK YOUNG - LITTLE ROCK, AR



Omicron Lambda Lambda military brothers supported their state during the COVID-19 pandemic. 1SG Derrick Young, Medical Operation Manager, and SFC Eugene Moore, Assistant Medical Operation Manager, from the Medical Command of the Arkansas Army National Guard supported the state by processing Soldiers through their initial and post medical assessments.

This process ensures soldiers are healthy prior to their mission and healthy before they return home to their families. We would like to thank them and all military personnel for facing this enormous challenge and responding with courage, resolve and exemplary professionalism.





# THE NINTH DISTRICT SPONSORS A BOREHOLE IN GHANA

BY BROTHER FRANK WATSON - AR, LA, OK, & TX

A non-profit Ghanaian Corporation requested the Men of Omega to help fund boreholes in rural areas of Ghana, West Africa, in response to the lack of clean water and major health issues in the country. They were seeking to raise funds to complete twenty-four Boreholes at \$4,000 dollars each within a 12-month period, starting November 2019 to November 2020.




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The Brothers of the Ninth District stepped up to support this effort. On August 9, 2020, the Aboabo, Ghana Community Borehole was completed. This effort was sponsored by the Ninth District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., led by District Representative Bro. Patrick Smith, providing uplift to address the clean water crisis in Ghana.

# RHO XI VOTER REGISTRATION

BY BROTHER FRANK WATSON - FREEPORT, TX

Voting is an opportunity for every American citizen to join the quest for a better society. The 2020 Election was an important one! The Brothers of Rho Xi Chapter will continuously uplift the community through voter registration, education, and mobilization. On August 29, 2020, Rho Xi Chapter in partnership with The Way of Life Church registered citizens of Brazoria County and Harris County. Salute to Bro. Derrick McWilliams our V.R.E.M chairman for spearheading this event.



The event was a great occasion not only to encourage voter registration, but for the social distance fellowship that brothers that had not seen each other face to face in a while. Our aim was fulfilled on this day in various ways. Our cause to bring voting opportunities for every citizen is ongoing and valuable to ensure that every willing and able person has the right to vote and exercises it.



# CALM AMIDST THE CHAOS:

INSIDE THE TCF CENTER DETROIT, 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

BY BROTHER MARQUIS SAGNIA - CANTON, MI



(From l to r) Bro. DeRone Buffington, Bro. John Tipton, Bro. Ken Harvey, Bro. Dwayne Moncrief, Bro. Doug Capers, Bro. Marquis Sagnia, Bro. Dr. Brandon Johnson.

Men of Omega routinely volunteer for election day activities. Voter registration, education, and mobilization is one of Omega's core programs. The Detroit City Clerk, Janice Winfrey, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., put out a call for college-educated volunteers among the Divine 9 to help with the election counting process. With an expectation of more than 200,000 returned absentee ballots, Rho Mu Nu Chapter answered the call to help lead more than 1500 election inspectors at the Detroit Central Counting Board.

Brothers from Rho Mu Nu Chapter and other Metro-Detroit Chapters volunteered for two 12-hour shifts over three days at the TCF Center in downtown Detroit with four days of training in advance. Their goal was to ensure accurate counting of the absentee ballots. Brothers DeRone Buffington, Doug Capers, Ken Harvey, Kalonji Ishmael, Brandon Johnson, Leon Johnson, Quentin Maxey, Dwayne Moncrief, Morris Reynolds, Marquis Sagnia, Fontaine Sheffey, Jr., Robert E. Thomas, John Tipton, Damon Tolbert, and Kevin White served in various capacities from section supervisors to security detail with the Detroit Police Department.

This experience provided a glimpse into the full election process and an understanding of how we execute our democratic process.



Bro. DeRone Buffington, checks-in campaign watchers and advises them on mask rules inside the TCF Center.

At the end of the three days, Bro. Marquis Sagnia, Rho Mu Nu Chapter, Tenth District Keeper of Records and Seal, was asked if he would do it again. "Absolutely, I will choose action over observance any day. We have an obligation to our communities to stand on the right side of history; this was a historic opportunity to be a part of the framework that makes the U.S. the home of the free and the brave." This effort also brought greater awareness of the role voting plays in our communities on the federal level and state and local municipalities.

Brother DeRone Buffington, who served as the Political Organization Coordinator for the Detroit Department of Elections was responsible for overseeing all poll challengers. His duties included monitoring poll challengers, providing direction, and in some cases removing people who disrupted the election process. "When I witnessed poll challengers trying to intimidate elderly, I was compelled to ensure that they felt protected. This experience has motivated me to encourage more people to get involved in the political process". Although the job was challenging, Bro. Buffington enjoyed making this contribution to his community. "There are still many fights before us, and we must continue to be at the center of the change in our communities and improving the lives of Black Americans;" commented Bro. John Tipton, Rho Mu Nu Chapter Vice Basileus. Indeed, the fight continues.



Bro. Sgt. Quentin Maxey, Detroit Police Department (r), monitors the crowd outside the TCF Center Detroit Central Counting Board.

## RHO GAMMA GAMMA CHAPTER IS TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

BY BROTHER MACEO RAINEY - CHICAGO, IL



Getting registered to vote and taking part in the voting process is vital to living in a democratic society. Thus, by voting, a citizen is exercising their right to participate in the democratic process, intending to elect public officials that will represent their interests.

Equally as important, it is a reasonable expectation that elected officials will represent the interests and needs of the constituents or the common public that elected them. African-Americans voted in record numbers in 2008 and 2012 to elect and re-elect President Barack Obama. Adversely, It was estimated that nearly 1.5 million African-Americans stayed at home and did not vote in the 2016 presidential election. Thus, opening the door for Republican front runner Donald J. Trump to become the 45th President of the United States.

*Continued on page 93*





# ZETA PHI CHAPTER MONUMENT DEDICATION TO MARTIN UNIVERSITY

*BY BROTHER JAMES GARLAND INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA*

**O**n November 17th, 2020, the Brothers of the Auspicious Zeta Phi Chapter in Indianapolis, Indiana, fulfilled a promise to dedicate a monument. A monument that would be dedicated and displayed as an outward sign of the undying support and pledge from Zeta Phi Chapter to student achievement on the campus of Martin University. Located in the heart of the monument is a royal purple and old gold cross, to be accompanied by a soon to be mounted plaque which will read,

*“We, as Brothers of the Auspicious Zeta Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated endeavor to carry out the principles and directives of our beloved fraternity in a manner that uplifts the community in Indianapolis, Indiana, as well as neighboring communities while maintaining an intense focus on the continued mentorship and development of Black male students here at Martin University.”*

Notable Brothers who participated in the dedication were Bro. Ezell Marrs, Bro. Joy Thornton. Oration was given by the Basileus of Zeta Phi Chapter, Bro. James Garland, and Martin University’s President, Dr. Sean L. Huddleston. Martin University is the only predominately Black university in the state of Indiana. The continued support from Zeta Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., will help the Martin University student body, faculty, and staff understand that their sacrifices and dedication towards scholarship is not going unnoticed.

## Rho Gamma Gamma Chapter is Taking it to the Streets- Continued

On Sunday, September 26, 2020, the brethren of Rho Gamma Gamma Chapter of Chicago set up a voter registration drive next to one of the busiest intersections on the Southside of Chicago, 87th and the Dan Ryan Expressway. As a result of the brothers' efforts, 25 eligible Chicago-land area residents were registered and encouraged their family members and friends to register and participate in the voting process. Equally important, the brothers of Rho Gamma Gamma Chapter taught and modeled for residents how to check their voting status on-line and how to receive updates on their voting status. The Brothers also shared information on voting ward locations and detailed information on the individuals seeking election and re-election as local judges. The community engagement and awareness of the political process that the Brothers of Rho Gamma Gamma demonstrated in helping Chicago-land area residents register to vote and participate in the political process is a sterling example for all chapters within the fraternity to model and replicate for years to come.




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# LIMOS TO THE POLL

BY BROTHER MARCEL CLARKE - MILWAUKEE, WI

On November 3rd, 2020, some voters could ride in style to the polls on Election Day courtesy of Paradise Memorial Funeral and Cremation Services in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. During the 2020 Presidential election, the funeral home led by its owner, Brother Marcel A. Clarke (Kappa Phi 2006), offered to chauffeur older residents to voting booths amid the Coronavirus pandemic.

During the campaign, the funeral home picked up residents throughout Milwaukee and chauffeured them to their various polling locations. The residents ranged range ages 31-87.

Brother Clarke created the initiative to help get people to Milwaukee's polls, a critical battleground state. Paradise Memorial Funeral Home owner, Brother Marcel A. Clarke emphasized that "transportation is even more crucial this year as people attempt to vote safely during the pandemic and may have to travel farther with reduced polling places. Also, many are in fear of using public transportation for fear of COVID19".

Paradise Memorial Funeral Home organized "Limos to the Polls" to transport people to and from polling locations. For voter Dawn Coltrain, the experience made her feel like a movie star.

"We want to eliminate every excuse," said Funeral Homeowner Marcel Clarke. "Any barrier, any reason that would hinder or distract people from getting to the polls." After each ride, the driver cleaned and sanitized the seats, doors, handle, backrest, and windows.




**PARADISE MEMORIAL**  
FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICES  
"Limos to the Polls"  
FREE Limosine Rides to the Polls  
Tuesday, November 3, 2020  
10 A.M. - 4 P.M.



YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

For More Information  
Please Contact  
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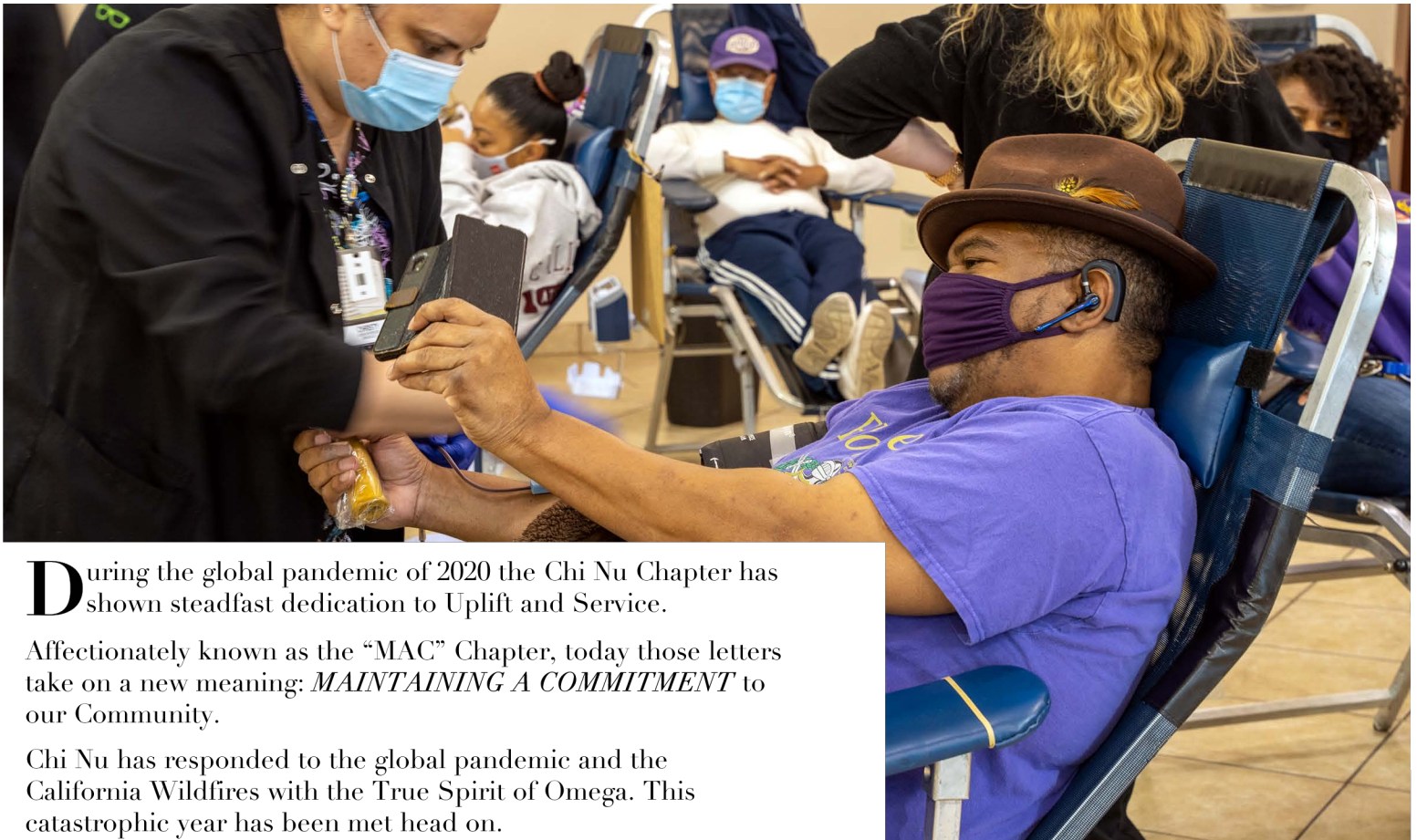


www.paradisememorialfuneralhome.com



# THE CHI NU CHAPTER: ANSWERING THE CALL IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

BY BROTHER JOE MANNINGS - FRESNO, CA



**D**uring the global pandemic of 2020 the Chi Nu Chapter has shown steadfast dedication to Uplift and Service.

Affectionately known as the “MAC” Chapter, today those letters take on a new meaning: *MAINTAINING A COMMITMENT* to our Community.

Chi Nu has responded to the global pandemic and the California Wildfires with the True Spirit of Omega. This catastrophic year has been met head on.

Chi Nu adopted the Westside Church of God and the Brothers have been critically instrumental in the distribution of approximately 224,000 pounds of food to over 5,600 needy families on the westside of Fresno.

“Project Impact,” our 501c3 non-profit foundation, under the guidance of Dr. Jimmy Webster, has assisted several other area chapters in development of their non-profit organizations by-laws.

Because of the chapter’s role in facilitating hand sanitizer, the hand sanitizer has reached the entire state. Deliveries totaling over 3000 bottles (and counting) shipped to churches and chapters and charities in New York, Philadelphia, Tulsa, as well as Southern California, as a *direct* result of the efforts of our Social Action Committee.

Achievement Week in the Central Valley began with the brothers delivering food to frontline doctors, nurses, and staff at Green Sports Clinic, A black owned COVID-19 testing facility, on Friday November 14, 2020.

