

**THE**

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# **RACLE**

**OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INCORPORATED**

**WINTER 2020**

**FIGHTING COVID-19:  
A GLOBAL PANDEMIC**

**BROTHER DELON F.P.  
BRENNEN M.D.**

**THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL  
AND HEALTH INITIATIVES CHAIRMAN**



**MANHOOD, SCHOLARSHIP, PERSEVERANCE AND UPLIFT**

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# The Oracle

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404-284-5533

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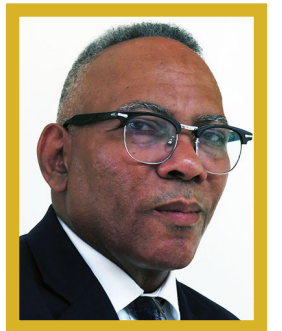
Brother Kenneth Barnes

## 41st Grand Basileus

*Brother Dr. David E. Marion*

# EDITOR'S NOTES

**T**he Oracle is an active membership publication that chronicles modern world history, the communities that the Fraternity serves, and the Brotherhood. This issue focuses on Covid-19/ Coronavirus, and how Brothers and the Fraternity are surviving through this continuing crisis.



Three Omega men, who also are medical doctors, provided the Brotherhood with extensive information about the virus in this edition of our beloved *Oracle*.

The cover story presents advice, and steps to safely navigate, the pandemic from Brother Dr. Delon F. P. Brennen's perspective. Dr. Brennen, the International Medical and Health Initiatives Chairman is joined by Brother Dr. Jedan Phillips, the International Medical and Health Initiatives Vice-Chairman, and Brother Dr. Henry H. Bell, Jr., one of the nation's leading pathologists based in the Washington, D. C., area.

The current virus is not Omega's first experience with such a pandemic. Approximately one hundred years ago, Omega, then a new Fraternity, was less than ten-years-old and was experiencing another major medical crisis. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the 1918 influenza pandemic was caused by an H1N1 virus with avian origin genes. Although there is no universal consensus regarding where the virus originated, it spread worldwide from 1918-1919 and lasted until April 1920.

It is estimated that about 500 million people or one-third of the world's population became infected with it. The number of deaths was estimated to be at least 50 million worldwide, with about 675,000 occurring in the United States.

The next issue of *The Oracle* due to be released in Fall 2020, will include solutions to addressing systemic racism in the United States and the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Fraternally yours,

Brother Dr. Milbert O. Brown, Jr.  
International Editor of *The Oracle*  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

## Founders of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



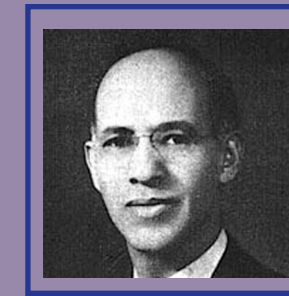
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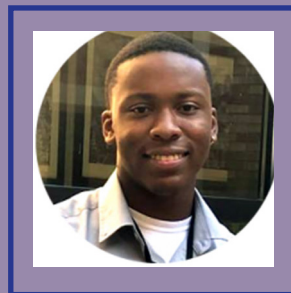
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**Dr. Dorsey C. Miller**  
35th Grand Basileus



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**Dr. George H. Grace**  
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**Warren G. Lee, Jr.**  
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### FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND BASILEUS

Brothers

I greet you in the matchless name of the Supreme Basileus of the Universe. I pray that you are doing as well as can be expected during these very difficult times. COVID-19 has been devastating to the world and, in particular, our communities. We were all caught off guard by the severity of cases throughout Omega. I remain in mourning for the Brothers and family members of Brothers who lost their battles with this disease. We take this time to pray for the souls of those we lost as well as for the hearts and minds of those who are left behind with feelings of despair and the inability to grieve collectively in familiar ways.

Omega attacked this pandemic in four different ways. First, I describe it as a physical response. IHQ sent out multiple communications to the brotherhood regarding COVID-19 so brothers could have the most up-to-date scientific data and tactics for dealing with this novel coronavirus matter. We also pushed out the importance of following the guidance given to us by the CDC and Surgeon General as it relates to how one can stop and/or slow the spread of this virus by social distancing, handwashing, using hand sanitizer, disinfecting surfaces, and wearing face masks. We then sent out communication that all in-person district meetings were being cancelled and would be held virtually or postponed; that chapter meetings would be held virtually; and mandated programs would be done virtually or in groups of less than ten and in accordance with the guidelines of the CDC and the Surgeon General. Chapters of Omega participated in relief efforts in our various neighborhoods around the world to provide essentials like Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), food, and other materials of support to our battered yet resilient communities. I am very proud of these Omega efforts to find ways to survive and thrive. With the health and safety of our brothers in mind, we also decided that the 82nd Grand Conclave could not be done as an in-person face-to-face meeting, but rather would be done virtually.

Secondly, we gave financially. Omega gave \$5000 to support the 2nd district's COVID-19 Task Force efforts to purchase PPEs and provide food to those in need as New York City has been the epicenter of COVID-19. We gave \$5000 to Omega Charities to go towards their current effort of securing 50,000 face masks to be sent across the country for disenfranchised people. We also gave \$5000 to the House of Hope in Atlanta for an initiative where Omega will feed 1000 First Responders and give groceries to 500 elderly individuals.

Thirdly, we pushed mental health awareness during this pandemic. I issued a Brother You're On My Mind Challenge several weeks ago to brothers and asked that they call four brothers every Wednesday, not for political reasons, not to spread fraternity gossip, but rather to simply check on the wellbeing of the brother and his family. Brothers heeded the call and we've seen the restoration of hope and commonality of spirit during this time. First Lady Dr. Joyce Cole-Marion penned a letter to the brotherhood. As First Lady and a Licensed Clinical Psychologist, she wrote about her prayers that we practice self-care, her acknowledgment of our devotion to our communities, and her conviction that Omega will meet this challenge and see it through. She and I did a mental health awareness presentation for the NPHC as a part of the All of Us Research initiative that was streamed live on Facebook and Youtube.

Lastly, we attacked this pandemic spiritually. Grand Chaplain Dr. Walter T. Richardson created an International Prayer Call open to members and non-members on Wednesday nights specifically in response to COVID-19. He knows that Omega men pray. He knows that when we open and close our meetings, start and end conference calls, we always do so with prayer. Abraham Lincoln once said "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of everyone around me seemed insufficient for that day." Omega has seen the power of prayer. Prayer is a cornerstone of our faith and strength during the most difficult of times and, for some people, it is all they have remaining to deal with these trying times.

It is our intention to do even more as Men of Omega to uplift each other and our communities to heights beyond the current imagination of those who need us most. I challenge each and every Brother to reach deeply within to participate in the above efforts as well as find new and innovative ways to assist us in our collective and coordinated efforts to continue the embodiment of our cardinal principles. Reach out to your district representatives with ideas to help heal our land and communities. Offer your time and your mind to those less fortunate who need you right now. Keep your eyes and ears open at all times, because voter suppression continues. Attempts to have an undercount of African-Americans in the 2020 census continue. The killings of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor and countless other African-Americans continue. Injustice continues. Omega will continue to speak out, even during a pandemic. Most importantly, please stay safe by using proven and cautious methods of survival during this particular pandemic. This edition of the Oracle will feature information that clearly points to the rationale for sound approaches to our survival of this challenge. Your life and the lives of those for whom you care may depend on it.

May God bless you and keep you and your families safe,

David Marion, Ph.D.  
41st Grand Basileus



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FROM THE DESK OF THE FIRST VICE GRAND BASILEUS

Greetings 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 Cardinal Principles have served us well and have withstood the test of time!

COVID-19 has brought our world to a screeching halt. Minimal air travel, furloughed workers, children not in school, students sent home from colleges and universities, a rigorous routine of hand-washing, sanitizing, covering our face when we go to the supermarket or taking a trip to the cleaners and, of course, practicing social distancing.

What will our world look like moving forward post COVID-19? Will things return to the way they were or will we see a new world and a new way of life? What lies ahead for our brotherhood and the attention we have given to the programs and services we have traditionally offered to our communities? Will we out of necessity do things differently? Will technology play more of a dominant role in the way we live and do business?

I view this as an opportune time for us to renew our spirits and our energy. Our communities continue to depend on us for mentoring, tutoring, showcasing and encouraging their youth's talent and scholarship. Our mothers and fathers want us to continue to be in their lives and the lives of their children and to hold fast to the lamplight that can brighten their way as they seek a better way forward.

Through all of this pandemic, our International Committee Chairmen and Vice Chairmen continue to do outstanding work for our Fraternity. We thank them and the hundreds of committee members for their service and sacrifice.

Those three undergraduates and their graduate advisor at Howard University possessed a matchless and uncompromising vision of what brothers of like minds and ideals, when brought together, could accomplish - and so do those who have come to rely on our brand over the last 109 years. Let us continue to protect our brand and rededicate ourselves to the oath we swore to uphold. Let us continue to be forward-thinking, progressive and responsive, even in turbulent times.

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



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FROM THE DESK OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL RECLAMATION AND RETENTION  
CHAIRMAN

Brothers of Omega,

Your International Reclamation and Retention Committee (IRRC) continues to play a vital role in the lifecycle of this Fraternity. By creating and providing programs and initiatives focused on Reclamation and Retention, we actively support and promote the continued growth and development of our members.

Understanding that every member is an integral part of the foundation of this unique Brotherhood, we do not take membership for granted. We believe that members are the most important component of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and every Brother's level of commitment and involvement directly impacts the success of our initiatives.