The brothers took part in the Northern California Founders’ Day celebration hosted the 2nd Annual Dr. Charles Drew Memorial Blood Drive, while assisting in the distribution of 1000 turkeys to the Fresno community and simultaneously distributing 1000 bottles of hand sanitizer.

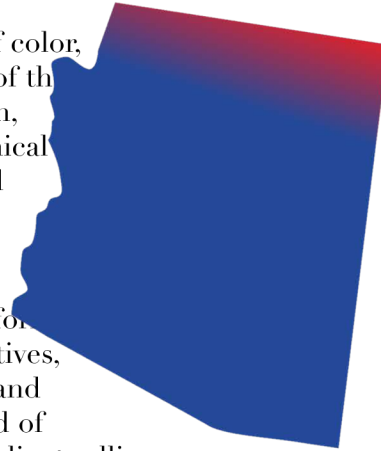
The 2020 Achievement Week activities concluded with presenting Pastor Paul Lawrence Binion (Westside Church of God) with the Citizen of the Year Award.

# DESERT QUES HELP TURN ARIZONA BLUE

BY BROTHER DL WHITE - PHOENIX, AZ

From March to November, the brothers of Phi Iota Chapter conducted a series of pre-election candidate/ballot forums that focused specifically on galvanizing and encouraging a positive voter turnout in all 15 Arizona counties in particular and across the nation in general.

With the 2020 elections having such an acute impact on people of color, Phi Iota's Basileus Bro. Larry Lopes, placed the full complement of the chapter's resources at the disposal of the Political Action chairman, Bro. Benjamin Johnson. Bro. Johnson blended the chapter's technical expertise and manpower with local agencies such as the State and County Democratic Party, the NAACP, the Divine 9 Pan-Hellenic organizations, 100 Black Women and representing Latinx, Native American and Asian. Together, these alliances were able to wage a relentless eight-month educational campaign to inform, educate, and encouraging new voters about Arizona's Ballot Initiatives, the voting process encouraging voters to cast their ballot by mail and participate in early voting. The comprehensive campaign consisted of informative emails, social distanced activities, consider CDC compliant rallies, webinars and ZOOM town halls that countered the restrictions caused by the pandemic.



The crown jewels of the campaign were the weekly webinars and ZOOM calls initiated and moderated by Bro. Johnson, coordinated by Bro. Danny L. White, and produced by Phi Iota's Vice Basileus, Bro. Jeffrey Birthwright. The virtual town halls featured a veritable "Who's Who" with one webinar recording approximately 600 participants and reports of thousands receiving the weekly messages via Facebook and other social media outlets. Remarks were received from then Vice Presidential candidate Soror Kamala Harris, and featured speakers included House Majority Whip Hon. Bro. James Clyburn, Arizona Secretary of State, Hon. Katie Hobbs, Maricopa County Recorder Adrian Fontes, representatives of senatorial candidate Mark Kelly, Omega Psi Phi's Grand Basileus David Marion, 12th District Representative Bro. Kwame Dow, Omega's International Political Action Chair and former DR, Bro. Sedrick Spencer, 32nd First Vice Grand Basileus Bro. Carl A. Blunt and a host of other current and former, politicians, district officials, national political strategists and dozens of aspiring and incumbent candidates of color, many of whom were Divine 9 members. *Continued on next page*

## ZETA TAU CHAPTER, A FRIEND INDEED DURING ACHIEVEMENT WEEK

BY BROTHER GEORGE D. TAYLOR - PASADENA, CA

Following its November ZOOM Chapter meeting, members of the Zeta Tau chapter, made a trip to the Friends In Deed House, to deliver food items to its pantry.

There to greet them was Tim Nistler, Program Director of the Food Pantry and Social Media Director. Friends In Deed is an interfaith organization that provides supportive services to meet basic human needs, so our homeless and at-risk neighbors can rebuild their lives.

Leading up to its Achievement Week Celebrations, the food drive was the brainchild of Chapter Basileus, Larry Quishenberry. His inspiration to engage the chapter in the community-based project was seeded by watching the evening news and seeing all of the homeless people seeking food and shelter. *Continued on next page*



## *Desert Ques Help turn Arizona Blue - Continued*

The culmination of this effort resulted in Arizona turning Blue for the first time in 28 years as the Biden & Harris ticket won the state by an impressive margin. The Brothers effort also resulted in Democrats winning state legislative and School Board seats across the Grand Canyon state. The “Desert Ques” of Phi Iota’s relentless, dedicated and diligent work paid off here in the Grand Canyon Copper state and “Land of the Burning Sands”.



## *Zeta Tau Chapter, A Friend Indeed During Achievement Week - Continued*

The need to bring a little uplift to the community spoke to him. Quishenberry said, “Watching the news, I saw the long food lines of folks who had lost their jobs and tried to think of a way for our chapter to do something to help people out in this COVID-19 environment, while at the same time, keeping our members safe.”

Known as the “Rose Bowl Ques,” Quishenberry said that service and developing community-based partnerships is what drove Zeta Tau Chapter’s determination to add a month-long food drive to its service programs.



The chapter gave out about 25 bags of canned goods and other staple items to the pantry for its use in meeting the food needs of our neighbors and friends. The food drive culminated in the donation of canned goods and “bags and bags of shelf staple items to the Friends in Deed Food Pantry,” he said.

The Pantry provides food weekly to over 400 low-income and no-income families in the Pasadena/Altadena area.

“The food collected by the Omegas will go a long way in helping us provide folks with not only good quality meal but substantial amounts of food per week,” said pantry director Tim Nistler. “We do this 51 out of 52 weeks a year.”

Nistler said making sure our community gets good quality food is a priority for Friends In Deed and donations from groups like the Omegas is very helpful.

“We couldn’t do it without groups like yours,” he added.



EVERY  
WEDNESDAY  
7:11PM  
EST

THE MEN OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.  
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# INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CALL

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# WATER IS LIFE SAVES THE DAY

BY BROTHER DR. CARL BAMPOE - ACCRA, GHANA



**T**eam CSR , Nu Nu Chapter and Tau Chi chapter are working to provide water for those in need. The people of Adjikpo-Yokunya, a community in the Lower Manya Krobo Constituency of the Eastern Region of Ghana endured years of difficulties in accessing water. CEO of Team CSR Ghana, Jonathan Akwamoah, with the assistance of members Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., undertook the project to bring water to this area in need. This project happened to be one of 24 boreholes being constructed in the country by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. aimed at providing water facilities to deprived communities.



Provision for the facility became necessary following persistent appeals by the over 2000 residents who suffered years of water challenges despite request to authorities for assistance. After many failed attempts, Nu Nu chapter stepped up to the challenge by funding the borehole project to assist this community in Ghana. Currently 27 boreholes constructed in various parts of the Eastern, Central, and Western Regions of Ghana. Team CSR has surpassed and hopes to complete thirty by the end of November 2021.

# WELCOME TO OMEGA PSI PHI AKWANBO 7

BY BROTHER DR. CARL BAMPOE - ACCRA, GHANA

On Saturday morning, November 7th, 2020 at 1:37AM, 7 Men crossed the burning sands in Ghana to become Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. These men consisted of three brothers from the North American Diaspora and four indigenous, native born Ghanaians.

The line named itself AKWANBO 7. Akwanbo, an Akan native word, means clearing the path, building a bridge and cleansing the past misfortunes, including slave trade to usher us into a new era. Tau Chi chapter is excited to welcome these brothers into the fold!

**Dr. Carl Bampoe**  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS  
13thDistrictPR@OPPF.org

Bermuda, Canada, China, Germany, Ghana, Hawaii, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Panama, The Bahamas, The Netherlands, St. Croix VI, St. Thomas VI, St. Maarten, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom

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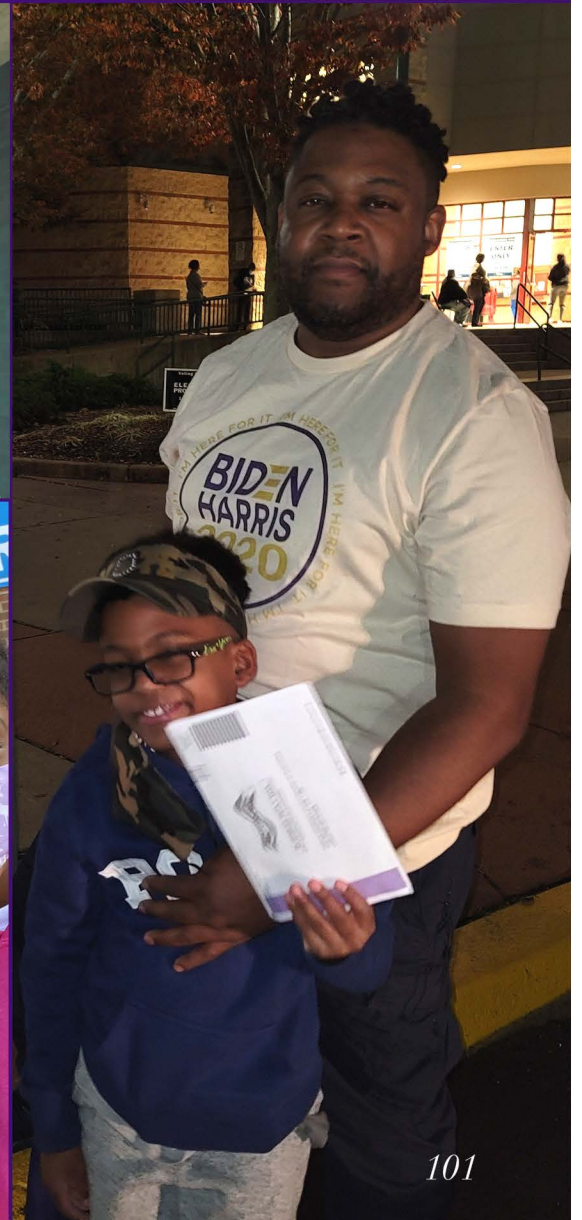
*Pictured are Solomon Opoku-Adofo, Felix Akuamoah, Isaac Benil, Kadri Lomo, Virtue Amedegbe, Diallo Sumbry, Emmanuel Tackie, the 13th District Representative Brother Trevor Hodge, and Bro. Carl Bampoe Basileus of Tau Chi.*



*Pictured are brothers instrumental in the msp process Brothers, Kwab Asamoah, Bryan Cox, Jonathan Akuamoah, Jimmy Thorne, Anthony McCrorey and Kevin Williams.*







# THE MEMOIR OF BROTHER JAMES HYLAND HAYES, JR.

APRIL 26, 1892 – MARCH 13, 1916



by Jonathan A. Matthews

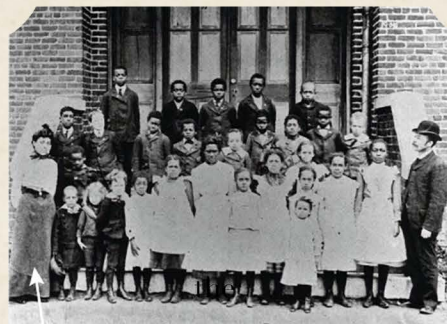
In writing The History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Herman Dreer notes in the Preface that:

*“the records of the Fraternity are incomplete, and probably will always be so. In the early days, the Brothers had no files. Records were kept on scraps of paper and in composition and memorandum books.”*

There are many mysteries in Omega. This answers one of them. To quote Dreer, this story is one of Omega’s unknown “precious treasures.”

James Hyland Hayes, Jr. was born into achievement. The first child of James Hyland Hayes, Sr. and the former Julia C. Harris, James Jr. was born on April 26, 1892, in Richmond, VA. Both born in the waning years of slavery, his parents were educated and prominent members of the Richmond African American community. His mother, Julia, graduated from Richmond Normal School (RNS) with distinction in 1878. RNS was established in 1867, through the financial assistance of the Freedmen’s Bureau, to train African American students for the teaching profession. Julia taught grade school starting in 1879 at several of Richmond’s segregated schools, including the famed Navy Hill School, the Baker School, and Moore School. In 1888, Julia Harris accepted an instructor position at the newly established Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute (V.N.&C.I. now Virginia State University), becoming the lead teacher in its Model School that focused on the education needs of “little ones from 6-12 years of age.” In the April 1896 V.N.&C.I. Gazette, she notes:

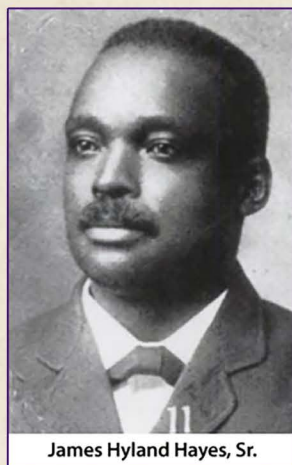
*“In our “Model School” we strive to walk hand-in-hand with nature, by presenting such objects, and using such guides and helps as will naturally coincide with child-nature, and thus stimulate enthusiasm and a hunger and thirst for knowledge.”*



Julia C. Hayes, teacher  
Model School, Virginia Normal & Collegiate Institute, 1890

The foundation for Julia’s children’s academic success is rooted in her educational philosophy. At the close of the 1896 school year, Julia resigned from V.N.&C.I. to raise her two children. Shortly after her resignation, she accepted a position on Board of Directors of the newly established Woman’s Union, an auxiliary business of the Independent Order of St.

Luke, an African American fraternal order. The Union was an insurance “fund for sickness, accident, and death” ran entirely by black women and co-founded by famed African American entrepreneur, Maggie Lena Walker, who also served as Vice President and Board Member (side note: Maggie’s son, Melvin, was a member of Omega being initiated through the Camp Howard Chapter in 1918. He’s also helped establish Zeta Chapter at Virginia Union University in 1919, where the



James Hyland Hayes, Sr.

Chapter was born in his mother's home and served as its first Keeper of Seals). James Hyland Hayes, Sr. can be considered one of the most impactful civil rights activists you never heard of. An 1875 graduate of RNS, James Sr. was one of ten African Americans to secure a teaching position in the Richmond Public School (RPS) system (vs. 94 white teachers) despite 38% of students being African American. James Sr. taught the first and third grades at Navy Hill School until 1883. At Navy Hill, he was first introduced to his future wife, Julia, as they were part of the 15-person teaching staff from 1879 to 1881. In 1883, James Sr. was appointed Principal of the Valley School as

part of the progressive Readjuster Party, taking control of the school board. Along with J. H. Johnston and A. V. Norrell, he became one of the first African American principals in the RPS system (note: these three men occupied three of the thirteen principal positions in the RPS system). When Democrats retook control of the school board in 1884, James Sr. was relieved as Principal because of his color and political affiliation.

Seeking to change the disenfranchisement of African Americans he experienced, he was admitted to Howard University's School of Law in the fall of 1884, where, due to his professional experience and education, he earned advanced placement resulting in him being awarded a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1885.

Upon returning to Richmond in 1885, James Sr. impact was immediate. He ran and won a seat on the Common (City) Council of Richmond in 1886 representing the predominately African American Jackson Ward, a seat he would hold for two years. He was one of the founding partners of the African American newspaper, the Richmond Planet. He was assigned the task of chartering Virginia Seminary and College in 1886 (now Virginia University of Lynchburg) and was the defense attorney in the high profile case of William Muscoe, a black man accused of killing a white police officer. He was editor of the Negro Advocate, a publication under the Negro Industrial and Agricultural Society, President of the National Negro Suffrage League, and member of the Executive Board of the Independent Order of St. Luke. He was received and met with Presidents Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, and Theodore Roosevelt several times to advocate African American appointments in Federal positions and Black officers in the military. In 1902, African American leaders unsuccessfully lobbied President Roosevelt to appoint James Sr. as assistant attorney general for the Eastern District. In 1905, Roosevelt offered James Sr. the post of Consul to Guadeloupe, a position that he declined, citing his current work in the African American suffrage movement. In 1902, James Sr. filed a suit against the Commonwealth of Virginia to overturn its newly revised constitution citing that it denied Blacks the right to vote. This case would eventually reach the U.S. Supreme Court in 1904, where the constitution was upheld. James Sr. became a staunch advocate for Black voter rights and was a sought after speaker on African American disenfranchisement. He was one of the few African Americans selected as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1904. In 1906, James Sr. left the Republican Party due to their lack of support for African American candidates. He joined the fledgling Progressive movement spearheading the Black voter drive for the Roosevelt-Johnson ticket in 1912. He also penned a stirring 2-page op-ed in The Crisis magazine on why African Americans should be progressives in the November 1912 issue. In January 1917, with the advent of the U.S. entry into WWI, he testified before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs regarding universal military training for Blacks.

Simply put, James Sr. and Julia were the rare African American power couple of its day. Their influence and parenting will have a profound impact on their children. They married on September 4, 1889, with James Jr. born in 1892 and his brother, George Edward Chalmers Hayes, born two years later in 1894.

James Jr., known as Hyland to his friends and family, began his formal education in the segregated Richmond Public School system in 1896, attending the Brook School for his elementary schooling. In May 1900, Julia Hayes received a coveted federal appointment in the U.S. Census office as a clerk. This move required her to move to Washington, D.C., which she did with her family. However, they maintained their home in Richmond, having dual residences, a rarity for any family, black or white, at the time. While Julia's appointment within the Census Bureau ended in 1902, the family stayed in Washington with Hyland, attending the Garnet School located on the now famed U Street corridor in D.C.. Their neighbor, Thomas Marshall Dent, Sr., was an attorney and Howard Law School alumni graduating a year before James Sr. in 1884.

In a precursor of friendship-to-brotherhood, his sons, Francis and Thomas Jr., who was of similar age to Hyland and his brother George, and playmates, would both become fraternity Brother to Hyland with Thomas being initiated through Alpha Chapter in 1915 and Francis through Gamma Chapter in 1917, becoming one of Gamma's early initiates.

In 1905, Hyland was promoted to high school attending the famed M Street High School in D.C. (now Dunbar High School). Here, again, the intersection of friendship and future brotherhood crossed. Hyland participated in the Separate Battalion of High School Cadets upon entering M St HS. He became a private in Company B, where a sophomore Frank Coleman served as his Sargent. Coleman served as Hyland's commanding officer in the Cadet Corp until his graduation in 1908. At that time, Coleman reached the rank of Captain, Co. B, obtaining the highest rank for a cadet and leading the company, with Hyland serving as one of his officers, achieving the rank of Sargent in 1907-08 and 1st LT in 1908-09. While in HS, Hyland also became a student in the Washington Conservatory of Music, a private music academy founded in 1903 to train African Americans in music (predominately, classical European music), where he participated in the end-of-season recital in June 1906. Hyland graduated from M St HS on June 18, 1909, where, in a joint graduation ceremony with Armstrong Manual Training School, the newly elected President of the U.S., William Howard Taft, was one of the graduation speakers. While no information is yet known as to Hyland's academic prowess, it is reasonable to assume that his academic record was stellar. After graduating from M St, he applied to and was accepted at the University of Pennsylvania after passing a "rigorous examination."

During his time at Penn, Hyland faced difficulty academically and personally. With a new environment completely different than M St., he struggled academically his freshman year. Then, towards the end of his freshman year, he was struck with typhoid fever and granted leave from Penn until the fall to recover. After convalescing during the summer and overcoming his illness, he returned to Penn for his sophomore year, where he improved scholastically. In the fall of 1911, he was joined at Penn by a familiar face: his brother, George, where the two lived together at 3628 Samson St right near campus. In 1913, Hyland completed his studies and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree on June 18, 1913. With his brother leaving, George decided to leave Penn and transferred to Brown University, where he completed his degree in 1915.

While no athletic talents were displayed in high school or college, Hyland was a premier athlete. Post-Penn, he spent a year in Philadelphia, where he earned a spot on the newly-formed Broad Street Station Baseball Club. The team was known as the Waiters as that was the occupation of its players at one of the largest and busiest train stations in the country, the Broad Street Station. It's safe to assume that the Hayes brothers were employed there as the station was less than two miles from Penn's campus. A review of the team in the June 21, 1913 edition of the Philadelphia Tribune notes that:

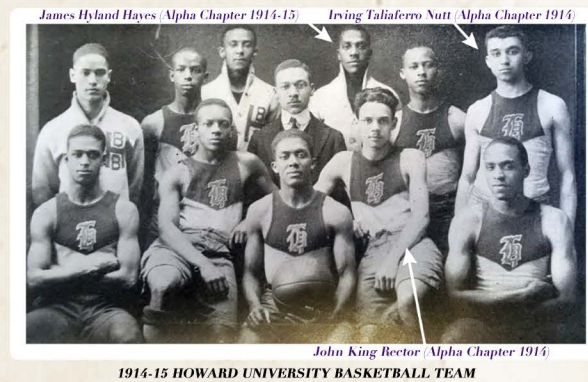
*"When one mentions Hyland Hayes at shortstop, they speak of the very best ballplayer in the city, bar none. He can do everything and all equally well – hit, run bases, field, and anything else that is expected of a player."*

Hyland's brother, George, also played on the team as catcher. The team played a loose schedule of games against other minor league African American teams in the region, including the Camden Giants, Ardmore Tigers, Philadelphia Colored Doctors, and Lawnside Athletic Club.

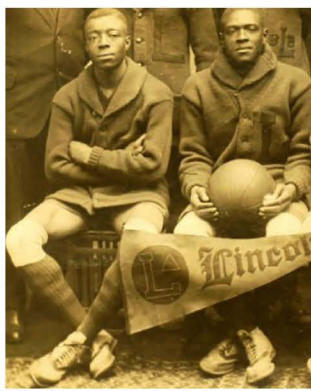
In the fall of 1914, Hyland returned to D.C. as he was admitted into Howard University's medical school. He briefly played club baseball in D.C., joining the independent team, the Teddy Bears, the District's club champions. The range of his athletic talents expanded as he earned not only a spot on Howard's varsity basketball team but became their starting guard.



It was his entry to Howard where Hyland was introduced to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Of the 27 students in the Freshman Medical School Class, five were members of the Fraternity, with four being initiated in the spring of 1912. Another five Brothers were upperclassmen in Howard's Medical School, including Founder Oscar James Cooper and Charter member Charles Young Harris who were both sophomores. A familiar face was teaching at Howard: Hyland's former commanding officer in his HS Cadet Corp, Founder Frank Coleman, who was hired in the fall of 1914 to teach physics and chemistry at the Howard Academy, the college-prep High school of Howard University. Finally, two



of Hyland's basketball teammates, Irving Taliaferro Nutt and John King Rector (both Alpha Chapter 1914), were Omega men. The genesis of friendship began through these associations with Brothers. Through those relationships, Hyland was asked, accepted, and initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Alpha Chapter sometime during the 1914-15 academic year (note: in the early years of the Fraternity, it was commonplace for students in professional schools to be considered and initiated as members. Of the 34 Brothers initiated in 1911-12, seven were in law or medical school at Howard).



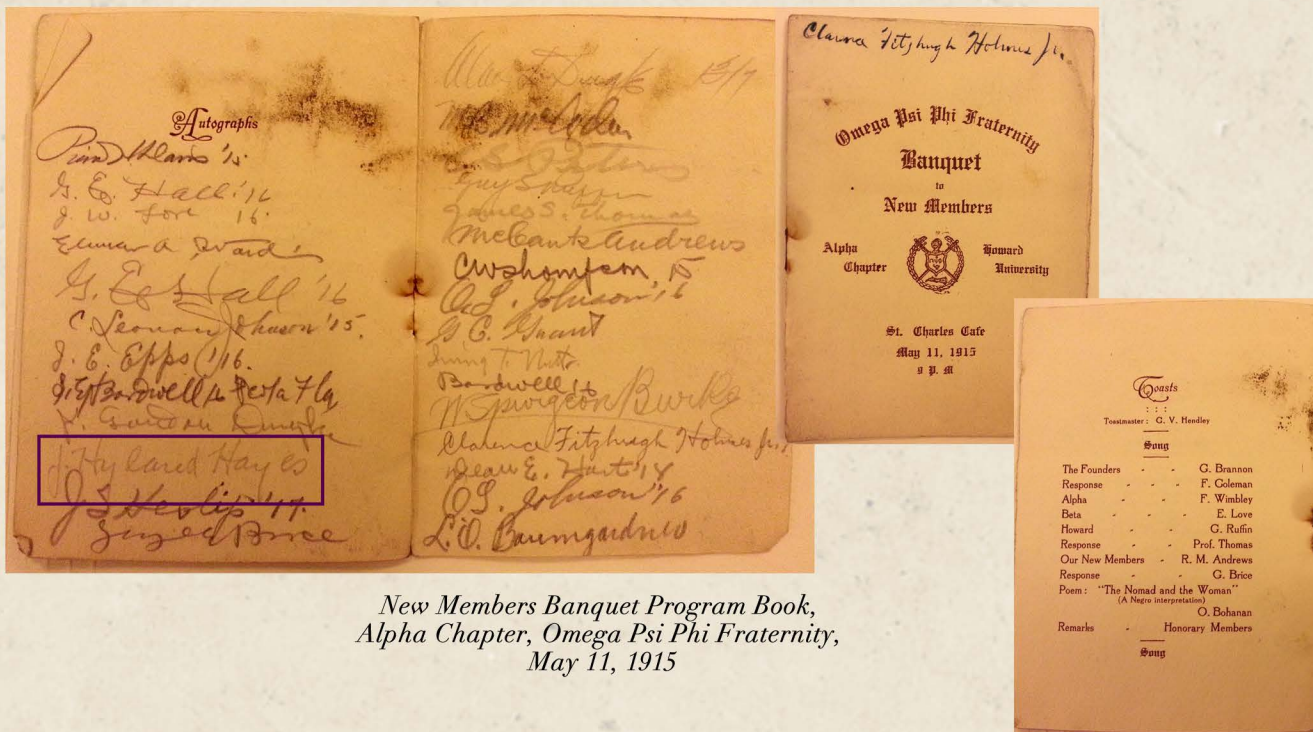
Ulysses Simpson Young, Jr. (Lyss)  
William Pennington Young (Pimp)

Hyland's intersection with Brothers extended beyond Howard. On Monday evening, February 22, 1915, Howard met rival Lincoln University on the hardwood court at the historic Manhattan Casino in Harlem. Lining up against Hyland were the famed three-sport athletes from Lincoln, the Young Brothers, Ulysses "Lyss" Simpson Young, Jr., and his younger brother William "Pimp" Pennington Young as well as Walter Guthrie Anderson. What made this match up unique was Hyland, Nutt, Rector, the Young Brothers, and Anderson were Omega Men. The three Lincoln players were initiated through Beta Chapter in 1914, with Ulysses being initiated in April 1914, shortly after Beta was established. William was initiated in November 1914, just a few months before this historic match-up, and Walter initiated sometime during 1914. In a hard-fought contest, Howard was victorious, 17-11.

According to his classmates, Hyland's first year of med school was "very credible," and he was well-liked in a class memoir about Hyland, they note that "He had a keen sense of comradeship, a winning personality, and kindly smile under almost every circumstance." Right before final exams, on Tuesday, May 11, 1915, the Brothers of Alpha Chapter held a banquet at the St. Charles Café in honor of its new members initiated during the academic year. Hyland participated in this event, enjoying brotherly fellowship while listening to various members speak, including Founders Coleman and Love. Future 6th Grand Basileus Clarence Fitzhugh Holmes, Jr. (Alpha Chapter 1914) memorialized the event by having Brothers sign his program booklet in which Hyland enthusiastically autographed.

His second year of med school was filled with optimism and promise. During the fall semester of 1915, he won one of two prizes in pharmacology. He was also selected as captain of the Howard basketball team. His brother George, graduating from Brown University in 1915, joined Hyland at Howard by following in his father's footsteps and enrolling that fall in Howard's law school. But during the fall semester, Hyland began having health challenges, which, by the end of the semester, advanced to the point where he couldn't play basketball. He completed the fall semester, but after a few weeks into the spring semester, Hyland's health deteriorated to the point where he needed to take a leave of absence from school in February 1916. He was diagnosed with what was then called consumption. Today, we call it tuberculosis. *Continued on next page*

*The Memoir of Bro. James Hyland Hayes, Jr.*



*New Members Banquet Program Book,  
Alpha Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity,  
May 11, 1915*

Hyland retreated to his parents' home in Richmond to convalesce where, after about a month, he succumbed to this disease on Monday, March 13, 1916, at 10:45 AM. He was 23 years young. His classmates were stunned as, in a memoir written by his class for the Howard University Journal, they note that:

*“He had been ailing for a little while, but no one ever thought the end was so near.  
Youth, ambition, hope – all that a life which beamed with promise ever offered – were plucked  
as a rosebud, with its pedals yet unfolded.”*

Brothers struggled with the loss of their friend, Hyland. In the short 4+ year history of the Fraternity, no member had been “summoned by the Silent Messenger.” This tragedy marked the chartering of a new chapter for the young Fraternity: Omega Chapter, with Bro. James Hyland Hayes, Jr. becoming its first member. In the March 17, 1916 issue of The Howard University Journal, the Brothers of Alpha Chapter issued a formal resolution on the passing of Bro. James Hyland Hayes, Jr.