RECLAMATION and RETENTION must be a major priority of our Fraternity for each Brother as we continue to promote our International Reclamation and Retention theme "EACH ONE BRING ONE." Brother Dr. David E. Marion, our 41st Grand Basileus, members of the Supreme Council, and your IRRC are asking that every member make a personal commitment to retain his financial membership and work to reclaim at least one unfinancial Brother during this fiscal year. We all know Brothers who are not paying dues and as a result, cannot enjoy the full benefits of being an active and financial Man of Omega. Reach out to them and let them know that Omega wants them back in the fold, needs their commitment, needs their financial support, but more importantly, Omega needs them to rededicate themselves to being an active and contributing member of the greatest fraternal organization in the world. Finally, remind them that this is a commitment they made when they crossed those "burning sands" during their journey into Omega. By accomplishing this, we stand to double our chapter, district and national membership numbers. But more importantly, this would be another milestone achievement in Omega's history. Brothers, let's make it happen!

For Brothers needing to get reclaimed and back active in the Fraternity, make it your personal commitment to have them reach out to the local chapter in their area or go to the International website (oppf.org) and scroll down to "Get Reclaimed Now" and follow the prompts to get back financial.

Remember, the STRONGER our numbers, the BIGGER our voice. It is imperative that we do our part to reclaim, retain, and contribute our talents to help take Omega to the next level. Going forward, let's challenge every Brother to get and stay financial and be actively engaged in Omega. LONG LIVE THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

In Friendship and Fraternity,

*Brother Darryl Moore,*  
International Reclamation and Retention Chairman  
(dmoinc66@yahoo.com)

# 2020

VERTICAL  
CLEARANCE  
14' - 10"

## EDMUND PETTUS BRIDGE

OMEGAS JOIN 55TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATING

# "BLOODY SUNDAY"

# SELMA

# Q

ues marched on Sunday, March 1, 2020 as they followed their leader, Brother Dr. David E. Marion, the 41st Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Omega men joined with members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council as participants in the historic reenactment of the crossing of the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

The annual ceremony in Selma, AL commemorated the 55th Anniversary of "Bloody Sunday" and the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Photograph by Brother James Witherspoon/Oracle-IHQ



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**FROM THE DESK OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND CIVIC AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN**

Brothers of Omega,

The U.S. Constitution mandates that a census of the population be conducted once every 10 years. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. can play a major role in ensuring that our communities are accurately accounted for. To do this, it is essential that we partner with the U.S. Census Bureau. We can make a difference as trusted voices in the communities we serve. Our partnership is critical to the success of the 2020 Census.

Here are some ways that our involvement can be beneficial:

- Use U.S. Census Bureau tools, information, and messaging in creative ways to increase public participation. For example, share newsletter articles and co-branded products and post on social media.
- Host a workshop to devise possible solutions to 2020 Census challenges in our communities and generate commitments to tackle them.
- Provide information to stakeholders about the importance and benefits of participating in the 2020 Census. For example, invite Census Bureau officials to speak to our audience.
- The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting thousands of people across the country to assist with the 2020 Census count.

There are a variety of temporary jobs, including census takers, recruiting assistants, office staff, and supervisory staff. We encourage our Brothers to apply for employment opportunities to help support this critical Census effort. Also, we are asking chapters to encourage our people in their communities to work for the Census Bureau.

***Please share the following link for potential employment opportunities: [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs).***

The 2020 Census officially starts counting people in January 2020 in remote locations. Most households in the country will start receiving invitations to respond online, by phone or by mail in March 2020. In the upcoming weeks, we will be developing a FACT Sheet outlining:

The importance of the 2020 Census and addressing how Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. can play an important role in the 2020 Census to ensure our communities are properly accounted for and represented.

In Friendship and Fraternity,

*Brother Kenneth E. Rodgers,*  
International Community and Civic Affairs Committee Chairman



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**FROM THE DESK OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL FATHERHOOD AND MENTORING CHAIRMAN**

Brothers of Omega,

Alabama A&M University (AAMU) and Florida A&M University (FAMU) were host sites for two Fatherhood Youth Leadership conferences sponsored by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Alabama A&M University hosted the first Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Series Youth Leadership Conference in February 2020.

The conference was co-sponsored by Project Friendship, Inc., a 501(c)3 organization, and designed for male students in grades 3-12, non-resident parents and single parents, as well as special sessions for college sophomores and juniors. Attendees received life skill tools to inspire young men to be productive citizens today and positive future fathers.

Among the presenters were Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., president of Alabama A&M University; Jacobi Gray, executive president of the Student Government Association; Tony Hodge, All-State Insurance; LTC (Ret) Perry Caudle, Basileus, Pi Phi Chapter; Fred Windham, KRS, Xi Omicron; Talbot Malone, Regions Bank; Police Chief Henry Irby, president, Alabama Chapter of NOBLE; Hon. JesHenry Malone, Madison County Commissioner; Atty. Kim Brown; Kenyatta Robinson, Alabama Child Support Division; Nikki Goins-Hughes, Madison County Department of Human Resources; Hovet Lee Dixon, Jr., principal, Highlands Elementary School; L.C. Smith, Real Fathers Making a Difference; Michelle Watkins, Huntsville City School Board; Atty. Rochelle Conley; and Carlos Matthews, president of Advance Technology, Inc.

Dr. Hugine stressed the importance of students attending HBCUs because of the nurturing environment the colleges and universities present. Also, the president informed the students that excelling in subjects associated with STEM curriculums will prepare them for future success in various career fields.

Thanks for your service,

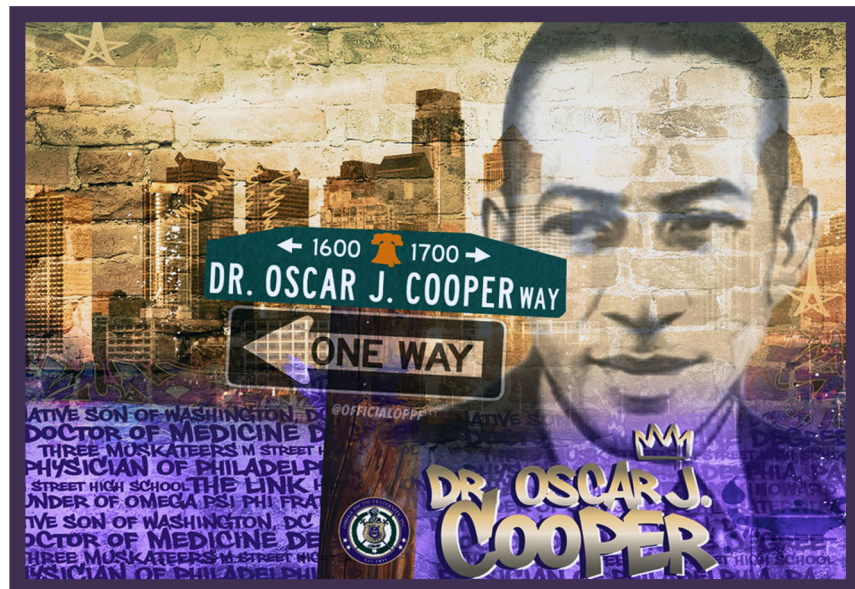
*Brother S. Earl Wilson, Chairman*  
International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring

CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE, PHILADELPHIA HONORS

# OMEGA FOUNDER COOPER

**T**he Philadelphia City Council has approved renaming a street in honor of Founder

Born in Washington, D.C. in 1888, Cooper graduated from M Street High School and received an undergraduate degree in Biology from Howard University in 1913. He later earned his medical degree from Howard University's School of Medicine in 1917.



Brother Dr. Oscar James Cooper. A resolution was approved on February 13, 2020 and transformed the street, which is located on the 1600 to 1700 block of West Jefferson Street to 'Dr. Oscar J. Cooper Way.' The renamed street honors the legacy of one of the undergraduate students who founded the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity at Howard University in 1911.

"His legacy as one of the Fraternity's four Founders – representing hard work and service to his brothers and the community lives on today," according to the resolution that received overwhelming approval. Cooper is also being recognized for his contributions in the Philadelphia medical community which spanned for more than 50 years.

"We are certainly pleased, honored and proud with the actions of the Philadelphia City Council and especially the tireless and unselfish work of the members of Mu Omega for making this possible," said Dr. David Marion, 41st Grand Basileus of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Mu Omega Chapter members, along with Sheila Simpson-Lewis the niece of Dr. Cooper, attended a city council meeting to show their support for the resolution.

As an undergraduate student at Howard in 1911, Cooper, along with his classmates Frank Coleman, Edgar A. Love, and their faculty advisor, Ernest E. Just, founded the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Brother Dr. Cooper served as the Fraternity's second Grand Basileus. The Fraternity quickly flourished and grew beyond Howard University to other college campuses throughout the northeast and southern portions of the United States. After graduating from medical school, Bro. Cooper moved north to Philadelphia, starting his own medical practice out of his home at 1621 West Jefferson Street.

Dr. Cooper later became a charter member of Mu Chapter in 1920, an historic graduate chapter, located in Philadelphia. From 1920 to 1922 he served as the chapter's first Basileus. In 1923 Mu Chapter was rechartered with a new designation as Mu Omega Chapter. Throughout his life, Founder Cooper received numerous awards and recognitions for his work in the medical profession and society. Bro. Cooper entered Omega Chapter in 1972.

BY OPPF EDITORIAL STAFF - MARCH 19, 2020

Named Interim West Virginia State University President

# Brother R. Charles Byers, Ph.D.

**T**he West Virginia State University (WVSU) Board of Directors has appointed Dr. R. Charles Byers to serve as its Interim President. "The selection of Dr. Byers ensures we continue to build on our mission, and to not lose momentum nor growth objectives in these very uncertain times," WVSU Board of Governors Chairman Charles E. Jones, Jr. said. A national search is underway to replace President Anthony L. Jenkins who left West Virginia to become the President of Coppin State University.

Brother Byers has served as Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for WVSU since July 2019. He had retired as Provost of the University in 2014 after 41 years of service at WVSU.

Bro. Dr. Byers said, "I am looking forward to continuing to serve the University and to working with the leadership team to manage through these uncertain times posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, while also planning for the future of West Virginia State and the brighter days we all know are ahead. We will continue the work to fulfill the University's mission of meeting the higher education and economic development needs of the state and region through innovative teaching and applied research."