James Sr. and Julia held the home-going service for Hyland on Thursday, March 16, 1916, at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Richmond, where friends, classmates, and Fraternity Brothers traveled to honor him. Hyland's final resting place is at Fredericks Hall Cemetery in Louisa County, VA.

8 THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY

**Hyland Hays Passes Away**

In the death of Mr. Hyland Hays the Medical School and Howard University sustain a great loss. Mr. Hays was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, and at the time of his death was a member of the Sophomore Class of the Howard Medical School.

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity of which he was a member sends the following resolution:

WHEREAS: It has pleased the Almighty and Omnipotent Father to remove from this terrestrial ball our dear and beloved brother, Hyland Hays, and

WHEREAS: The said brother had so firmly ingratiated himself in the hearts of his fraternal brothers:—

BE it sincerely resolved, that we herein express our deep sympathies to the bereaved family and beseech Almighty God to sustain them in their deep sorrow and bereavement; we ourselves sorrowfully bemoan the death of our dear brother and devoted friend:—

BE it further resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of our departed brother, one be placed in the archives of this fraternity and one be sent to the UNIVERSITY JOURNAL for publication.

Done this the thirteenth day of March, 1916.

M. B. McAden, *Basileus*,  
J. W. Granady, *Keeper of Records*.

There is no doubt that Hyland was destined for great things before being called to glory. One only needs to look at his brother, George, and the accomplishments he achieved. Like his father, he became a staunch advocate for civil rights taking on the fight to end segregation. Among his achievements, he partnered with James Nabrit (Eta 1919) and served as lead counsel in the case of *Bolling v. Sharpe*, one of the four companion cases to the landmark civil rights case *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954 (note: George was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity being initiated through its D.C. alumni Chapter in 1927. He was Polemarch of that Chapter from 1927-33, Sr. Grand Vice Polemarch for their Fraternity in 1930, and received their coveted Laurel Wreath award in 1950). Sadly, death would revisit the Hayes family.

Less than three weeks after testifying before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, James Sr. passed away on January 28, 1917, ten months after his eldest son, Hyland. He was 58 years old. George Eliot said, "our dead are never dead to us until we have forgotten them." Let us remember, and never forget, the short but well-lived life of Bro. James Hyland Hayes, Jr.



George E. C. Hayes James Nabrit, Jr.  
Thurgood Marshall, Jr.



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.,  
**PROJECT MANHOOD**  
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Brother S. Earl Wilson, Chairman

For information contact: [undenied16@aol.com](mailto:undenied16@aol.com)

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Tau Tau Chapter and Omega Educational Foundation's YLC  
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Alamo City Youth Leadership and Fatherhood Conference,  
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Omega Lamplighter Helping Feed the Homeless,  
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Omega Squires Annual Collaboration  
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Eta Upsilon's Young Men's Initiative: Students  
Receive Free Haircuts

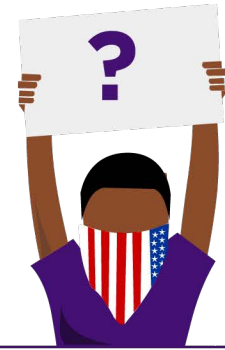


Rho Tau Chapter Mentor on Healthy Eating Habits

SOCIAL OUTREACH - COMMUNITY SERVICE  
LEADERSHIP - FAMILY, SCHOOL, COMMUNITY  
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT/ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE  
STEM - SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, MATH

# WHAT NOW AMERICA?

By Brother Robert C. Warren, Jr.



As I put fingers to keypad, the quadrennial circus that Americans call “A Presidential Election Year” has mercifully come to a close, White House shenanigans notwithstanding. Given the incumbent Republican candidate and the fact that 2020 has been a year like no other in most of our lifetimes, using the term “circus” to describe this Presidential Election is less a metaphor than an actuality. In the minds of at least 79 million Americans, the votes have been rightfully counted, the dust has settled and a starkly divided nation has to pick up the pieces and move forward. As for the 72 million or so Americans who reside in the political version of “Fantasy Island,” “bless their hearts” as my late godmother used to say about folks who were seemed to miss the mark intellectually. We will get back to this sizable demographic in a bit.

Despite the early cattle-call of Democratic primary candidates, the looming and intransigent specter of COVID-19, social upheaval not seen since 1968 and a race-baiting, schoolyard bully as the incumbent, America did well for itself. President-elect Joseph R. Biden is as exciting as a Hallmark Christmas special. However, he is a man shaped by Job-like levels of personal tragedy who brings the requisite amount of experience, gravitas and empathy to the White House when this country needs it most. And of course we have Howard University’s own Vice President-elect Kamala D. Harris breaking a multitude of barriers as the first woman, the first Black woman, the first Asian woman, the first graduate of an Historically Black College or University and the first member of the “Divine Nine” to rise to the second highest office in the nation. This achievement makes all of the madness and mayhem leading up to November 3rd worth it. Ms. Harris’ ascension to the Vice Presidency, as did Barack Obama’s election as President 12 years ago, represents the best of America. A young Black man growing up with a single mother can say “yes I can” and a young Black woman who is a child of divorce can say “yes, I can as well.”

However, America being what America is, we will not be allowed to celebrate for long. President Obama’s election in 2008 signaled to some that the country had entered some “post-racial” Garden of Eden and that we could all take a deep sigh of relief that we had finally overcome as the old hymn promised. Rather than that historic election serving as the culmination of Dr. King’s “I Have A Dream” speech, it became the re-manifestation of our 400-year nightmare as America’s foster children. The mere presence of Barack Hussein Obama, II, was the first tug at the Band-Aid that covered America’s scabrous history with race since the aftermath of Dr. King’s death. A Black man sitting in the Oval Office seem to drive many White folks to the brink of insanity. The “birther” attacks, the Muslim conspiracy theories, the unflattering caricatures of Mrs. Obama and the Obama daughters, and other racially motivated indignities took us back to the days when Black people, when we weren’t being abused, existed for the twisted amusement of White people. The fact that Mr. Obama conducted himself as a dignified, intellectual statesman, led the country with cool competence and represented America well on the world stage finally pulled the door of White sanity from its rusty hinges. This break from rational thought was so severe that America saw fit to elect the originator of the aforementioned “birther” theory as President Obama’s successor.

This space is not large enough and there is no need to rehash the dizzying insanity, incompetence, rank corruption and hate-sowing of the last four years. But, in a perverse way, we owe President Obama’s successor (please be advised that I have yet to use the words “President” and “Trump” as a couplet; this would be as profane as enlisting Samuel L. Jackson to narrate the Sunday School Christmas pageant) a debt of gratitude. His ascension to what is now the Whitest of Houses, enabled America to come face-to-face with the fact that the needle has not moved much since the Civil Rights era two generations ago. Mr. Trump’s clarion call to white supremacists and bigots of all stripes, coupled with the epidemic of state-sanctioned murders of Black citizens, have led us to have the “uncomfortable conversation about race in this country” as former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder admonished us to have a decade ago. My Dad, who was born in Birmingham, Alabama in 1937 and moved to New York City in the late 50’s, always tells me that he prefers the in-your-face racism that he experienced as a boy and young man in the Deep South, to the more insidious, subtle, faux-liberal racism that exists in the arguably more evolved Northern States. The hatred and vitriol that has emanated from the mouths of our fellow citizens has been chilling.

If I close my eyes, I would think that I was living in the days of the true “Great Emancipator, Frederick Douglass. A proper reading of American history teaches us that White America has never really recovered from the following developments: 1) emancipating Black people from slavery; 2) the efforts at Reconstruction; 3) passing anti-lynching and anti-Jim Crow laws; 4) our victory in Brown v. Board of Education; 5) passing the Voting Rights Act; and 6) passing the Civil Rights Act. This list is not exhaustive, but what it tells us is that actions can be legislated but emotions and morality cannot.

On the cusp of 2021 and at the dawn of normalcy in the highest office in the land, here we are. In many ways, we are on a hamster wheel of race relations. We expend a tremendous amount of energy to end up in the same place. The Donald did not invent racism but his very presence behind the Resolute Desk allowed the Night Riders of a century ago to walk and talk freely in the bright sunlight of today. And, the fact that approximately 72 million neighbors and colleagues firmly believe that this amalgamation of Lester Maddox, George Wallace and Benito Mussolini is the person who needs to lead this nation is mind-boggling and frightening.

Yet, I remain hopeful when dark cynicism seems to be the only appropriate mood for these times. As a people, we know the obstacles that we have faced since arriving on these stolen shores in shackles. If there is any good that has come out of the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and others is that much of America is energized and enlightened to our plight. (As a footnote, it is really cool to be Black right now, so we need to ride this wave before folks go back to saving baby seals.) Watching Derek Chauvin calmly squeeze the life out of Mr. Floyd’s body as if he were extinguishing a cigarette struck a nerve in this country that resonated with so many others outside of the Black community. White people were finally awakened to the reality has been plain to us for centuries. This awakening has forced us have those “hard conversations” that Mr. Holder wants us to have. We still have to contend with the 72 million voters who want to make and keep America great in their blinded and hate-filled eyes. We have been down this road before. Some might say that we have stayed on the same road, but here we are. For those of us from a certain era, we learned a phrase that said, “the difficult we do immediately, the impossible takes a little longer.” We have accomplished what many thought impossible with the election of President Obama and Vice President-elect Harris. Now it is time to focus on the difficult work of ensuring that the next generations of Black people can live and thrive in an America that will allow them to live and thrive.



BROTHER ROBERT C. WARREN, JR.



**Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Federal Credit Union**  
**PRESENTS**  
**AUTO MARKETING AND LOAN SERVICE**

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Federal Credit Union (OPFFFCU) introduces its  
**Auto Loan Financing Program**

This program offers buyers access to dealerships in all 50 United States and an opportunity to process a loan via the OPFFFCU website

**OPFFFCU OFFERS AUTOMOBILE LOANS FOR**

	RATES AS LOW AS		RATES AS LOW AS	
<b>NEW VEHICLES</b>	<b>3.00%</b>		<b>PRE-OWNED VEHICLES</b>	<b>3.9%</b>

NOTE: All rates are subject to a credit assessment and based on the approval process.

OPFFFCU's Auto Search and Loan Program provides access to many dealerships. The program features a comprehensive automotive buying service offering detailed information regarding new and pre-owned vehicles through this website

**[www.auto.opfffcu.com](http://www.auto.opfffcu.com)**

CLICK HERE

OPFFFCU will assist you with this interactive automobile research and buying tool.

If you are shopping for a car,  
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# A RESPONSE TO A FAILED INSURRECTION

By Brother Michael A. Jefferson, Esq.

Now that the insurrection, spawned by a big election lie, has failed and arrests have commenced, federal and local authorities should not stop until every single individual involved in this seditious act is held accountable. This includes the president and his sycophants like senators Josh Hawley and Ted Cruz. Federal law enforcement officials who were complicit in this undertaking should also be added to the list.

Those who wish to temper the call for accountability should be looked upon with both scorn and suspicion. In my mind these individuals either supported the failed coup, hoped for its success or are far too stupid to recognize the actual danger of this seditious act.

Make no mistake about it January 6, 2021 was not a fluke. In fact, it should serve as a wakeup call to all who cherish America's democratic ideals. Think about it - but for the grace of God we could be living in a very different society today if the rag tag bunch of domestic terrorists who invaded the Capitol were slightly more determined and organized. And in hindsight they now know it.

The fact that the vast majority of the rioters/seditionists were white seems to have invoked a hint of sympathy in many areas of the country. Nearly 45% of Republicans supported this treasonous act. At least 58% of Republicans consider the events of that day to be "peaceful." To them I offer this perspective.

Imagine if you will, hundreds if not thousands of black men and women, but mostly men, from various walks of life. Including, the military and law enforcement - marching on the Capitol. Boldly confronting and subsequently overcoming the meek resistance of a woefully unprepared police force. After breaching the security, they begin smashing windows and breaking doors.

Imagine this armed black mob, some clad in dark clothing. Others in tactical gear holding flex cuffs. A few adorned in animal skins. All roaming menacingly through the Capitol's sacred halls in search of political enemies - politicians who in their minds have betrayed them and must be punished for doing so.

Imagine Members of Congress - hundreds of them, taking cover in an undisclosed bunker while staff members and other potential hostages hide behind barricaded doors and under tables. Some calling loved ones to say goodbye - believing their final moments on earth were quickly approaching.

Imagine in the end this "black" insurrection fails. And when the dust settles and some sense of normalcy gradually returns we find the floors and offices of the nation's citadel of democracy littered with broken glass. Important documents scattered everywhere. Personal items and government property missing and sadly five people are declared dead including a Capitol police officer.

Given this scenario does anyone think for one moment that the word "peaceful" would be used to describe this event? How many in the dominant culture would declare support for this act of treason?

For years federal authorities, most notably the FBI as well as non-governmental entities that track hate groups, have warned us about the very real threat of white domestic terrorist groups. And for years the call for real action to be taken against these groups and individuals has fallen on deaf ears.

In light of the events of January 6, 2021 we as a society must make it a priority to root out such groups and the individuals associated with them in every state, city and small town. Now is the time for every citizen who has a healthy respect for the constitution and the rule of law to assist law enforcement in identifying those who engage in seditious activity. To remain silent is to aid and abet a potential act of sedition.

Our lawmakers at every level must provide law enforcement with the necessary legal framework to eradicate organizations that promote sedition. A focal point should be the electronic apparatuses (i.e. websites, social media platforms) that aid these groups in pursuit of their subversive agenda. In short, the same ferocity employed to fight America's "war on drugs" must be applied by law enforcement officials, including prosecutors and judges to fight the war on white domestic terrorism.

For their part - law enforcement must vigorously purge its ranks of those who hold fascist, racist and seditious sympathies. To be sure, several witnesses say some rioters at the Capitol displayed badges and represented themselves as off duty police officers. These individuals represent a clear and present danger to the republic.

Other governmental institutions (i.e. educational, health, legal) as well as private ones must purge their ranks of those who display fascist, racist or seditious sympathies. Their very presence should not be tolerated.



Brother Michael A. Jefferson, Esq.

If the republic is to survive then ridding the White House of its present occupant will not be enough. We must root out the cancerous tumor in the body politic – the seditious. Men and women who claim to love this country. Most of whom are white, angry, pathetic and desperate souls, easily manipulated, who lie in wait in every dark corner of this country conveniently plotting their next attack on American democracy. No community is exempt. For those in the dominant culture who recoil at the very notion of taking harsh preventative measures against subversive elements who look like them - simply close your eyes and imagine them not as white men and women but traitors cloaked in black skin. This should make it a lot easier for one to carry out his/her patriotic duty.

## POETRY CORNER

# 100 years from now

by Brother DeSean Grayson



History is action past. Believed and stated as true.  
But history is also important, because it's the present tense of YOU.  
So what is it about you? What are your works my friend?  
If Omega needs help, on you can she depend?  
You celebrate the great brothers, like Looby, Baugh, and Drew.  
But 100 years from now, what will the Omega say about you?  
Will you leave something worthwhile, or something causing shame?  
Will you leave nothing at all so the brothers won't know your name?

You read Bro. Mazyck's words, committed them to heart.  
You still can run them back either, in whole or in part.  
You love to fellowship and to display what you know.  
But Omega needs some builders. How do you help her to grow?  
How do you preserve her traditions? How do you further her cause?  
Are you actively engaged or are you doing nothing at all?  
Mazyck's time is past. So has Dent's and Poindexter's too.  
So 100 years from now, what will Omega say about you?

Omega's history is rich. Her early sons have advanced mankind.  
Their works have carried on, up to this present time.  
They influenced public opinions. And were champions of our race.  
They fought like thunderous titans using excellence as a base.  
They used their talents and time for the glory of the negro.  
But many of them lived and died over 100 years ago.  
We forever honor Brother Cooper, Brother Coleman, and Brother Love  
for their idea of Omega inspired from above.  
And for advising them perfectly, we always honor Brother Just.  
But 100 years from now what will Omega say about US?

Will she call us courageous, brave, and honorable too?  
For all the noble works left behind by me and by you?  
Will present aspirations yield us the truth,  
of thoughtful intelligent and respectful youth?  
Will young brothers know our stories like we know those from our past?  
Or will they know nothing, because WE didn't make traditions last?  
The time is now to get reclaimed, and do the work in your town.  
Or 100 years from now Omega may no longer be around.



# Omega Chapter

## “WHEN WE WEAR THE GLOVES”

WHEN WE WEAR THE GLOVES  
A BROTHER HAS GONE FROM OUR MIDST  
AND SAILED TO GOLDEN SHORES.

WHEN WE WEAR THE GLOVES  
A FRIEND HAS PASSED THE FINAL TEST  
AND WALKS THROUGH PURPLE DOORS.

THE CIRCLE HAS AN EMPTY PLACE  
A VOICE WILL RAISE NO MORE  
THE SONG OF FELLOWSHIP AND LOVE  
UPLIFT FOREVERMORE  
WHEN WE WEAR THE GLOVES

WHEN WE WEAR THE GLOVES  
A LIGHT GOES FROM THIS EARTHLY LIFE  
THE VISOR CLOSED AGAIN  
YET ALL THE HEAVENS OPEN WIDE  
TO LET A NEW STAR IN.

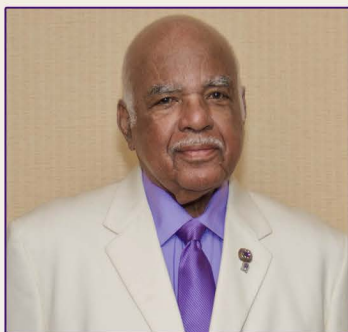
WHEN WE WEAR THE GLOVES  
A BROTHER LEAVES THE CHAPTER ROLLS  
AND MOVES TO OTHER WORLDS  
FOR WHEN WE SAY OUR LAST GOODBYE  
HE WALKS ON STREETS OF PEARL.

WHEN WE WEAR THE GLOVES

*BY BROTHER DR. CARVER A. PORTLOCK*



# FORMER DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES ENTER OMEGA CHAPTER



**D.R. Leon Bernard Babridge**  
*24th Sixth District Representative*

June 18, 1932 - December 20, 2020. Leon Bernard Babridge was born in Lancaster, SC to the late Earl Thomas and Mattye Babridge. A 1950 graduate of Lancaster Training School, he earned a BS in Industrial Engineering from SC State College before entering the US Army as a Second Lieutenant. A noted coach and teacher, he was also known for his devotion to construction trades, serving as a Construction Analyst for HUD as well as a consultant for many banks. Leon was also the 24th Sixth District Representative of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated.

Surviving are his son Kevin L. Babridge, Sr.; three grandsons: Kevin L. Babridge, Jr., Karl Babridge, and Michael McCants; a granddaughter, Alisa Beckett; four sisters: Yvonne Parker, Kathleen Bland, Marjorie Babridge, and Earleen Shannon; among other relatives and friends.



**D.R. Mark Bishop**  
*14th Fifth District Representative*

Bro Mark Bishop the 14th Fifth District Representative transitioned to Omega Chapter on March 26, 2020, he was born April 19, 1948 in Memphis, TN. Bro Bishop was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, Rho Psi Chapter while attending his university and proudly held leadership positions on the national, district and local levels.

In his local chapter, he served as Dean of Education, Finance Chair, and Basileus. Mark's outstanding work led the chapter to award him the Citizen of the Year Award in the early 1990's as well as the District and Chapter Omega Man of the Year Award. On the district level, Mark served as the Keeper of Finance, Vice Chairman of Project Rho Psi, a member of the Human Resource Committee, and he also became the Fifth District Representative, the highest-ranking officer in the Fifth District.

On the national level, Mark was selected as National Omega Man of the Year and also awarded the National Superior Service Award. Mark also served on the Board of Uplift, Inc., and Epsilon Phi, Inc. He was elected to serve on the Omega Life Membership Foundation representing the Fifth District.



**D.R. CleArthur Morris, Sr.**  
*15th Fifth District Representative*

Bro CleArthur Morris, Sr. transitioned to Omega Chapter on June 28, 2020. Bro Morris was born August 24, 1945 in Eads, Tennessee. He graduated from Mt. Pisgah High School in 1963 as the Class Salutatorian and was recognized as an outstanding student athlete. For his hard work, Bro. CleArthur Morris, Sr. was awarded a basketball scholarship to LeMoyne-Owen College. Bro. CleArthur Morris, Sr. became a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1966 through the Chi Psi Chapter on the campus of LeMoyne-Owen College.

He graduated with a degree in Mathematics and Science in 1967. Bro. CleArthur Morris, Sr. had several distinguished careers with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Sports, Fishing and Wildlife, and finally with Equal Opportunity Employment Commission where he retired from in 2006. Bro. Morris' passion evolved around public service, lending time to the NAACP, National Civil Rights Museum, Voters Registration and the Boys Club just to name a few.

Bro. CleArthur Morris, Sr. served his beloved fraternity Epsilon Phi Chapter and the Fifth District faithfully for fifty-six years in a number of positions: Fifth District Representative, Member of the Omega Life Membership Foundation Board of Directors, Pan-Hellenic Council Representative, Audit Committee Chairman, Budget Committee, Uplift Board and chapter Parliamentarian under several administrations.

# Brother Bishop Bobby R. Best

*Presiding Prelate, Ninth Episcopal District*

Bishop Bobby R. Best was the eighth of nine children and the sixth son, born April 9, 1956 in Wilson NC to AD and Helen Summerville Best. Bishop Best joined Faith CME Church in 1978 after graduating from college and relocating to Charlotte where his new job landed him. He preached his initial sermon at Faith in 1980 and served as local preacher for six years, during that time he assisted and was trained by three pastors, Rev. Robyn Gool, Rev. Anthony Williams and Rev. Willie J. Sturgess.

Bishop Best had a BS degree in Business Administration from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, (1979), a Masters of Divinity degree from Duke University, Durham, NC (1991), a Doctorate of Ministry degree from the Interdenominational Theology Center (Phillips School of Theology), Atlanta, GA (2006).



Bishop Best was ordained as a Deacon in 1986, as an Elder in 1988 and went into Full Connection in 1990 in the Carolina Annual Conference by one of his mentors and friend, Bishop Oree Broomfield, Sr. Bishop Best was also mentored and prepared for Episcopal Ministry by Bishop Charles Helton and Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr., his Episcopal Father in the ministry.

Bishop Best pastored six churches in three episcopal districts in his 28 years of pastoral ministry. His pastoral assignments included Brooklyn CME Church, Chesnee, SC (1986-1988); Young Missionary Temple CME Church, Raleigh, NC (1988-1992); Broomfield CME Church, (1992-1996); St. John CME Church, Winston-Salem, NC (1996-2006); Greater Cleaves Memorial CME Church, Oklahoma City, OK (2006-2010) and Metropolitan CME Church, Houston, TX (2010-2014).

His ministry was characterized by Evangelism, Christian Education, Prayer, Stewardship, and Community Service. He served as Director of Youth, Director of Young Adult, and Director of Evangelism for the Carolina Region for 14 years. Bishop Best chaired the Joint Board of Finance for the Oklahoma Region and served as Treasurer for the Southeast Texas Region. Bishop Best conducted many worships throughout the CME Church on stewardship, evangelism, and officers training.

During his ministry in Gastonia, NC, Bishop Best was the Founder and President of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, Vice President of Drug and Crime Task Force, and Adjunct Chaplain at Gaston Memorial Hospital, as well as on the Medical Bioethics Board-Gaston Memorial Hospital, founding Co-chair of Advocate for Healthy Citizens (school-linked healthcare center) and Myrtle Community Spirit Man of the Year-1995.

In Winston-Salem, Bishop Best served on the following boards: Infant Mortality Reduction Board, Today Woman Health & Wellness Center, Crisis Control Ministries, YMCA, Urban League, AIDS Care Services, North Carolina Council of Churches and Commission on Religion in the Appalachia (CORA). Honors bestowed upon Bishop Best include Winston-Salem Human Relations Commission, Humanitarian Award (2000), and Phillip School of Theology (ITC) Distinguished Award for Ministry (2004). Bishop Best also served as a reading tutor for 3rd graders at Kimberly Park Elementary School.

In Oklahoma, Bishop Best was a member of Oklahoma Conference of Churches and he tutored and mentored 3rd through 5th graders in math and reading at the Martin Luther King Elementary School in Oklahoma City, OK as part of his church's ministry One Church One School.

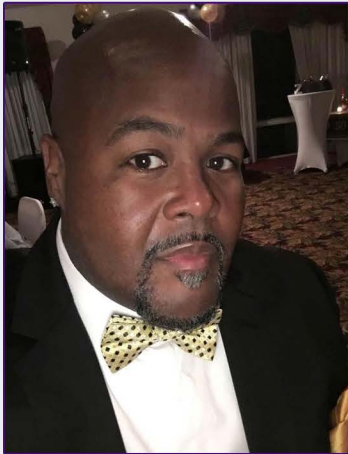
In Houston, Bishop Best was a member of Harris County Council of Organizations and the NAACP. He served on the Board of Trustees at Texas College. He was honored for outstanding community service by Congressman Al Green at a social justice rally held at Metropolitan CME in 2013.

Bishop Best was a lifetime member of Omega Phi Psi Fraternity and a member of the Tau Tau Chapter in Los Angeles, CA. Bishop Best was elected the 61st Bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church on the first ballot on July 1, 2014, in Baltimore, Maryland. He was assigned to the 9th Episcopal District (Western United States).

Bishop Best died on August 2, 2020. He is survived by his wife Jacqueline Howard Best, children Brandon Girard Best and Bridgette Michelle Best, and grandchildren Brandon Girard Best, Jr. (BJ) and Cameron Jamie Best (CJ).

## Brother Mark Walter Boston

*Certified Medical Technician*



**Columbia, MD** – Bro. Mark W. Boston entered Omega Chapter on Thursday, April 2, 2020. He was initiated into the Fraternity on April 3, 1988 through Zeta Chapter at Virginia Union University. Bro. Boston was born January 1, 1966 in Baltimore, MD. He was educated in the Baltimore County Public School System.

Professionally, he was employed with Catholic Charities as a Certified Medical Technician in Timonium, MD and subsequently as a Behavioral Instructor with the ARC of Baltimore. Due to his up bringing in inner city sports, Bro. Boston became a coach in the James Mosher Little League baseball. He also coached youth football for the Reisterstown Mustangs.

Bro. Boston leaves to cherish his memory are his son, brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, grand and great grand nieces and nephews. He had a host of godchildren, great grand god children and friends.

## Brother Floyd Breeland

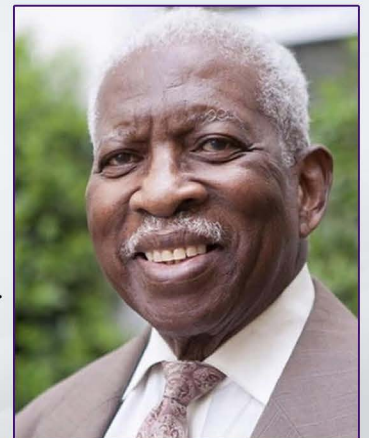
*The Honorable*

**Charleston, SC** – The Honorable Floyd Breeland, 87, of Charleston, South Carolina, formerly of St. George, SC, passed away peacefully in his sleep on August 11, 2020, at his residence surrounded by love.

He will be laid to rest in St. James Cemetery, St. George, South Carolina. Floyd was born August 5, 1933 to the late Lucius and the late Lillian Cummings Breeland. He had one older brother, the late James C. Breeland. He attended Willams Memorial High School (Diploma); Allen University (Bachelors); and, Indiana University (Masters).

After serving in the US Army, Floyd worked for 33 years in the Education field as a teacher, administrator and Vice-Principal. After his first retirement, he became a Legislator in the SC State House of Representatives (District 111- Charleston) for 16 years. After his second retirement, he became the Director of the Call Me Mister Program at the College of Charleston for 10 more years. His third retirement was in August 2018. He has been a long-time member, serving in many capacities, of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Downtown Charleston, SC. He was known as a “people-person” passionate, fun and loving.