Dr. Byers has been favored by God with his wife of 46 years, Edithe. They have three children,



Charles, who followed his father's footsteps into Omega (3-94-Theta Psi); Kevin; and Deborah; and also five grandchildren. Brother Byers loves God first, his family next, and then his service to others. He has worked at West Virginia State University as a professor for 22 years, and in higher education administration for 23 years.

Brother Byers is also an accomplished artist, authoring "A Place We Love So Dear: A Collection of Campus Drawings." He has taught part time in the Masters of Education in Instructional Leadership program, as well as consulted with the WVSU Research & Development Corporation. Brother Byers has demonstrated a lifetime of commitment to the advancement of WVSU, which was recognized when he received the 2019 Alumnus of the Year Award.

During his time as a student, Brother Byers was an active campus leader. He was initiated into Theta Psi on December 4, 1965, and eventually became Basileus of the Chapter. He also served as President of the Men's Senate, and President of the

Pan-Hellenic Council. Given his natural ability as a leader, it was not surprising that he would advance to the pinnacle of leadership in the Fourth District, serving as its 9th District Representative from 1975-1978.

Before attending college, Byers had the opportunity to observe several Black fraternal groups while working as a summer employee at a hotel. "What really impressed me about the Omegas was their brotherhood," said a youthful Byers.

In the community, Brother Byers serves as Chair of the Trustee Board at First Baptist Church of Charleston; member of the Central West Virginia Convention and Visitors Bureau; member of the Council for Agriculture, Research, and Teaching for the American Public and Land-Grant Universities; and member of The Booker T. Washington Foundation.

He received the Distinguished West Virginian Award and he has also received several additional awards and honors. Dr. Byers' significant legacy at West Virginia State University will endure through the endowed scholarship in his name. Hopefully one day the West Virginia State University campus will feature a building that bears the name of Omega's beloved son, Brother Dr. R. Charles Byers.



# Bro. Scott Celebrates His 103rd Birthday

## Omega Psi Phi's Oldest Living Member

Omega's Brother Ira B. Scott, Sr., was born on March 25, 1917. He has dedicated his many years to education, social service, religious worship, and family. Brother Scott, a native of Willis, Texas, began his high school education in Willis, but had to transfer to Port Arthur Lincoln High School during his senior year to graduate.

He first attended Mary Allen College and later transferred to Huston-Tillotson where he pledged Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1938. He graduated from Huston-Tillotson with a degree in Education. His first job after college was teaching in a small community near Shreveport, Louisiana. Many times he would have to take the students across a small stream in a makeshift boat. Interestingly enough, Scott could not swim.

Bro. Scott relocated to New Orleans, where he worked at the YMCA. Later, he met Vernon Landix, the brother of his future wife of sixty-seven years, Evelyn Rhoda Landix. Evelyn eventually worked for thirty-five years before retiring from The Houston Independent School District.

Bro. Scott and his wife moved to Conroe, TX to start their family. They were blessed with their first two children, sons Ira Jr. and Carl. Brother Scott taught at Booker T. Washington School and founded the first Boy Scout Troop for Colored Boys.



Brother Ira B. Scott, Sr., the Fraternity's Oldest Living Member

After he began teaching at Wheatley High School in Houston and commuting daily from his home in Conroe, Bro. Scott eventually decided to move his family to the city, where he organized another Boy Scout Troop in Houston's Fifth Ward. He later taught at E.O. Smith Junior High School, back in Conroe. After which, Bro. Scott and Evelyn welcomed their third son, Vernon.

He continued serving in leadership roles, including as school principal, until his retirement after thirty-five years as an educator. Since that time, there have been several attempts to rename the school where he taught in his honor, but Bro. Scott politely declined each time.

Scott was involved in community service throughout his life. He was an active member and leader in the

following organizations:

- **\*Boy Scouts of America**
- **\*Trinity United Methodist Church (over 65 years active in Choir and Men's Ministry)**
- **\*Prince Hall Masons**
- **\*Huston-Tillotson University Trustee & Alumni President**
- **\*Smart Financial Credit Union**
- **\*Board Member (Houston Teacher's Credit Union) Over 25 years**
- **\*Houston Retired Teachers' Association – President**
- **Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**  
*Bro. Scott has been active in Nu Phi Chapter for over 70 years (LM # 2405).*
  - **\*Chapter Basileus (1964-1965)**
  - **\*Served as Ninth District Chaplain**
  - **\*Among the Most Tenured Omega Men in the Country**
  - **\*Father to two Omega Men (Ira Jr., and Carl).**

# A CENTENARIAN BIRTHDAY DRIVE BY

## OMEGA CELEBRATION DESPITE COVID-19

Brother Gerald Quentin Greenfield was blessed to achieve an impressive milestone on April 25, 2020, as he celebrated his 100th birthday. Over 100 Omega men from his chapter, Tau Pi and the Second District, drove past Bro. Greenfield's Columbia (MD) home in a slow procession.

In accordance with Covid-19's social distancing guidelines, Bro. Gerald Q. Greenfield and his wife, Blanche, sat in lawn chairs and waved from their driveway as Omegas passed by. "The fact that Brothers thought enough about me on my birthday was very touching," said Brother Greenfield. Brothers Jerry Watkins and Dr. Charles Mitchell were the coordinators of the surprise birthday drive-by.

For 80-years, Omega's Greenfield has been active and financial with the Fraternity. He was the founding member of two chapters, Theta Rho in 1965 (Germany) and Tau Pi Chapter in 1975 (Columbia, MD).

Greenfield was born in Williamsport, TN, as the youngest of six siblings. He graduated from Bridgeforth High School, a small school in Pulaski, TN. After high school, Greenfield attended Tennessee State University, majoring in History and Social Science. On December 16, 1940, he was initiated into the Fraternity through Rho Psi Chapter at Tennessee State's Nashville campus.

After graduation, Bro. Greenfield enlisted in the military in 1943. Unfortunately, due to racism, he was denied entrance into the



Bro. Gerald Q. Greenfield with wife, Blanche watch over 100 Omega men celebrate his birthday during a safe distance procession. Photo by Bro. Steve Williams/Oracle



U. S. Army's Officer Candidate School (OCS). As an enlisted man, he obtained the rank of Master Sergeant. Greenfield later received a direct commission as an officer after completing his Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Denver in 1957. He served in World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam War. Greenfield received an Honorable Discharge after 30 years, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Brother Greenfield started his professional career as a social worker with the Department of Social Services in Baltimore. He later moved to the Veteran Administration (VA) Hospital and St. Elizabeth Hospital in Washington, DC, retiring at age 72.

While at Tennessee State, he married his first wife, Dorothy, now deceased. From this union two sons, Dr. Gerald and Damion Greenfield. In 2010, he remarried to Blanche Barclay.

At the 2010 Grand Conclave in Raleigh, NC, the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, joked at the service award ceremony that Bro. Greenfield sent an apologetic letter stating that he was sorry that he could not be present for his 70 year award because he was on his honeymoon.

**Unprecedented. Unpredictable. Unparalleled.**

# COVID

# 19

*Story by*

*Bro. Delon Brennen,  
M.D., M.P.H.,  
International Medical  
and Health Initiatives  
Chairman*

**T**hese are but a few of the phrases that characterize the thoughts of our Brotherhood during the once in a lifetime crisis that has befallen our globe and our Fraternity, known as COVID-19. None of us could have predicted that an unknown virus (a novel coronavirus) detected from a string of untreatable respiratory infections in Wuhan City, in the Hubei Province of central China, would bring global travel and trade to a virtual halt within three months of its discovery. As the world watched from afar, our Brothers in China experienced the fear, the tragedy, the hopelessness, and the seismic shift in the way life was lived as the epidemic unfolded in late 2019 and the first few months of 2020.

Although sporadic cases cropped up in other countries, it was our Brothers of Chi Mu Nu (the “China Ques”), Lambda Xi in South Korea (the “ROK Hard Ques”), Sigma Gamma Gamma in Okinawa, Japan (the “Far East Ques”), and Upsilon Lambda Lambda in Tokyo, Japan (the “Samurai Ques”), who were first struck by the impact of COVID-19 and the changes in civil liberties that followed.

As the epidemic changed to a pandemic, the problem became no longer an “Asian thing.” The entire world was both infected and affected. Brothers and communities in Europe, Africa, the Americas, and the Caribbean have not been spared. And while the initial research showed that it was older people and those with pre-existing medical conditions who were most affected with severe disease, this only brought about more issues as young people moved about as if they could not become victims.



Unfortunately, not only could they acquire the disease, but many who were asymptomatic (i.e., not showing any outward signs of illness) acted as human vectors, spreading the infection unknowingly to others. Even when advice was given to “socially distance,” many ignored the warnings and continued to go about their daily lives, often carelessly becoming amplifiers of the issue.

Globally, the infection numbers and the death toll has risen. Omega has not been spared a personal blow, as Brothers and their families have been infected, and some lost their lives to the disease. The world

searches for a cure that will make it all disappear. However, public health officials have intelligently surmised that a cure has always been at hand. Brothers, communities, and the world must be brave enough to employ it. The transmission of the virus requires people to pass it on to each other at a close distance within six-feet. The solution, therefore, is to avoid close contact. It is that easy. But doing so is a drastic change in the way we live, work, socialize, and learn. Ignoring this precept has been shown to devastate families, communities, and economies. Adhering to it saves lives and livelihoods.

Once social distancing is employed, coupled with proper handwashing, respiratory etiquette (coughing into sleeves), and staying at home when ill, societies can minimize the burden of this disease and return to a semblance of normalcy. Social distancing is no longer an aspiration but an obligation. As one Brother aptly put it, “Staying In is the new Being Owt.”

Omega is called at this moment to provide leadership in all spheres of the response to COVID-19. These are no ordinary times, thus calling for extraordinary men. That is the call of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

The Fraternity has responded by making unprecedented steps globally. All chapter activities, including chapter meetings, have been halted and moved to video conferencing. District Meetings were also canceled. These directives have never been made in Omega’s history.