Floyd leaves to cherish his loving memory; his wife, Felicia Scott Breeland; son, LeVanza Floyd Breeland (Deborah); granddaughter, Martina Cameron; 2 great-granddaughters, LaNaya and Lindsey and many nieces, nephews, cousins and step-children.



## Brother Malcolm M. Brown

*Artist and Educator*



Brother Malcolm M. Brown entered Omega Chapter on October 1, 2020. He was initiated into Omega through Nu Psi Chapter in 1953 on the campus of Virginia State University. While at Virginia State Bro. Brown earned his degree in fine arts education. Bro. Brown later earned a master's in arts education at Case Western Reserve. Brother Brown upon graduation served as a member of the US Army where he had an unofficial artistic Fullbright Fellowship. Professionally, he served as an art instructor in the Woodbury and Shaker Heights school system from 1974 to 2010. In 1973, Bro. Brown was elected to membership in the American Watercolor Society, the most prestigious organization for watercolorists. Bro. Brown also owned the Malcolm Brown Art Gallery in Shaker Heights from 1980 to 2011. Malcolm Brown's Gallery was one of America's first Black-owned for-profit galleries devoted to African American Art. The gallery featured the works of Elizabeth Catlett, Romare Bearden, Carolyn Mazloomi, Hughie Lee-Smith, Moe Brooker, Selma Burke, and Brown himself as well as a multitude of worldly artists. Bro. Brown's portrait "Groovin" was displayed recently posthumously at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

## Brother Kelvin Bryant

*Omega Man*

Brother Kelvin Bryant entered Omega chapter on Thursday, April 23, 2020. A memorial service was held but social distancing and other restrictions related to COVID-19 pandemic limited the home-going memorial service attendance. Bro. Bryant was a shining example of the cardinal principles of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He was a man devoted to God, family, and fraternity.

Brother Bryant joined Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. via Delta Alpha Chapter on April 29, 2004. He quickly became the most awarded brother in the chapter with multiple years Omega Man of the Year and Superior Service awards. Even with all of his accomplishments Bro. Bryant only cared that he was able to serve. Bro. Bryant was a graduate of Central State University and had a fervor for learning. The newly established Kelvin Bryant Scholarship Fund is a tribute and recognition of his love for new knowledge and wisdom.

## Brother John London Clark, Jr.

*Omega Man*



Bro. John London Clark, Jr. entered Omega Chapter on Friday, April 3, 2020. He was born on October 21, 1942 in Norfolk, Virginia. He was the son of the late John London Clark, Sr, and Myrtle (Nicholson) Clark and was raised in Washington D.C. He was an alumnus of Archbishop Carroll High School (1960); St. Bonaventure University (B.A. – 1964); Howard University School of Social Work (MSW – 1967); and the University of Maryland School of Law (J.D. – 1981).

John is survived by his wife of 54 years, Gail (Pollard) Clark, his daughter, Elizabeth Clark Adams, his grandson Ethan Timothy Adams, one brother, Steven T. Clark and a host of other relatives and friends. Bro. Clark was a member of Tau Pi Chapter, Columbia, MD where he was initiated March 1985 as a member of the Incredible 13 Line of Men. God Bless Bro. John London Clark, Jr., and the Friendships he inspired over the years.

## Brother Leonard Douglas

*Teacher, Counselor and Principal*

Bro. Leonard Douglas transitioned to Omega Chapter on December 12, 2020. He was born on August 8, 1831 in Detroit, Michigan. Bro. Douglas was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. through Gamma Sigma Chapter, on the campus of Alabama State University in 1951. He later joined Nu Omega Chapter in Detroit, Michigan, serving as the Basileus from 1975-1980. Bro. Douglas had a distinguished career in education, working for Detroit Public Schools as a teacher, counselor and principal.

## Brother Charles Edward Elliott

*Mentor*



Brother Charles Edward Elliott, born June 7, 1955 transitioned to Omega Chapter on November 5, 2020. He was initiated on the Charter Line of Gamma Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity on May 1, 1976 at Salisbury State University. Bro. Elliott was elected Basileus of the undergraduate chapter. He was instrumental in chartering Chi Kappa Chapter Intermediate Chapter in Baltimore, MD. and was a member of Pi Omega graduate Chapter in Baltimore, MD. A 44 year Life Member, he received the Founder's Stand-In Award at the 70th Second District Conference, held in Baltimore, MD.

Educated in Baltimore Public Schools, he graduated from Woodlawn High School in 1974, lettering in football, baseball and wrestling. He was the founder and President of the Black Student Association at Woodlawn. Upon graduation, matriculating to Salisbury State University, he lettered in football and served as President of the Black Student Union. Brother Elliott, instrumental in bringing national activists such as Benjamin Hooks, Dick Gregory, Stokely Carmichael and Vernon Jordan to visit the university, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work in 1978 from Salisbury State University.

Professionally, Bro. Elliott served as an agent for the Department of Parole and Probation for the State of Maryland for over 41 years. He was held in high esteem for his commitment and professionalism.

A true champion of youth sports, Bro. Elliott's decades of volunteering included coaching Woodlawn youth football, baseball and representing Maryland and the Eastern Region for Pop Warner. In addition to supporting youth through athletics, Bro. Elliott emphasized prioritizing education, and conducted college tours. Because of his dedication to mentoring youth, a scholarship fund has been named in his honor at Woodlawn Recreation Center. He is survived by his devoted wife Coria, six children and a devoted Brother and Omega Man, Van Elliott.



## Brother Timothy "Tim" Francis

*Detective*

Bro. Francis was born March 7, 1970 in Washington, D.C.. Bro Francis was initiated through Alpha Omega Chapter in 2011.

Bro Francis was a highly decorated 20 year veteran of the Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C..

He served the fraternity as an investigator, Keeper of Peace and Security detail for various events and celebrations.

## Brother Dr. James G. Hawkins

*Artist and Educator*

Brother Dr. James G. Hawkins better known as “J G” transitioned to Omega Chapter on May 6, 2020. Bro. Dr. Hawkins was born in Raleigh, North Carolina on January 23, 1924 and attended Washington High School graduating as the school’s valedictorian. Bro. Dr. Hawkins served his country through the United States Army as a Chief Computer and was honorably discharged in 1946. Bro. Dr. Hawkins attended Howard University graduating Cum Laude in 1949 with Chemistry.

Bro Dr. James G. Hawkins continued his educational dream and received a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Meharry Medical College in 1953. Bro. Dr. Hawkins became a very proud member of Omega Psi Phi Brother, Dr. Hawkins continued to serve Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. through Epsilon Phi Chapter in various capacities as the Keeper of Record and Seals (1959), Vice Basileus (1960), and Chaplain (1983 / 84). For his outstanding service, Brother, Dr. Hawkins was rewarded twice with the Basileus Award in (1968 / 84).

## Brother William Hicks

*Educator and Coach*

Bro. Hicks entered Omega Chapter on October 29, 2020. He was initiated on June 15, 1984 through Zeta Omega Chapter. He earned his degree in Physical Education and Corrective Therapy at Central State University. Hicks earned a Master’s in Orientation and Mobility at the University of Pittsburgh.

Brother Hicks developed the Blind Mobility program for students with visual deficits over the entire school district. He worked for 40 years for the Cleveland Public School System as a teacher, coach, and administrator.

## Brother Frank Hornbuckle

*Rocket Scientist*

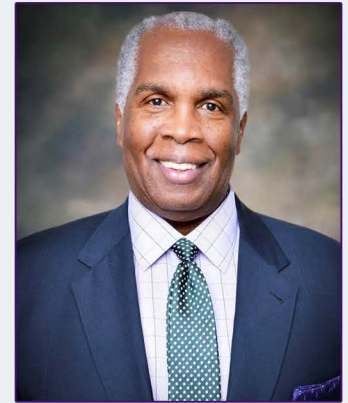
Bro. Hornbuckle was born January 19, 1941, in Birmingham, AL and initiated into the Fraternity in 2004 through Alpha Omega Chapter. He was an electrical engineer educated at Tennessee State University (BS) and Rutgers University (MS). He was an active member the 19th Street Baptist Church where he served in various capacities. Bro. Hornbuckle made history with his participation in both the “Apollo Moon Shot” space launch and the “Themes Space Project” which he oversaw. The Themes Space Project was the 1st launch of more than 5 Satellites in orbit at one time.

## Brother Calvin Wayne Jackson

*Administrator and Educator*

The Honorable (Deacon) Calvin “Chip” Wayne Jackson was born on September 23, 1955 and transitioned on Friday, August 7, 2020. He was a son of Mrs. Willie Mae Farley Jackson and the late Robert Jackson. Reared in a Christian home, he was Chairman of the Deacon Board and served as Vice Chair of the Executive Board of Trustees at Bible Way Church of Atlas Road.

He served as the Chief Operating Officer for Administration at Bible Way Church of Atlas Road from 2005 until December 2016.



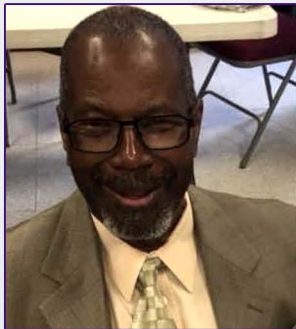
Deacon Jackson earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of South Carolina, as well as a Master’s Degree in Public Administration/Public Policy from the College of Charleston. At the time of his passing, Councilman Jackson was serving District 9 on the Richland County Council. Prior to being elected to County Council, he served eight years on the Richland School District 2 Board of Trustees, ending his term in November 2016. He served as Board Chairman for two terms. Mr. Jackson served as Deputy Superintendent with the S.C. Department of Education from 1999 to 2005. Prior to working at the department of education, he was Director of the downtown Palmer Campus of Trident Technical College (TTC). Before his career at TTC, he was the College Registrar at the College of Charleston. His career in higher education began at the University of South Carolina as an Admissions Officer. Mr. Jackson also served for more than 10 years on the South Carolina After-School Alliance.

He served as the chair of the Alliance for the majority of that time. Councilman Jackson is survived by his wife, Mrs. Patricia Legette Jackson, a retired professional educator and teacher at Ridge View High School in Columbia; two children, Regis Alexander (Kisha) Jackson and Cass Farley (Brent) Jackson Smith; his mother, Mrs. Willie Mae Farley Jackson; a granddaughter; a brother, Deacon Kenyatta Jackson; other loving cousins, relatives and friends.

**Brother Col (ret)  
Willard Owen Jasper**  
*Chaplain Emeritus*

Bro Jasper was born August 15, 1936 in Cunard WV. He was initiated through Theta Psi Chapter in 1956. He earned his BS in Mathematics and ROTC Army Medical Commission from West Virginia State College. Bro. Jasper was a chapter member of Psi Alpha Alpha chapter and Chaplain Emeritus of the Third District

**Brother Leroy  
Douglas McClain, Jr.**  
*Omega Man*



With heavy hearts, we announce the death of Leroy Douglas McClain Jr. (Orangeburg, South Carolina), born in Florence, South Carolina. He passed away on July 25, 2020 at the age of 76. He was predeceased by: his parents, Leroy McClain

Sr. and Ella Mae Stevenson-McClain. He is survived by: his wife Deloris Darby McClain of Orangeburg, SC; his children, LaTonya Vickie Lemon (Joe) of Augusta, GA, Ellen M. Wilson (Duran) of Elk Grove, CA, Marquita Shavon McClain of Richmond, VA, Mark Edwin McClain (Keyha) and Michael Douglas McClain (Wanda) of Orangeburg, SC; his siblings-in-law, Helen Darby and Leroyal Darby; his grandchildren, Latasha (Kevin), Moneka (D'Wayne), Anita (Gregory), Washika, Christopher, Andre, Kionna, Heavenly, Makayla, McKenzie, Mark Jr., Asia, Alexander and Alexis; his great grandchildren, Christian, Chasity, Cloe, Chyna, Chris Michael, Cameron, Tonya and Brittani; his godchildren, Cynthia Obioha, Wendell Hillard and Harry Zimmerman; and also, Henrietta McClain, Janice Hawkins, Frances McClain, Carrie Mae McClain, Shirley Autry and Mary Louise Stevenson. He is also survived by other relatives and friends.

**Brother Robert McGlotten**  
*Economic Development Official*



**Columbia, MD** – Bro. Robert McGlotten entered Omega Chapter on Wednesday, July 22, 2020 in Poinciana, FL. He was initiated into the Fraternity in 1975 through Kappa Psi chapter in Washington, DC. Bro.

McGlotten was born January 18, 1952 in Salisbury, MD. Educationally, he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Subsequently, he earned a Master of Science in Social Work and Community Planning.

Professionally, Bro. McGlotten worked as an Economic Development Official in Maryland State Government in Arundel and Montgomery Counties.

Bro. McGlotten was a financial member of Alpha Omega, Mu Rho and Tau Pi Chapters. He served as a Basileus of Mu Rho Chapter. He was extremely astute in his knowledge of Robert's Rule of Orders which enabled him to execute extremely proficiently Parliamentary Procedures during chapter meetings. Bro. McGlotten and his lovely Delta wife Carolyn worked with the Tau Pi Mentoring Committee each December to present a Kwanzaa program for Senior Citizens at Harmony Hall located in Columbia, MD.

Bro. McGlotten is survived by his wife Carolyn McGlotten and sister Cathy McGlotten. They have four children – Robert III, Rashad, Raven and Robyn. Due to covid-19, an Omega Service and family services will be held at a later date.

**Brother David R. Mitchell**  
*City Official*

Bro. David R. Mitchell entered Omega Chapter on October 21, 2020. He was initiated on December 1, 1972 through Upsilon Chapter on the campus of Wilberforce University. He earned his degree in Political Science in 1975.

Brother Mitchell was a long-serving member of Zeta Omega chapter. He held a number of positions and on numerous occasions, he was awarded the Chapter Man of the Year. Professionally, Mitchell served as the Cemetery Manager for the City of Cleveland until his retirement.

## **Brother Jonathan Kevin “Malik” Mosley, Sr.**

*Human Service Professional*



Bro. Jonathan Kevin “Malik” Mosley, Sr., Life Member #8415, transitioned to Omega Chapter on March 28, 2020. Initiated into Pi Omega Chapter in Baltimore City on April 24, 1999, he was Number 8 on a line of 11, known as Kool and the Gang.