The safety of the Brotherhood had to be protected regardless of how difficult a decision may have been. The Supreme Council has decided to hold the 82nd Grand Conclave in Tampa, Florida as online meeting sessions. Omega has shown it is not afraid to make tough decisions if necessary. Extraordinary times call for extraordinary leadership.

To our communities, Omega men are called on to be at the frontline of the response as healthcare professionals, engineers, law enforcement officers, and policymakers, among other leaders.

We must ensure sick patients are cared for and that support equipment is designed and manufactured. It is also important that laws and policies are enacted for public safety. If some people and societies need assistance, Omega must be there to provide uplift.

# Our Global Problem: A Pandemic

Omega must persevere with our communities until the response is completed and a sense of normalcy is restored.

For our families, Omega men must exemplify our Cardinal Principle of Manhood by providing steady leadership and sound, thoughtful guidance on following the rules, and staying healthy in the midst of the crisis. Omega must show how a healthy lifestyle of eating the right foods, eliminating smoking tobacco products, getting adequate exercise, and only responsibly using alcoholic beverages will keep our loved ones in "fighting trim" through this pandemic and the next. The data showing that pre-existing medical conditions leads to increased morbidity and mortality with COVID-19 must motivate Omega men to lead our families into a lifestyle that supports a fulsome enjoyment of the life we have yet to live, not one full of pain, medications and doctor visits.

To our Brothers, Omega men must endeavor to support each other through true friendship, especially when our "manly pride" keeps us from acknowledging our challenges. As friends we must be our Brothers' keeper, reaching out to each other and letting a friend know, "Brother, You're On My Mind." Often men are silent, but Omega men must find a way to understand and provide assistance when a Brother cannot do it for himself. The help may come in the form of providing food to his household when he is on the job-saving others.

A Brother may need a bill paid because he did not have the time to do it himself. A Brother may have lost his job and need "a crust and a corner." But the only way to know is to go outside of ourselves and ask specifically what a Brother needs. This is the true expression of "Friendship is Essential to the Soul."

Moving into the future, Omega's duty is to learn from COVID-19. Let our responses, attitudes, and activities become contagious and pandemic in proportion. Omega must consider the entire globe to be its stage for "infection" and spreading our principles, programs, and influence. Omega must continue to spread the word of social distancing, handwashing, respiratory etiquette, and other

initiatives of our communities to stop the spread of this scourge. Omega men must commit to spearheading initiatives that will save lives in our communities, thus not making vain the sacrifice of those who lost their lives to COVID-19.

**D**R. HENRY BELL, JR., one of the country's most respected pathologists, and the Medical Director of Capital Digestive Care Laboratory based outside of Washington, D.C., in Bowie, Maryland said that Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that infect people and many species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Brother Dr. Bell also said that "this family of viruses are common causes of colds and other upper respiratory infections in humans. Five named coronaviruses are known to infect humans. Three of them appear to have come from animals. When a disease normally exists in animals but it can infect humans it is called a "zoonotic disease."

Omega's Dr. Bell said that "COVID 19 is also transmitted from bats. Bats are known to carry the viruses from previous outbreaks MERS-CoV (2012 outbreak) and SARS-Cov (2003 outbreak). SARS-Cov-2 is the scientific name given to the virus that causes COVID 19. It stands for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2."



From a typically silent aspect of health care and clinical laboratory work, Dr. Bell has been faced with the adverse effects of the coronavirus. "In the beginning this was a novel (or new) virus, and there were no laboratory tests, vaccines, cures, nor established protocols to deal with the virus," commented Dr. Bell.

"In fact, as of right now a significant amount of the scientific and medical information about this virus has changed from what was initially reported. In addition, misinformation had proliferated due to a lack of scientific research, eye catching media headlines and need for 24 hours of news, political agendas, and public anxiety. It was my duty to cut through the misinformation and become rooted in the scientific truths that were available," added Bell.

Bro. Dr. Bell mentioned that as a private practice, his laboratory was unique and fortunate to have the capability and established relationships with companies that were among the firsts to have developed clinical tests to detect the coronavirus. "This testing capability proved to be integral in the process to safely reopen our practice," said the Doctor.

Dr. Bell also said that his practice had difficulty procuring personal protective equipment (PPE), hand sanitizer, and other cleaning supplies. "We endured furloughs, unprecedented reductions in revenue, drastic schedule changes, difficulties in understanding the various federal grants and forgivable loan programs, and creating new clinical protocols. These tasks were accomplished over innumerable virtual meetings. This was an arduous ten-week endeavor but 'inch by inch everything is a cinch,' and the practice was able to navigate a path to reopening," said Bell.

#### MORE INFORMATION ON NEXT PAGE

**Bro. Henry H. Bell, Jr., MD**- graduated from Hampton University with a major in Biology. Shortly after graduation he was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He later achieved the rank of Major as an active duty officer. Bro. Bell received his medical degree from the University of Michigan. He was initiated into Omega Psi Phi through Xi Iota Chapter. Bro. Dr. Bell is an active member of Tau Pi Graduate Chapter in Columbia, MD.

## Comments from Omega's Medical Doctors

### DR. PHILLIPS' ADVICE DURING COVID-19

Bro. Dr. Jedan Phillips,  
M.D.,  
International Medical  
and Health Initiatives  
Vice-Chairman



Bro. Dr. Delon  
Brennen, M.D.,  
M.P.H.,  
International Medical  
and Health Initiatives  
Chairman

**M**any are seeing the numbers of cases increasing at alarming rates, especially in my state of New York. This is happening because there is still a lot that we do not know about this virus. Also, and more importantly, the public has not been diligent with social distancing. I am sure all of us have seen images on the news of individuals gathered in groups in public, at beaches/parks/ etc.

We must adhere to the mandates of social distancing! There are individuals that have been found with the virus that have been asymptomatic, which means even if you are feeling well there is a chance that you can be a carrier of this virus infecting your loved ones, such as spouses/children/parents/friends.

We must also be diligent about hand sanitization and sanitizing surfaces we may come in contact with regularly. This virus has demonstrated that it can exist on surfaces for some time which further increases its virulence. My Brothers let us continue to protect our families and communities by being models of what needs to be done to get control of this pandemic! Let's continue to practice social distancing and hand and surface sanitizing regularly. Lastly, my Brothers let us reach out to our elders and check on them to ensure they are well!

**Brother Jedan Phillips, MD.**, is a Family Practitioner and Clinical Associate Professor at Stony Brook University Medical School. Brother Phillips was initiated through Chi Kappa Chapter while an undergraduate at Johns Hopkins University. He received his medical degree from the University of Maryland-Baltimore.

**D**r. Delon F. P. Brennen currently serves as the International Medical and Health Initiatives Chairman, as appointed by the 41st Grand Basileus, Dr. David Marion in August 2018. He most recently served three terms as the Ninth 13th District Representative (2015-2018).

Bro. Brennen led the reactivation of the Phi Gamma Gamma chapter in Kaiserslautern, Germany, having previously been inactive in its prior location in Kuwait. Additionally, the second undergraduate chapter in the 13th District was established at University of The Bahamas in April 2018. Brother Brennen also supported specifically Brotherhood-focused Medical and Health initiatives in his District, with most chapters actively participating in the initiative. During his tenure as District Representative, Brennen ensured continued focus on documenting the accomplishments of the chapters of the 13th District, and there was a significant increase in articles submitted and published in the Oracle and the Fatherhood and Mentorship Newsletter.

**Brother Delon F.P. Brennen** graduated with a B.S. in Chemistry from Morgan State University. He earned his Doctorate in Medicine (M.D.) from Pennsylvania State University. He also holds a Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University. He serves as the Deputy Chief Medical Officer in the Ministry of Health and continues clinical practice in Pediatric Emergency Medicine. Dr. Brennen also lectures in the Biology Department at the University of The Bahamas. Brother Dr. Brennen was initiated at Pi Chapter at Morgan State University. While at Morgan, he served as the chapter's Basileus.

# COVID-19

## OTHER FACTS & INFO

BY BROTHER. HENRY H. BELL, M.D.

### LABORATORY TESTING

Two kinds of tests (viral tests and antibody tests) are available for COVID-19:

**A viral test** detects the presence of the virus and determines if you have a current infection. In contrast, the antibody test tells you if you had a previous infection. **The antibody test** detects your body's response to the virus called antibodies.

An important fact to know is that the antibody test may not be able to show if you have a current infection, because it can take your body one to three weeks after infection to make antibodies. We do not know yet if having antibodies to the virus can protect someone from getting infected with the virus again, or how long that protection might last.

### WHO SHOULD BE TESTED?

As of right now not everyone needs to be tested. The CDC has guidance for who should be tested based on the clinical situation. In addition, collaborative decisions about testing are made by state and local health departments and healthcare providers.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 and want to get tested, call your healthcare provider first. Brothers without symptoms, visit your state or local health department's website to look for the latest local information on testing. Although supplies of tests are increasing, it may still be

### WHY ARE AFRICAN AMERICANS DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY THE VIRUS?

Unfortunately, prior to the pandemic some of our communities were adversely affected by detrimental government policies, ineffective public health programs and policies, pre-existing health conditions, social and economic factors, and others. These factors, combined with the coronavirus, are why African Americans are experiencing more severe illness and death than the general population.

### RESEARCH INFORMATION

**BlackDoctor.org** is a helpful resource to find a doctor close to you. The National Medical Association (**NMA net.org**) has an informative section on their website that lists website links to reputable national and global health organizations. These health organizations provide invaluable advice regarding policies, scientific knowledge, treatments, protocols, available testing, information regarding spread, and other pertinent information

### FINAL COMMENTS

Brothers, please be mindful of your health now and in the future. Given that there is currently not a vaccine or treatment, the use of social distancing, handwashing and wearing masks are essential public health interventions to prevent the spread of the disease. We are our best health advocates. Therefore, come prepared for your appointments and ask questions.