A devoted father and grandfather, Bro. Mosley completed his undergraduate Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Morgan State University. His love of music led him to become a member with the Morgan State Marching Band, He also served as President of the Political Science club at Morgan. Bro Malik was ambitious, intelligent and committed to his beliefs. Bro. Malik continued his educational aspirations by completing a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Coppin State University in 2000. He received Pi Omega Chapter’s highest honor as the recipient of Chapter Omega Man of the Year in 2009 and served as Basileus of Pi Omega Chapter from 2012-2014.

Professionally, Bro. Mosley was a dedicated human service professional with more than 19 years of service with Sheppard Pratt (Mosaic Community Service). He was promoted as supervisor as a result of his hard work, demonstrated leadership over the consistent years of service and his zeal to remain at the top of his field through continued education. Motivated by his professional career, he started an organization called Metaro, designed to provide counseling for youth and young adults. Bro. Mosley also had an entrepreneurial spirit. Over the last 40 years he turned his favorite past time, sharing music, spinning music, into being the # 1 DJ and turning this business into “Old School Productions”, a premier DJ services for parties of all occasions.

As President of the Loch Raven Improvement Association for more than two decades, under his leadership, that community mobilized and successfully resolved issues plaguing the Community. Fraternally, Brother Mosley served on numerous committees such as but not limited to; the Facilities Management Committee, Homecoming Tent Day Party Committee, Mardi Gras Committee, Undergraduate Advisory Committee, International Membership and Selection Program Committee, Nominations Committee and 70th District Conference Committee.

## **Brother Michael Durwood Murrell**

*Father, Grandfather, Mentor, Humanitarian, Church Worker and Businessman*

Bro. Michael Durwood Murrell was a man of great accomplishments and many gifts – a father, grandfather, mentor, humanitarian, church worker and businessman. Yet he was also a man of great humility who was able to mentor students and enjoy friendship with everyone from neighbors to some of his generation’s most influential people. He transitioned Tuesday April 28, 2020 at Emory Dekalb Medical Hospital. The oldest of three children, Michael was born on August 1, 1954 in Kinston, North Carolina to Robert Lee Murrell and Etta Brinton Murrell. He was reared in Trenton, North Carolina and received his early childhood education in the Jones County Public School System. He was a graduate of Jones Senior High School Class of 1972. After graduating from Jones Senior High School, Mike as he was so fondly called, attended Winston-Salem State University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology in 1976.

During his tenure at WSSU, he was a proud member of the marching band, Student Government Association, and Editor-in-Chief of the Ram Yearbook. As an undergraduate, he joined the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. through the Mu Epsilon Chapter in Fall 1973. He truly exemplified the cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. While in school he met Rita Hope Winchester and they were united in marriage. As a proud and committed Ram, he was a lifetime member of the Winston-Salem State University National Alumni Association and never missed the opportunity to attend homecoming, and other school events. Later he attended North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University where he received his Master’s Degree in Educational Media and Communications. His choices in higher education would prove to be a trailblazing decision that would lead and encourage multiple generations to come.



**Bro. Michael Durwood Murrell**

He started his career as a loader at Overnite Transportation. Being the hard worker that we all know, he began working at Craven Community College at the same time. Overnite later offered him a Manager Trainee position, first African American Terminal Manager. He worked at several locations and returned to North Carolina in 1989 as a Training Consultant with North Carolina Department of Transportation.

He was presented an opportunity with Volume Services America as Vice- President of Operations. His responsibilities included stadium operations for the Washington Redskins, New York Yankees, and Carolina Panthers. This opportunity inspired him to become an entrepreneur like his grandfather. He started Carolina Concessions with a single trailer selling “Eastern NC Style Chopped Barbeque Sandwiches.” This was way before “food trucks” were cool. This venture opened doors for partnerships with colleges and universities in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Virginia. He expanded his menu to include the best Italian Sausages and Philly Cheesesteaks.

Michael’s tenacity, strong work ethic, and willingness to invest, led him to new adventures. His first location was the Tea Room in Anderson, South Carolina. Later he moved to Atlanta, Georgia, which was an awesome move for him. He established Murrell’s Café @ Scholars, which was known for the “Best Soul Food and Sweet Tea” in Atlanta. He was also the proud owner of Murrell’s Old Plant Diner in Trenton, North Carolina which is family operated. Through his businesses, Michael was able to sow seeds into the life of many people, especially young people by providing jobs, mentorships, and opportunities.

Michael accepted Christ at an early age at St. Matilda Free Will Baptist Church and participated in various ministries. He was a member of First Calvary Baptist Church in Durham, North Carolina and Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. There he used his time, talents, and treasures to glorify God within the church and community.

He had a special love for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He was a graduate member of Eta Omega Chapter, Atlanta GA and Kappa Alpha Alpha Chapter, Decatur GA. His outstanding service to the Fraternity earned him numerous awards and was named Omega Man of the Year. He was the first in the family to become an Omega Man. He was a member of the ESPN Celebration Bowl Executive Committee, where he continued his efforts in recruiting students, retaining black scholars and athletes. He had a passion to financially support Historically Black Colleges & Universities.

Michael was known for his deep love of family. He was caring, concerned, and always incredibly supportive. His vision allowed family members to work together in various roles that enhanced their abilities to become leaders and business owners. It was his belief that everyone should be given an opportunity to pursue their goals and/or dreams.

Michael was preceded in death by his father Robert Murrell, Grandparents: Matthew and Ida Kinsey Murrell, Garland and Lila Ann Brinton. He leaves precious memories to his family whom he loved: Mother Etta Brinton Murrell of Trenton NC; daughters, Jessica Hope Murrell Berryman (Richard); Destinee Eleece Martin - both of Durham, NC; sister, Teresa Murrell Huddleston (Henry) of Katy, TX; brother Robert Lee Murrell, Jr. (Denetris) of Ellenwood, GA; three grandchildren that he ADORED, Kennedy Hope Berryman, Langston Olivia Berryman and Richard Crompton Berryman, IV; his ‘favorite’ niece and nephew, Amber Elaine Murrell and Henry Clarence Huddleston, IV; aunt, Joyce Brinton Flowers (Bobby); uncles, Garland Sylester Brinton III (Shirley), Alton Brinton (Sonzia), Wright Brinton, Victor Brinton and Wilson Murrell; special friend, Pamela Washington; special cousins Curtis Waters, Willie Brown; and a host of other cousins and friends. Michael’s love for family was like sisters and brothers, rather than aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.



# Alpha Mu Nu Celebrate the Life of Brother John Robinson

*“Life Member #129”*



**Easton, PA.** October 19, 2020. Bro. John Moses Robinson, Spr. 69, Chi Chapter, Lifetime Member #129, entered Omega Chapter on Tuesday, October 13, 2020. Born on May 22, 1945, in Montgomery, GA., Bro. Robinson spent his early years living in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Easton, PA, where he graduated from Easton Area High School. He later continued his education at Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, Florida. Initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. through Chi Chapter in the Spring of 1969, he proudly served the Fraternity for 51 years with various chapters in Washington, D.C., Kappa Omega Chapter in Harrisburg, PA, Omega Xi and Alpha Mu Nu Chapter in the Lehigh Valley and the Pocono region of Pennsylvania. Bro. Robinson was a highly skilled entrepreneur and businessman. He founded Black Diamond Enterprises, Ltd., a stainless steel manufacturing company, in 1976 in Washington, D.C. Through the years, he successfully spearheaded significant projects, both nationally and locally.

His final project, The Mills at Easton, exemplifies his commitment to the community. His involvement with organizations includes The Northampton County Prison Board, Easton Branch NAACP, Women’s League of Voters, and AARP.

He leaves behind his four children, cousins, nieces, nephews, and dear friends. Funeral services for Brother John Robinson were held at The Greater Shiloh Church in Easton, PA.

## Brother Earl Howard Saunders

*Lieutenant Colonel*

**Columbia, MD** – Bro. Earl Saunders entered Omega Chapter on Tuesday, May 12, 2020. He was initiated into the Fraternity in 1954 through Eta Gamma Chapter at Central State University. Saunders was born July 18, 1935 in Bridgeport, CT. Bro. Saunders received his Bachelor of Science degree from Central State University in Wilberforce, OH in 1957. He earned a Master of Arts degree in 1974 from Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, MI.

Prior to obtaining his Master Degree, Bro Saunders served 20 years in the Military. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Ordinance Corps in 1957 and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1977. He had active overseas duty assignments in Korea, Germany, Thailand and Vietnam.

Bro. Saunders, upon retirement in the military found his passion in service of Howard County Community Services. He was involved in the Chamber of Commerce; Small Business committee; Economic Development Advisory committee; Rotary Club; and a myriad of others.

Tau Pi Chapter was chartered in 1975. Bro. Saunders eventually became a financial member later in the decade. During Achievement Week in 1979 and 1982, he received the chapter’s Business Man of the Year Award. From 1982 to 1984, He served as the chapter 5th Vice Basileus.

Bro. Saunders is survived by his former wife Carrie M. Saunders, daughter Sabrina F. Saunders-Hodge. He also leaves to cherish his memory a host of nephews, nieces, grandchildren, godchildren, military colleagues, former co-workers and countless friends.

## Brother Dr. William Herman Sweet

*Educator*

Bro Dr William Herman Sweet transitioned to Omega Chapter on March 28, 2020. Bro Sweet graduated from Booker T. Washington High School (’44), Tennessee A&I (now TSU: Bachelors ’49, Masters ’56) and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (EdD ’72). One of his fondest memories was working as a Pullman Porter

*Brother Dr. William Herman Sweet*

on the Canadian Railroad while on summer break at TSU. He enlisted in both the US Navy and Army from which he was honorably discharged. Upon completing college, he joined the Memphis City Schools (MCS) as a teacher and football coach at Melrose High School in 1949.

Over his thirty-seven-year career with MCS, he rose through the ranks as principal at several schools and ultimately became the South Area Superintendent before his retirement in 1986. Additional highlights of his MCS career include being: a member of the planning committee for integrating the schools, a beloved mentor for the development of numerous Black educators/administrators, a member of the Commission on Secondary Schools for Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, a member of the National Alliance of Black School Educators, for the first funded Upwards Bound Program at Lemoyne-Owen College, and for initiating the South Area Honors Award for Memphis City Schools. This medal for academic excellence was renamed the WH Sweet Honors Program upon his retirement in 1986 and is awarded at this time throughout the current Shelby County School system.

Bro. Dr. Sweet established A D Consultants and Associates during the 1970s and one of his largest clients was Buckeye Cellulose Corporation, a subsidiary of the Proctor and Gamble Company, where he acted as a Racial Awareness Consultant. His post-retirement positions included: Executive Director of Jobs for Tennessee Graduates, Program Director of the Southeast Mental Health Center, Director of a rehabilitation center for alcohol and drug addiction, Principal at Father Bertrand Elementary School, starring in a national KC Masterpiece BBQ sauce commercial, Adjunct Professorship at Lemoyne-Owen College, Shelby State Community College and University of Memphis and a Shelby County Grand Jury Foreman.

## Brother Randolph “Randy” Thompson

*Educator*

Bro. Randolph “Randy” Thompson transitioned to Omega Chapter on August 7, 2020. Life member #1528, he was initiated at Morgan State College, Pi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated in December 1951.



Mergenthaler Voc-Tech High School. He was promoted to the Dept Head of the Guidance Department at Mervo High School. He completed his professional work as the Assistant Principal at Dunbar High School from 1978 to 1992. He dedicated almost 35 years of service to our youth and the education community in directing and supporting the lives of our children.

Educated in Baltimore public schools, Bro. Thompson graduated from Dunbar High School and earned a Bachelor’s degree from Morgan State College (now University) with honors in 1955. He was also inducted into the Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society in 1952. Bro. Thompson served in the United States Army from 1955-1957 earning the rank of Lieutenant. He also served with the 11th Airborne Division in Germany. Following his service Bro. Thompson matriculated to receive a Master’s degree at Western Michigan University in 1969, and a Master’s degree from American University in 1970.

Professionally, Bro. Thompson worked as a dedicated Educator in Baltimore City. Beginning as a teacher at Lemmel Jr. High School, then 10 years teacher at Edmondson High School, next he worked as a school Counselor at Edmondson High and

Fraternally, he held the following positions: Chapter Member at Large, Chapter Social Action Chairman, Achievement Week Committee Chair, and Chapter Talent Hunt Chairman, and served the five state District Social Action Chairman. He was a life member of the Morgan State Alumni Association. Even so, Bro. Thompson still had time to teach church school for 14 years at Epworth United Methodist Chapel, served on the board for the Liberty Road Development Corporation, a board member of Essex Community College Nuclear Medicine program. He set up a scholarship fund for teenage mothers at Dunbar High in memory of his mother, Ms. Magaline Thompson, and worked with the Dunbar High School Alumni Association’s Foster Grandparent program.

## Brother Thomas Vaughn

*Distinguished Attorney*

Bro. Thomas Vaughn transitioned to Omega Chapter on November 26, 2020. He was born in 1952 in Arkansas. Bro. Vaughn was initiated through Omicron Pi Chapter in 1975. He was active with several chapters, and on December 7, 2004, he became a Charter Member of Chi Lambda Lambda Chapter in Matteson, Illinois. A retired United States Army Veteran, had a distinguished career as an attorney. He also served as the Chapter 13 Trustee for the Northern District of Illinois, appointed by former U.S. Attorney General, Janet Reno. He was an active member of Chi Lambda Lambda Chapter until his transition.

## Brother George R. Warren

*Omega Man*

Bro. George R. Warren was born in Laurel, Mississippi on October 22, 1945. He attended and graduated from Oak Park High School in Laurel, Mississippi. Bro. George R. Warren chose to further his educational pursuit, he enrolled in the Alcorn State University. While attending Alcorn University, Bro. Warren became a very proud member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in 1965. Bro. Warren graduated in 1966, after graduation moved to Memphis, Tennessee. Bro. Warren took the road of employment and there were many roads, he selected State Farm Insurance.

## Brother Lt. Col (Ret.) Charles Waylon Wiggins Jr.

*Hospital Operator and Administrator*

Bro. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Charles Waylon Wiggins Jr. entered Omega Chapter on July 11, 2020. Bro. Wiggins was initiated through Pi Chapter in 1955 at Morgan State University. While at Morgan, Bro. Wiggins completed the Reserved Officers Training Course (ROTC) and then graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biological Sciences. After graduation Brother Wiggins attended and graduated from the U. S. Army Medical Services Corps Schools, specializing in operating and administering hospitals. Bro. Wiggins, a Vietnam veteran, is survived by his wife of 55 years E. Barbara Wiggins (herself a Lt. Colonel (Ret.). Also, UVVI). Bro. Wiggins and his wife served in numerous posts throughout Europe and the United States. Brother Wiggins, an active and dedicated member of Omicron Iota Chapter, will be truly missed.