## STORY FROM COVID-19 SURVIVOR

# Omega Man Sees It Through



**W**hen Omega's **Qadir Mateen**, formally known as **Brother Edward Rhodes** started feeling a little under the weather in March 2020, he chalked it up to a possible cold. Unfortunately, his symptoms worsened, and was more than a simply seasonal cold. He had contracted the deadly virus called COVID-19.

**B**rother **Norman Senior**, the International Assistant Editor of *The Oracle* conducted a landmark Q & A interview with Bro. Mateen, a COVID survivor in his Atlanta area home via telephone.

**Q: Bro. Senior-When did you first notice symptoms?**

**A: Bro. Mateen-** *The week before entering the hospital, I started having an uncontrollable cough. I thought I was coming down with a cold or worst-the flu. I bought some cold and flu medicine, but none worked. My cough had gotten so bad that I began having severe headaches along with almost blacking out at times. My chest felt like it was on fire most of the time and I experienced shortness of breath.*

**Q. Brother Senior-When did you know you needed medical assistance?**

**A: Bro. Mateen:**

*"The episode that finally made me realize that I needed medical attention was when I was walking in the park with my girlfriend and her daughter. I had trouble keeping up with the two of them. I began thinking to myself that I couldn't be this out of shape. I was breathing so hard trying to catch my breath that I felt like a blackout moment would surely hit me. When we arrived home, I couldn't go up no more than three steps before feeling out of breath.*

*These events occurred on Sunday, March 22, 2020. I knew that something wasn't right and continued to put off medical attention until I could no longer function well on my own. I was just that stubborn and in denial. Finally, on following Friday, March 27, I had my girlfriend take me to the emergency room at a nearby hospital.*

*At that hospital, I was asked questions such as had I been out of the country in the past several days? In addition, had I been around anyone with COVID-19?*

*Later, I was told to go to the back to one of the examination rooms.*

*A nurse took my temperature and blood pressure. A doctor came in and asked me more questions but didn't examine me. All he did was order me to get a chest x-ray. After the chest x-ray, I sat in the room for about an hour waiting on the doctor to give me his diagnosis. Finally, the doctor arrived, and he prescribed medications for the flu."*

**Q: Bro. Senior--Were you thinking that you may have COVID-19?**

**A: Bro. Mateen:** *"It did cross my mind. I had the flu on more than one occasion, and this didn't feel like the flu. After the hospital visit, and I when back to the car, I told my girlfriend how unprofessional the doctors were, and that they were treating my condition as the flu.*

*At that point we both agreed to go to another hospital and get checked out. When we arrived at the emergency room at this second hospital, there were tents setup outside of the building. As I walked up, I was immediately greeted by one of the hospital staff members that directed me to a tent to be screened. After my screening process at the second hospital, one of the staff members sat me in a wheelchair and transported me to one of the rooms in emergency.*

*As I sat there in that emergency room, I thanked God for directing us to that hospital. I was given all kinds of tests, meds and fluids. The doctor that examined me did a thorough job. He said that 'I would be treated like a Covid-19 patient' as I waited for my test results. After being in emergency for a few hours, they admitted me to the hospital then moved me to a room in a restricted area. Staff members were equipped with the appropriate PPE. I wasn't allowed any visitors at all. During my stay, they monitored me thoroughly and kept me connected to all kinds of devices. I required oxygen the entire time."*

**Q: Bro. Senior: What thoughts were running through your mind? Did you feel like someone with less than a 50 percent chance of survival?**

**A: Bro. Mateen:** *"My mind was racing! I keep replaying the past month in my head. All I could think about was that I was going to die in that hospital. My first day there, I had no idea what was in store for me. The next day, the doctor called me on my hospital room phone and stated that I was COVID-19 positive.*

*At that moment, I felt like someone had pulled my heart out of my chest. I didn't sleep much that night and I was in fear that I might not wake up to see another day. On the third day, I refused to let that virus take me away without a fight. I stopped watching the news because all I saw was death due to the virus.*

*I also stayed off social media, as well. I focused on beating this monster and I didn't need any negative thoughts entering my mind. Finally, on my 10th day, I was going to be discharged with an oxygen tank and a unit to be delivered at home. Prior to leaving, I asked for one final test to check my oxygen level by walking the hallway. I was able to keep my oxygen level up and they waived the oxygen unit.*

**Q: Bro. Senior-How is your health now, after 10 days in the hospital and two-weeks of self-isolation?**

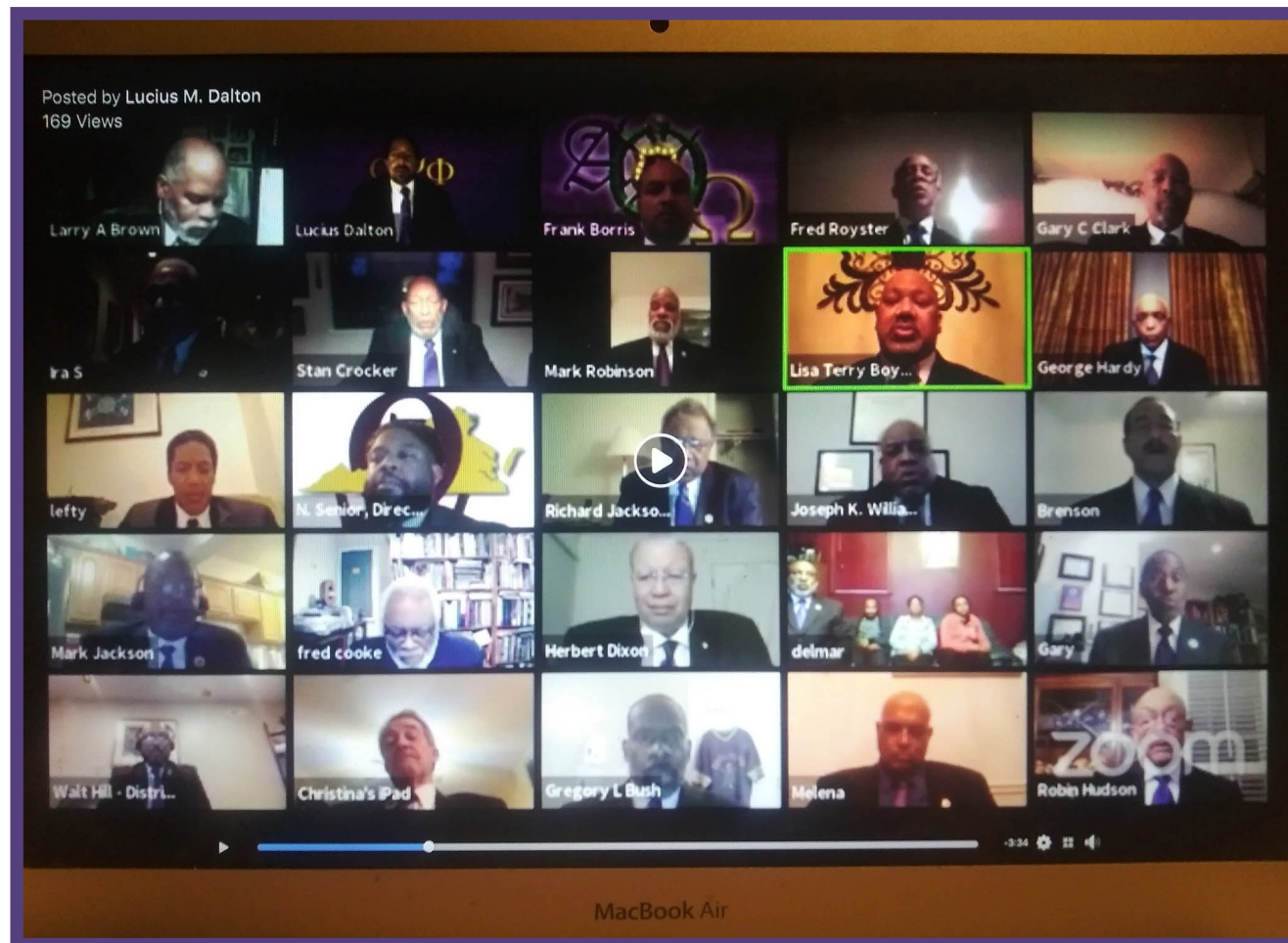
**A: Bro. Matten:** *"As the days progress, I began getting better each day. I had so many people calling me and praying for me that I could only give it all to God. My first night at home without the oxygen was a little rough. I was waking up in the middle of the night having to take deep breaths. I also kept myself under quarantine to make others in my household feel comfortable. Currently, I've been walking around the neighborhood six days a week to try to strengthen my lungs. It's been a struggle, but I know if I take it slow day by day, God will make me whole again."*

**Q: Bro. Senior-What would you like to say to the Brothers about your experience with the virus?"**

**A: Bro. Mateen:** *" To anyone reading my story, please take this virus seriously. People are dying from it daily and I just happen to be one that was blessed. It is indeed a great honor and privilege to be able to share my story today. I appreciate all the Brothers, family, and friends for the prayers, cards, calls, and love which gave me a sense of comfort, resolve and strength. It was emotionally overpowering. It required me to persevere through a lot of mental and physical pain that this nasty virus had given me daily. "*



Bro. Qadir Mateen, former known as Bro. Edward Rhodes was initiated through Beta Psi Chapter at Clark Atlanta University in 1989. He later joined an Atlanta area graduate chapter, Kappa Alpha Alpha.



## ALPHA OMEGA CHAPTER HOLDS FIRST VIRTUAL OMEGA SERVICE

Covid-19 has produced major lifestyle changes for the Fraternity and the world. The National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) College Basketball Tournament "March Madness" was cancelled. Live professional sporting events were closed. College and high school graduations and church services were stopped. Even the Olympic Games were postponed. During this time of crisis, funeral processions and services have been greatly curtailed.

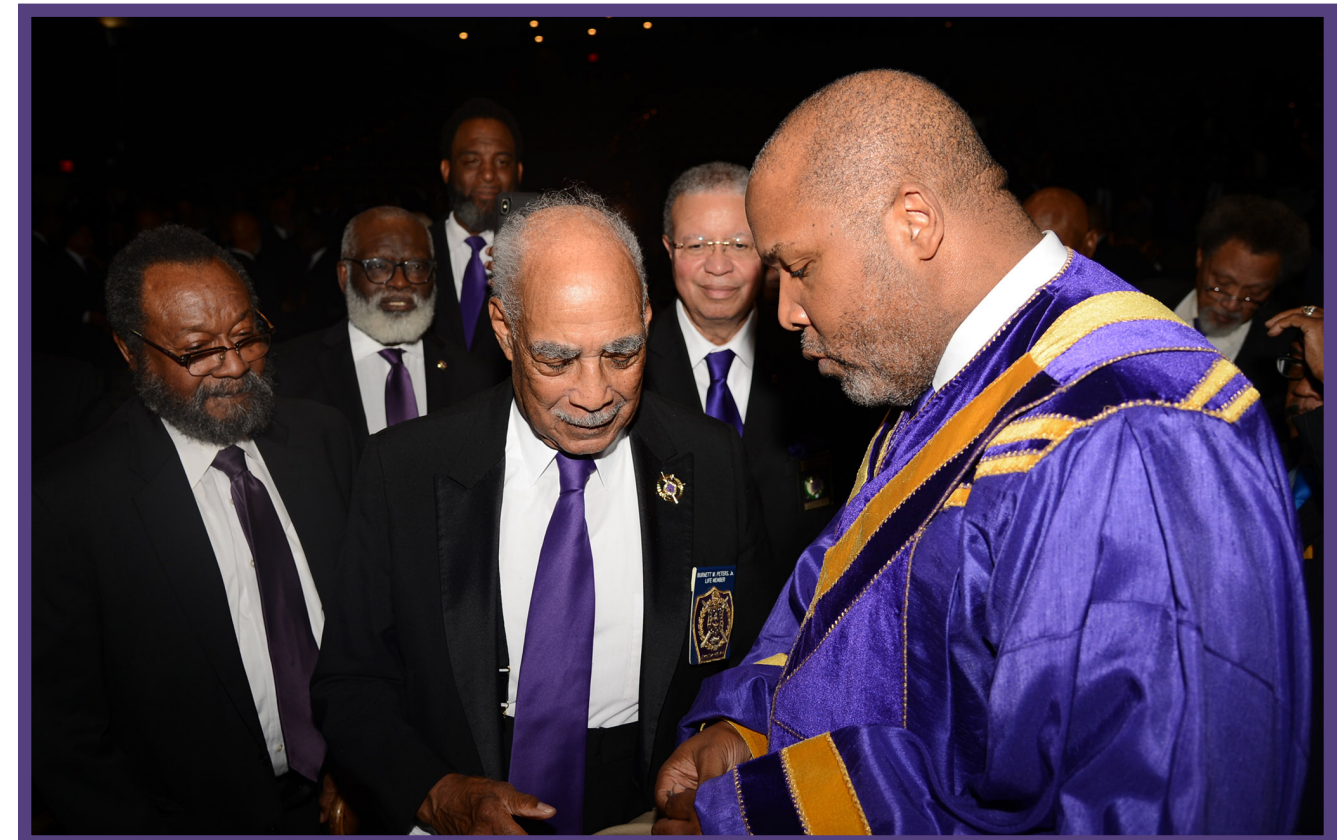
During this difficult time, the men of Omega Psi Phi's Alpha Omega Chapter sought to provide an alternative method to celebrate their dear friend, Brother Delmar Nelson Sr.'s passing. Brothers brainstormed on how to offer their esteemed late Brother Nelson with an Omega Service. Alpha Omega Chapter based in Washington, D.C., is one of the Fraternity's most influential chapters with a roster of over 300 members.

On April 29, 2020, the chapter launched its first Virtual Omega Service at 7:55 pm via ZOOM and streamed live via Facebook. The creative service was a blessing to Bro. Nelson's family, friends, and men of the Alpha Omega Chapter who loved their dearly departed Brother.

Bro. Nelson, a Baltimore native was a Navy veteran, and in 1965, he decided to start his own business by opening Crest Opticians, Inc. He was a successful optician for 52 years. According to Nelson, one of his most significant accomplishments was becoming a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in 1977. Nelson became a highly active member, serving on multiple committees. He was involved in the effective operations of Alpha Omega. He was always counted on in carrying out the community service priorities of the chapter. He served as the chapter's Basileus from 1982 to 1984. Under his leadership, the Fraternity house underwent a significant renovation.

## Omega Brothers Join Dr. Marion at the Fraternity's Birthplace

# REDEDICATION AT HOWARD



Omega Psi Phi's 41st Grand Basileus Dr. David Marion (right) joins Omegas after the Rededication Service at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Photograph by Brother James Witherspoon (IHQ/Oracle Magazine).

On Sunday evening, November 17, 2019, the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., assembled together for the Fraternity's Rededication Program at Howard University. Over 1000 Brothers attended the program held at Howard's Cramton Auditorium in Washington, D.C.

For 108 years, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., has improved the conditions of individuals in our community, championed the cause of underserved populations, and acted as a beacon of light for all of humanity. "The rededication event is an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the principles that we swore to uphold," said Bro. Larry A. Brown, Chairman of the Achievement Week Committee for Washington, D.C., area chapters.

"Founders Day is one of the most special days in Omega. Today, we celebrate the genesis of the Fraternity, while rededicating our lives to Omega Psi Phi. It is more beautiful than can be imagined," stated Brother Dr. David E. Marion. Dr. Marion, the Fraternity's 41st Grand Basileus delivered the Rededication Program's keynote address.

Two of Omega's former Grand Basilei, Brother Lloyd J. Jordan, Esq., the 36th Grand Basileus and Brother Dr. Andrew A. Ray, the 39th Grand Basileus also attended the 2019 Rededication Program. Brother Kenneth A. Brown, a former Grand Marshal served as the Master of Ceremonies. The Brothers who commemorated the Four Founders of the Fraternity were: Brother Lloyd J. Jordan, Esq., 36th Grand Basileus; Brother Austin J. Tatum, 2nd Vice Grand Basileus; Brother Aaron E. Price, Esq., former 2nd Vice Grand Basileus, and Brother Ademuyiwa T. Bamiduro, Esq., former 2nd Vice Grand Basileus.

*Undergraduate Chapters Work in their Communities*

**OMEGA MEN PROVIDE SERVICE**



**Photograph on Left:** Omega men from Upsilon Epsilon Chapter (Jackson State University) at their chapter's social action event during Achievement Week 2019.

**TAU EPSILON CHAPTER-**

One of Tau Epsilon Chapter's major events was the Protection of Womanhood Initiative on the campus of Texas Southern University,

With all the reports of women being kidnapped, forced into both human and sex trafficking, it was time for the Omega men of Tau Epsilon to assist the women on campus and in the community by providing safety information. The chapter event was held in November 2019.

The purpose of the event was to help women avoid becoming a victim. Session topics included human/sex trafficking and self-defense. The Brothers enlisted the aid of two experienced Omega men.

The event featured Texas Southern's Chief of Police, Brother Young and Brother Jamal Bey, a karate instructor and U.S. Army Chaplain.

Brother Young gave an informative empowering speech on preventive measures and overall general safety tips.

Brother Bey demonstrated to the audience how to physically defend oneself in basic physical kidnapping scenarios. Overall, the event was a huge success with the women in attendance leaving knowledgeable and equipped on the subjects presented.

Essential to the Soul." The last activity was a Boiled Peanut Social held at the Clinton Healthplex in Jackson, MS.

**RHO KAPPA CHAPTER-**hosted a Christmas Gift Giveaway Party at the West Park Community Center in Nashville, TN. The chapter is based at Austin Peay State University. Over 150 participated in the giveaway this year. Each child received a gift at the December 2019 activity. Brother Blake Golden, the program coordinator at the center, noted the importance of aiding the community during the holiday season.

**D**uring Upsilon Epsilon's Achievement Week 2019, the undergraduate chapter at Jackson State University held several events. The chapter started their service week by visiting with veterans on Veterans Day. Brothers also served food to the veterans. The second chapter service event was a visit to the Boys to Men Mentoring program held at Johnson Elementary School. Day three included Upsilon Epsilon Brothers hosting a campus clean up event at Jackson State. The chapter returned to campus, the next day to host the Kids College program titled "Reading is

**FIRST DISTRICT CELEBRATES**

**ACHIEVEMENT WEEK EVENT**



Brother Marvin Gilmore, Jr., (left) was presented the First District's Lifetime Awards from Brother Francois Fils-Aime, the First District Representative (on right).

**O**n November 16, 2019, during the observance of Omega's Achievement Week, the First District held a job fair and gala at the Sheraton Hotel located in Boston's Back Bay community. The gala also presented how diversity in finance helps to connect students interested in majoring in business with internship and scholarship opportunities. The First District also recognized the achievements of African Americans within the banking and finance industry in the New England area. Brother Marvin Gilmore, Jr., a 95-year-old former entrepreneur and civil-rights trailblazer, was honored at the gala. Brother Gilmore was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from

the First District. Gilmore was initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., in 1950 through Gamma Chapter. Brother David Carl provided an outstanding biographic review of Gilmore's life and significant achievements. Bro. Carl shared that Gilmore was a decorated war veteran who served with the 458th Battery A, an Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion during World War II.

In 2010, France named Brother Gilmore, a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, which is the country's highest honor for a civilian, for bravery and courage during the Battle of Normandy, commonly referred to as D-Day. As a football player at Lafayette College, Gilmore was no stranger to teamwork and completing shared goals.