## Brother Chester K. Williams

*Omega Man*



Brother Chester K. Williams transitioned to Omega Chapter on September 118, 2020. Born in Dawn, VA, he attended the University of Maryland, College Park, earning a B.S. Degree in Biology. During his tenure at UM, Chester served as a

Resident Assistant in Hagerstown Dormitory. In 1975, Brother Chester, decided to follow the trail blazed by his sibling, Brother Curtis Williams, 10 Pi 1973, Pi Chapter at Morgan State University, by pledging the Chi Delta Chapter to enter Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. After successfully completing his pledge period, Bro. Williams was initiated with his line brothers as a member of “8 the Hard Way” on 04/19/1975. Williams served in the positions of Vice Basileus, Basileus and chaired several committees for Chi Delta, along with being a delegate at district and national meetings. Upon graduation, Bro. Williams became employed as a Scientist and Laboratory Director with the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, MD., performing clinical and biological testing. Chester remained with N.I.H. throughout his career up until his untimely passing. Recently, he had submitted his paperwork to retire at the end of December 2020.

Bro. Williams was a lifelong worker for Omega. As a graduate, he was a member of Mu Nu Chapter in Montgomery County and Tau Pi Chapter in Prince George’s County, MD. With Tau Pi, he served in the positions of Keeper of Records and Seal, Vice Basileus, and Basileus. He also served as either chairman or committee member of numerous committees. Affectionately known as “Midnight Cowboy”, he was selected as one of Tau Pi’s Brothers to achieve the annual award of “Omega Man of the Year, Omega’s top honor, as well as several other awards for his outstanding service. He currently was serving as one of the lead mentors within Tau Pi’s Second District award winning Mentoring Program and on the steering committee for Tau Pi’s Scholarship Fund. While keeping Tau Pi as his primary chapter, Chester recently selected Chi Delta as his secondary chapter with their newly formed status as a graduate chapter in the Fraternity.

## Brother Walter Turner Williams, III

*Educator*



**Columbia, MD** – Bro. Walt Williams entered Omega Chapter on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at his home in Cornelius, North Carolina. He was initiated into the Fraternity through Pi Epsilon Chapter at University of Maryland, Eastern Shore on December 11, 1965. Bro. Williams was born October 20, 1944 in Montgomery County, MD.

Educationally, he attended Sherwood High School in Sandy Spring, MD and graduated in 1962. After graduation, he matriculated at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore. He graduated with a degree in Physical Education and Kinesiology in 1966.

Upon graduation from UMES, Walter was hired as a full-time teacher by the Montgomery County Public School system. He taught there for 37 years and retired in 2003.

Tau Pi Chapter in Columbia, MD was chartered in April 1975. Bro. Williams was a Founder and Chartered Member. In 2008, he relocated to Cornelius, North Carolina. He became a member of Pi Phi Chapter. Throughout his life, Bro. Williams sung on Church choirs. He joined the Charlotte, North Carolina Omega Ensemble. Bro. Walter Turner Williams, III is survived by his wife of 32 years, LaVonne Berndine Williams. He leaves to cherish two daughters, three sisters, one brother and a host of nieces, nephews, grandchildren and friends.

## Brother Russell M. Young, Jr.

*Purple Heart Recipient*

Bro. Russell M. Young Jr. born November 11, 1928 transitioned to Omega Chapter on October 26, 2020. He was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Pi Omega Chapter in Baltimore MD for 72 years. Initiated through Pi Chapter in 1948, while attending Morgan State College, Brother Young was a star football player; graduating in 1951 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education, Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.



A Korean War veteran, Bro. Young served with distinction and was awarded the Purple Heart for his heroic action in saving fellow squad members being held captive, despite his own severe wounds. Receiving numerous service badges, awards and metals, he was promoted to Captain and received an honorable discharge in 1965.

Professionally, he worked as a counselor at the University of Maryland and was recruited to enter the AT&T Executive Recruitment Program, where he learned all phases of the telecommunications company. During his tenure, he held positions as recruiter, trainer, manager, and department chief until his retirement.

An avid sports fan, he and his wife, Ann of 63 years, attended numerous Olympic Games around the world. Brother Young was devoted to his beloved Morgan State University and served as President of the Varsity “M” Club, a life member of the Morgan Alumni Association. Active members of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, he and his wife established two scholarship funds to help further the education of future Morgan students.

## Brother Ennis D. Winston

*Social Worker*

Jersey City, NJ.

Bro. Ennis D.

Winston entered Omega Chapter in April 2020. Bro.

Winston earned his bachelor’s degree from Lincoln University.

He spent his career as a dedicated social worker. Bro.

Winston was initiated into the Omega Psi

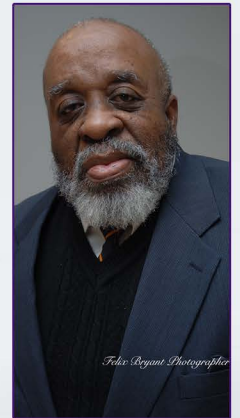
Phi Fraternity in 1957 through Beta

Chapter and was an active member of Upsilon Phi Chapter.

Even though his mobility was limited due to health

reasons, Bro. Winston was a regular at chapter meetings and was a mentor to the entire chapter.

He also assisted in Chartering Nu Lambda Lambda Chapter in Jersey City, NJ.



# DATA DRIVE

Greetings, Brothers!

For the past 12 months, our organization has committed a lot of time, energy, and resources to improve, revamp, and update the Fraternity's informational technology infrastructure. The foundation that has been laid by our IT Leader Brother Eric Dennard and our IT Committee has set us up for sustainable success as we serve Omega and her constituents.

In order for us to achieve our ultimate goal of having reliable, consistent, timely, and accurate data to make informative decisions and quality assessments, we will need your help. We are asking all Brothers (Financial or Reclaimable) to participate in our data drives during the months of January, February, and March. We are asking all members to update the various information sections in their membership profile in the new iQue system located on [members.oppf.org](https://members.oppf.org).

- ▶ Contact Information
- ▶ Address Information
- ▶ Emergency Contact
- ▶ Career Information
- ▶ Education History
- ▶ Military Information (If applicable)
- ▶ Social Media Handles (If applicable)



At the end of each month, we will reward a Brother who has updated all sections during the data drive with a token of appreciation.

Please note that if you have already taken the time to update your profile with the information noted above, you will also be eligible to receive the token of appreciation. To be sure, I ask that you log into your profile to make certain all your information is captured and reflected in the database accordingly.

Participating Brothers during the month of January 2021 will be entered into a drawing for an autographed Brother Shaquille O'Neal basketball. The token of appreciation will be different in the months of February 2021 and March 2021.

I thank you for taking the time to read this and participating in the data drive.

Continue to stay safe.

John Howard  
Executive Director  
JHoward@oppf.org | www.oppf.org

**UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION TODAY**  
**[MEMBERS.OPPF.ORG](https://members.oppf.org)**

## **Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Supports The 2021 MLK Day of Service**

“Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve.” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, once wrote. Dr. King also held the belief that “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

On behalf of our 41st Grand Basileus and myself, we strongly encourage members across the world to honor Dr. King’s life and teachings by engaging in volunteer service events both virtually and in person, on Monday, January 18, 2021.

So, it’s our job to pick up where Martin Luther King, Jr. left off. The best way to do this is by serving and uplifting our communities across the world.

As we know, service is no stranger to Omega men. We feed and clothe those in need, tutor and mentor our youth, support and engage with the NAACP, march and protest for justice, register voters and educate our communities about local, state and national elections. We aim to uplift and serve our communities better than any other organization founded.

Due to the pandemic, we are also advising brothers to be mindful and careful. If you are planning to volunteer in-person, please safeguard yourself and others by taking proper precautions (maintaining social distance, wearing masks, etc.) Out of an abundance of caution, several cities are discouraging traditional MLK Day marches and parades. As an alternative, please consider participating via streamed events to commemorate Dr. King’s legacy.

Martin Luther King Jr Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service. In keeping with the spirit of The MLK Day of Service, we are asking Omega men across the nation and throughout the world to continue adding to our record of more than one hundred nine years of service to our communities, and solidifying our commitment to our Cardinal Principle of Uplift.

Be careful, mindful, and safe. Social distancing requirements help ensure that this national day of service and day of great possibilities is a safe one for all.



*Sedrick Spencer*

Sedrick Spencer  
International Social Action  
Committee, Chair  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

*David Marion, Ph.D.*

David Marion, Ph.D.  
Grand Basileus,  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.





**“ BROTHERS, THE OMEGA TRAIN CONTINUES TO MOVE TO THE NEXT LEVEL, ARE YOU ON BOARD? ”**

Omega Brothers,

The International Reclamation and Retention committee of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., plays a vital role in the lifecycle of our chapters, districts and international membership. We are responsible for creating and providing programs and initiatives that focus on reclamation and retention and actively support the continued growth and development of our dynamic brotherhood.

Understanding that every member is an integral part of the foundation of Omega, we do not take financial membership for granted. Members are the most important component of our brotherhood and your level of commitment and active involvement directly impacts our overall success.

Our Reclamation and Retention theme “Each One Bring One“ is a call to action for every member to make it a personal commitment to Stay Omega Strong (SOS) - financial, actively involved and committed.

There is nothing wrong with asking a brother: Are you financial? Are you actively involved in the business of Omega? Are you committed to making sure that the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., continues to enjoy the rich legacy that our founders (Love, Cooper Coleman and Just) created and envisioned back in 1911? Brothers, starting the first black fraternity at a historically black university wasn’t easy, but it was necessary. Reclamation and Retention isn’t easy, but it’s necessary.

The goal for 2020-2021 is to have a minimum of 30,000 financial members, reclaim a minimum of 5,000 non-financial members, and retain at least 90 percent of the total financial members from 2019 -2020. Remember, the stronger our numbers, the bigger our voice.

Brothers, the Omega train continues to move to the next level, are you on board? If so, make Reclamation and Retention, one of our nationally mandated programs, a major priority and your personal commitment to “Each One Bring One.”

## **LONG LIVE THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.**



*Darryl Moore*

Brother Darryl Moore  
International Reclamation and Retention Chairman  
dmoine66@yahoo.com /  
(216) 659-5488

*Marion B. Williams*

Brother Marion B. Williams  
International Reclamation and Retention Vice Chairman  
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## OMEGA DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY RELIEF TEAM

We are excited to announce the formation of the Omega Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Relief Team. This team was formed to provide brothers with the necessary information to be prepared for an impending disaster as well as provide additional information concerning relief following a disaster.

We have aligned ourselves with organizations such as the Red Cross, the National Weather Service, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), and FEMA to provide brothers with the most up to date information to disseminate.

### **FEATURES:**

- ▶ EMERGENCY ALERTS
- ▶ FEDERAL RESOURCES
- ▶ COVID-19 RESOURCES
- ▶ HURRICANE RESOURCES
- ▶ FLOOD RESOURCES
- ▶ STORM UPDATES
- ▶ MUCH MORE

Director: Dr. Terrence Augillard  
Assistant Director: Terrance Course  
Email: [odpertmail@oppf.org](mailto:odpertmail@oppf.org)



FOR MORE INFO PLEASE VISIT  
**[WWW.OPPF.ORG/EMERGENCY-RELIEF-TEAM](http://WWW.OPPF.ORG/EMERGENCY-RELIEF-TEAM)**



# #OMEGAS EVERYWHERE



## #OmegaisEverywhere Captions

1. *Phi Phi Chapter feeds 1,000s during Thanksgiving Drive.*
2. *Epsilon Gamma Gamma toy drive.*
3. *Iota Nu chapter 2nd District working with Tau Chi chapter 13th district feeding those in Need.*
4. *Zeta Mu Nu helping out during the election helping to pass out water while people wait.*
5. *Chi Rho Food Distribution.*
6. *Epsilon Gamma Gamma toy drive.*
7. *The Brothers of the Omega Lambda Lambda and Pi Gamma Gamma chapters collaborated to provide food relief to the citizens of Metro Nashville.*
8. *Tau Rho Chapter Thanksgiving basket giveaway.*
9. *Phi Phi Chapter feeds 1,000s during Thanksgiving Drive.*
10. *On November 18, 2020 the Brothers of Sigma Omega chapter donated over 200 winter coats to the students of Woodlawn Elementary located on the southside of Chicago, IL.*
11. *Nu Nu Toy Drive.*
12. *Bro. Donte Jiggetts, Psi Nu Chapter hosts a Food Drive with Shiloh Baptist Church to feed 500 families.*
13. *Rho Xi Blood Drive - Freeport, TX.*
14. *The Bothers of Upsilon Omega gather to prepare and coordinate the delivery of 300 masks and box lunches to awaiting lines of cars and trucks during in conjunction with the St. Louis County NAACP Branch. Photo by Bro. Jayson "Jay" Jones | IHQ Staff Photographer.*
15. *Brothers of Beta Iota Chapter (Cincinnati, OH) partnered with the Cincinnati Freestore Foodbank and Lincoln Heights Missionary Baptist Church to provide healthy fresh foods for local families.*
16. *Bro. Ron Riggs and brothers of Eta Phi Uplift the Youth as to the importance of registering to Vote.*
17. *24th Youth Leadership Conference - Omega men in Los Angeles, California.*

# The ORACLE

VOLUME 89 \ NO. 40 \ WINTER 2021

*We are always seeking Brothers with an opinionated view to submit an editorial, a story idea, an article from the history and archives, a poem, or a photo.*

*If you have those desires, please email Bro. Norm Senior at [EditorToTheOracle@oppl.org](mailto:EditorToTheOracle@oppl.org)*



*Humbled and Honored to Serve as your Interim Editor*

**SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:  
OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC**

**ATTN: GRAND KRS  
3951 SNAPPINGER PARKWAY  
DECATUR, GA 30035.**





OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

# FOUNDERS' DAY



FRANK COLEMAN



EDGAR AMOS LOVE



OSCAR J. COOPER



DR. ERNEST E. JUST

FOUNDERS OF ΩΨΦ FRATERNITY, INC.

@OFFICIALOPPF

WATCH THE HISTORIC VIRTUAL FOUNDERS DAY AT  
[YOUTUBE.COM/OFFICIALOMEGAPSI PHI](https://www.youtube.com/officialomegapsiPhi)



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