In 1964, seven days after the Civil Rights Act passed, Gilmore traveled to Jackson, MS., with Bill Russell of the Boston Celtics to test the effectiveness of the law. The law barred denial of public service based on color, gender, or religion. Both men knew the risk of attack and possible loss of life due to the state's hostile stance against integration but successfully saw it through. After returning to Boston and feeling the sting of being denied a bank loan, Bro. Gilmore co-founded Unity Bank and Trust Company in 1968. The bank was the first owned and operated African American Bank in Massachusetts.

Similar to the words from the Rudyard Kipling's, poem titled-"If," Gilmore exemplified the ability to talk with crowds and keep his virtue or walk with kings—not losing the common touch.

During the Achievement Week Gala, Quincy Miller, President and Vice Chairman of Eastern Bank, was presented with the Marvin Gilmore, Excellence in Finance Award.

Iota Chi, Eta Phi, and Gamma Chapters were grateful to Citizens Bank, Eastern Bank and Pricewaterhouse Coopers as well as Fidelity National Information Services, Backbase, and Payveris for their Gold level sponsorship. Their financial support also allowed the chapters to provide high school students with banking-related scholarships for college

*Story by  
Bro. Sharrieff W. Christmas, First  
District Achievement Week Chairman*

SECOND DISTRICT CHAPTERS OBSERVE

# OMEGA'S ACHIEVEMENT WEEK



Brother Dr. Ronald Williams, Jr., (far right) received Pi Omega's "Bro. George K. McKinney Graduate Omega Man of the Year" Award at the chapter's Achievement Week and Founders Day event.

The Brothers of Pi Omega celebrated the chapter's Brother Walter G. Amprey Memorial Achievement Week and Founders Day event. The chapter's Achievement Week is named in honor of the late Brother Dr. Walter G. Amprey. Dr. Amprey was a tireless worker in Pi Omega, also serving as the 17th Second District Representative. The former Baltimore School Superintendent later served the Fraternity as the 19th Grand Keeper of Records and Seal.

Omega's late Brother George K. McKinney was also honored during the November 2019 celebration. Each year, the chapter awards an \$8,000 scholarship to a worthy high school senior attending an Historically Black College or University. The scholarship recipients over the past four years have included: Kirk Henderson, Lincoln University;

Brionna Thompson, Lincoln University; Michael Jackson, Morgan State University; and Ayotimofe Odowu, Howard University.

Rosalind Johnson of Hilton Hotel Baltimore-Inner Harbor and Kenneth Brown were the recipients of Pi Omega's **Howard Lee Cornish Award**. The award is given to an individual or organization whose efforts provide humanitarian service to Baltimore citizens.

Bro. Arthur W. Lambert received **Superior Service Award**; Bro. Lasava Tidwell, **Founders Lifetime Achievement Award**; Bro. Kameron Washington of Delta Beta Chapter, Coppin State University was the recipient of the **Robert L. Gill Undergraduate Award**. Brother Dr. Ronald Williams, Jr. was honored as the **George K. McKinney Graduate Omega Man of the Year**.

TRENTON, NJ-Delta Upsilon joined the Malcolm Barnard Organization in co-sponsoring the chapter's Annual Achievement Week HBCU College Fair at Mercer County College. Over 1100 students and parents visited with 42 Historically Black College and University representatives. During the event on November 19th, over 975 students were accepted into HBCU schools. Also, more than 1200 application fees were waived, and 57 students were awarded full scholarships.

HARRISBURG, PA-Kappa Omega Chapter hosted its 9th Annual Breakfast at the Bethesda Mission Women's Shelter. The meals were provided to women residents and their children. The shelter is a place where women can heal and have a place they can call home. The site also offers women in need of addiction recovery, a safe and stable place for starting to a new life.

PRINCE GEORGE'S CO., MD--Gamma Pi Chapter welcomed Bro. Mark E. Jackson, the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal as the speaker for its awards program during Achievement Week. Also, the chapter attended the Rededication Service at Howard University.

COLUMBIA, MD--Tau Pi Chapter started its Achievement Week activities with the "Read Across American Program." The program was sponsored at the request of Omega International Headquarters and the Second District. One of the primary readers at Jeffers Hill Elementary School was Brother Milton Darby, the chapter's Basileus.



Brother Mark E. Jackson (left) the Fraternity's Grand Keeper of Records and Seal at the ASALH Luncheon. Photograph by Bro. James Witherspoon, IHQ/Oracle photographer.

## Omegas Attend ASALH Event The work of Bro. Woodson Recognized

In support of the life and the research by the late Brother Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., attended the 94th annual Black History Luncheon in Washington, D.C. The February 2020 event was hosted by the Association for Studying African American Life and History (ASALH). Bro. Woodson was one of the founders who established ASALH in 1915. The mission remains as an organization that promotes, researches, interprets, and disseminates information about

Dr. Woodson (1875-1950), the son of former slaves was known as the "Father of Black History." After Woodson's address at the 1920 Grand Conclave about Negro life, the Fraternity observed the Negro History and Literature Week. Woodson was elected as an honorary member of Omega Psi Phi on February 10, 1917.

"African Americans and the Vote," was the theme for this year's ASALH Luncheon. Maureen Bunyan, a local broadcast journalist, served as the Mistress of ceremonies. This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Lonnie G. Bunch. Dr. Bunch is the 14th Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and the first African American to serve as the head of the Smithsonian. As the Secretary, Bunch oversees 19 museums, 21 libraries, and numerous educational centers. Previously, Bunch was the director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Representatives of Omega Psi Phi's Supreme Council joined Omega Life Membership Foundation officers in presenting ASALH with a donation to uplift Brother Dr. Woodson's vision of Black history for all.

## Chapter Celebrates Achievement Week

On November 9, 2019, Psi Alpha Alpha Chapter in conjunction with the Bernie L. Bates Foundation gathered to celebrate their Achievement Week Banquet in Springfield, VA.

The Achievement Week awardees included: **Omega Man of the Year**, Bro. Calvin C. Beidleman III; **Superior Service**, Bro. Tony A. Wells; **Colonel Charles Young Military Leadership**, Bro. Colonel Myron B. McDaniels and Mount Vernon High School Head Football Coach, Monty Fritts received the **Citizen of the Year Award**. Brother Eric Kelly, the chapter Basileus presented **Basileus Awards** to Brothers James W. Cherry and Chester B. Keller.

Special Omega Service Awards were presented to: Bro. Leroy C. Latten, **Fifty Five Years of Service**.

Brothers Curtis A. Baylor, Eddie Franklin and Edward L. Craig, **Fifty Years of Service**.

Brothers Peter L. Burnett, Bradford M. Caldwell, Robert H. Lewis and Connie A. Brown, **Forty-Five Years of Service**.

Brothers Phillip L. Wilkerson, Jr., and Danny R. Ross, **Forty Years of Service**.

Brother Foster P. Payne II, **Thirty-Five Years of Service**.

Brother George E. Davis, **Thirty Years of Service**.

**The 2019 Talent Hunt Winner** was Ms. Sydney Pollard. **The chapter's High School Essay Contest Winner** was Ms. Brynna Boyd.



## Zeta Omega Launches Holiday Programs

### Chapter Provides Meals and Clothes for Needy Residents

During the final six weeks of every year, communities all over the land come together in a celebratory mood to spend time with family, exchange gifts, and of course to eat delicious and meticulously prepared meals, some of which come from recipes handed down through the generations.

It is a joyous time in the American culture. However, unfortunately not everyone in our community is able to share in these experiences.

In the spirit of helping those in need, and in accordance with Omega's Cardinal Principle of Uplift, the Brothers of Zeta Omega Chapter have created two partnerships with local nonprofit organizations in the Greater Cleveland community.

This effort helps feed our sisters and brothers who need a hot meal served with a warm smile during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Zeta Omega Chapter worked with Operation Hope USA to serve approximately 200 people a Christmas dinner. The event was held at the Zeta Omega Chapter House in Cleveland's Collinwood neighborhood.

The chapter also provided warm clothing that is very much needed for Cleveland winters on Lake Erie. Neighborhood residents were able to receive wool hats and gloves, and socks.

Everyone in attendance was very grateful for the holiday meal and clothing items provided by the Men of Omega. Zeta Omega Chapter, like all Omega Psi Phi chapters, embodies the true meaning of giving during the holiday season.



Zeta Omega's Keith Ashford served hot meals during the holidays to needy residents.

## Beta Iota Active in the Community

The Black Family Reunion Celebration began in 1989 in Cincinnati, OH. In 2019, Beta Iota Chapter was acknowledged at the Annual Black Family Reunion. The Brothers helped staff the event and executed the logistics for the entire weekend's activities.

Brother Dr. P. Eric Abercrombie served as the Grand Marshal for the Black Family Reunion parade. Also recognized during the parade was Brother Augustus Williams and his Boy Scout Troop. Brother Stanford T. Williams along with his family, were celebrated as the Black Family Reunion's "2019 Family of the Year."

This holiday season, Beta Iota worked with a local Cincinnati TV station program called "Nine On Your Side" to help promote public awareness and collect toys for the Children's Home of Cincinnati.

Beta Iota Chapter's support of the toy drive helped to ensure that sick children had gifts for the holiday season.

Over 10,000 toys were collected from around the Greater Cincinnati area. The Brothers of Beta Iota specifically helped to collect over 1,300 toys.

The mission of Children's Home includes creating lasting results that strengthen families and the community by guiding individuals from infancy to independence.

The Children's Home also provides a number of unique services that helps both students and parents. Their services include Autism Services, Behavioral Health, Early Childhood Programs, Education and Parental Services.

## District Pushes Blood Drives

### Chapters Part of Mandated Program

During Achievement Week in November 2019, all Fifth District Chapters participated in the inaugural Charles R. Drew Blood Drive. The Fraternity's mandated program was led by Brother Sam McKenzie, the 23rd Fifth District Representative and the Fifth District Social Action Chair, Brother Charles Griffith.

The District-wide Blood Drive program consisted of nine focus cities and several stand-alone locations where simultaneous blood drive programs were launched. Omega men, students, and members of local faith communities, donated blood and platelets in the name of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and Bro. Dr. Charles R. Drew.

Some of the blood drive sites included blood donor organizations, college campuses, churches, and urban malls.



The blood drive program exceeded blood donation goals by 40 percent. Some of the informational materials used for the drive included posters, press releases and marketing strategies.

The Fifth District used Instagram to showcase live pictures at different locations from throughout the District. Several colleges and universities invited the chapters to become community partners.

## Epsilon Phi Provides Uplift to Young Boy

Cedric Nesby, Jr., a 9 year-old boy was shot in the back while riding in the car with his father after leaving a local store in November 2019. The bullet remains lodged in his back. Today, Cedric, a 4th grade student at Memphis' Magnolia Elementary School, is paralyzed after the bullet shattered part of his spine. Bro. Nathaniel Crawford brought Cedric's situation to the attention of Epsilon Phi during its December chapter meeting,

It was decided by the membership that the chapter would assist the Nesby family through the chapter's Uplift committee. Over \$1,000 was donated to the family almost immediately from the Epsilon Phi Brothers.

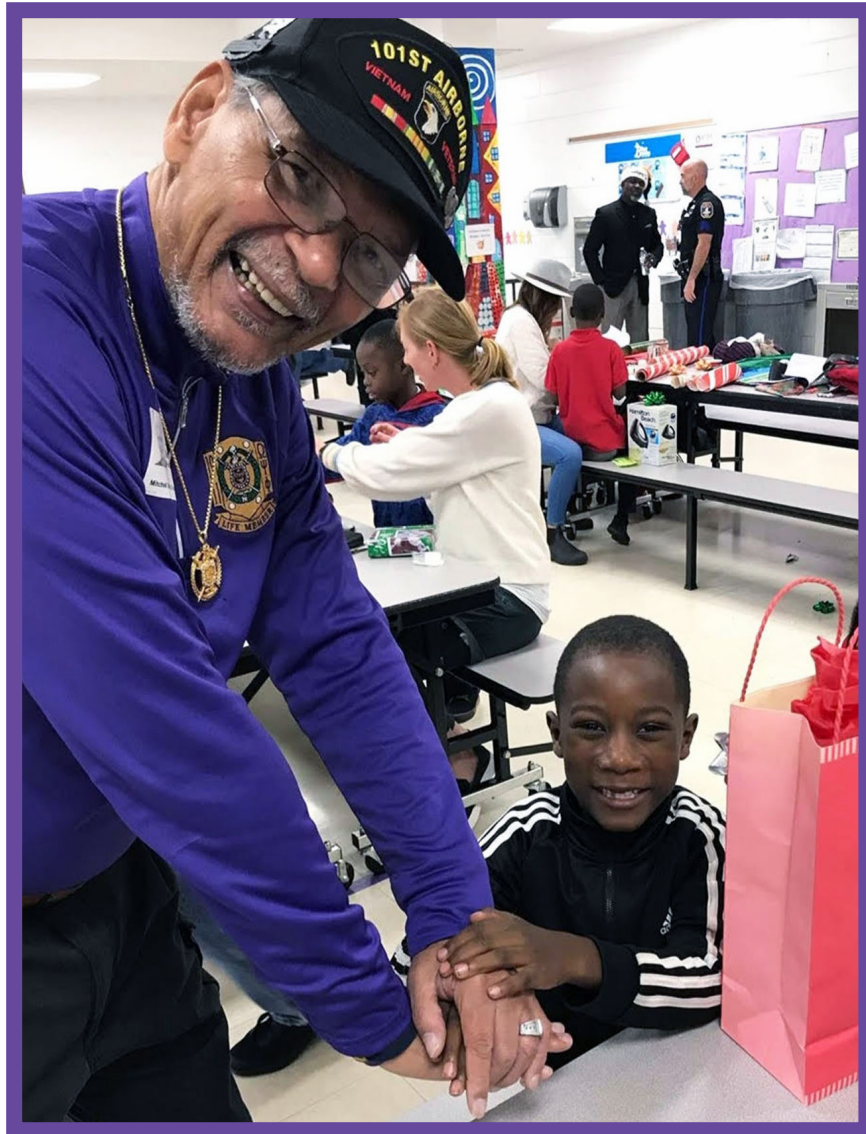
"When we heard of the young man's situation, we knew we had to do something," said Brother Commodore Primous. One of Memphis' local TV stations WREG, was contacted. The station had a new segment called "Pass it On" in

which it asks viewers to nominate needy individuals for cash awards. The public provided the Nesby family with a \$600 award. Cedric Nesby's father Cedric Sr., thanked everyone for the much needed gift.

Story by

Bro. Alvin J. Clark

# Chapter Spreads Holiday Spirit



The members of the Mu Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity spent the holiday period spreading joy throughout the Charleston, SC community. On January 3, 2020, members of the chapter spent the day at the Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Administration Medical Center. The brothers spent time visiting veterans who were receiving care. The chapter also made a donation of gift cards from various stores and restaurants, allowing veterans to purchase gifts of their choosing. "It is just great when we can be a blessing for others who are going

through tough times, regardless of the situation," stated Brother Lee Bennett.

The Mu Alpha Chapter has a special relationship with the students and staff of Mitchell Elementary School of Math and Science. Several chapter brothers participated in the Bridge Builders Mentoring Program, which meets bi-weekly at the school. Brother Reginald Terry, a behavioral specialist at the school, oversees the program. The brothers participated in the school's annual Holiday Market, which allows the students

to provide gifts to their family members by using a currency called "Shark Bucks." Brother Terry said students are thrilled with the gift program.

The brothers continued spreading the holiday spirit by participating in their second Toy Drive at the College of Charleston.

Brother Jamaal Walton, Assistant Athletic Director at the College of Charleston, stated that "we wanted to involve not only the Mu Alpha members but the members of the Beta Mu Chapter here at the College of Charleston in a project involving both chapters." By offering discounted admission, toys were also presented at the gate to children. The extra surplus of toys was distributed to children at the Children's Hospital located at the Medical University of South Carolina.

## Iota Iota Chapter

In July 2019, Iota Iota Chapter held their 75th Anniversary banquet in Raleigh, NC. The keynote speaker for the banquet was Brother Antonio F. Knox, Sr., the 40th Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Several awards were presented at the event.

**The Trailblazer Awardee were: Brothers Frederick Burroughs, Vic Bruinton, Ralph Campbell, Antonio Knox, Sr., John Larkins, J.D. Lewis, Clarence Lightner, Michael Morgan, James Paige, Harold Webb, and John Winters. The Sage Awardees were: Brothers Toussaint Avent, Johnny Farmer, and Lawrence Williams.**

The chapter was chartered by 26 Omega men from the surrounding Raleigh area on May 31, 1944.

# Lambda Tau Chapter Celebrates 60th Year

The shimmering stars flickered in a seemingly synchronized response to sparkling gold-sequined, regally draped ladies, escorted by stately men, in suits of black, accessorized by purple; and pins on lapels that spoke a fluent language called friendship.

A bridge served as a pathway to reach the Golden Isles event on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, whose waves arose as if giving a rippling, standing ovation in approval of this Grand Que-Affair.

The Lambda Tau Chapter, aka Lightning Lambda Tau, formally celebrated its 60th anniversary on November 9, 2019, on Jekyll Island, GA. This grand occasion coincided with the chapter's additional recognition of Achievement Week.

The chapter was chartered by ten men on October 15, 1959. Today, Brother Clyde Williams, '53/Upsilon Sigma and Brother William "Buck" Crosby, '56/Epsilon Epsilon are the last remaining links to that event.

For a monumental event, a Grand Basileus was required. Brother L. Keith Reddings, the Georgia State Representative introduced Bro. David Marion, Ph.D. and applause erupted. Brother Marion, Omega's 41st Grand Basileus, delivered the keynote address at the opulent affair.

Achievement Awards were given at the end of the program. Honorees included: *Citizen of the Year*- Audrey Gibbons; *Founders' Award*- Brothers Clyde Williams and Buck Crosby; *Superior Service Award*- Bro. Gregg Richardson, and *Omega Man of the Year*- Bro. L. Keith Reddings.

Story by Bro. Dwight Jordan



## REDEDICATION PROGRAM CHAPTERS HOLD SPECIAL CEREMONY

Seven Omega Psi Phi Fraternity chapters joined together to hold their annual Omega Rededication Program on November 17, 2019.

The special fraternal and ritualistic ceremony was held at the historic Woodworth Chapel on the campus of Tougaloo College.

The seven chapters known as the Central Mississippi Omega Coalition included: Epsilon Kappa Kappa, Beta Alpha, Eta, Eta Tau, Rho Epsilon, Upsilon Epsilon, and Xi Kappa Kappa. The theme of the program was "*The time for serious thinking and impact.*" The keynote address was delivered by Brother Dr. Byron D. Orey ('86 Beta Rho).

## Chapter Provides Achievement Week Activities

Nu Mu Mu is one of the newest Omega graduate chapters in the State of Mississippi. The chapter held its 2019 Achievement Week Program in Oxford, MS.

Nu Mu Mu hosted a series of events including a blood drive, a canned food drive, voter registration, fundraiser, and turkey giveaway.

Each year, the chapter joins with the Mississippi Blood Services in sponsoring the Dr. Charles R. Drew Blood Drive.

The lifesaving blood plasma is donated to benefit the citizens of Mississippi. This year, Nu Mu Mu Chapter was able to collect over 12 blood donations.

# CHAPTER STARTS FATHERHOOD PROGRAM

*Upsilon Omega Serves the St. Louis Community*

**O**n Sunday, February 23, 2020, Upsilon Omega Chapter launched its inaugural Fatherhood Initiative Program titled "Ques On Ice."

The purpose of the initiative was to celebrate the joy of Black fathers introducing their children and family to new ways of spending quality time together.

Brother Lee Furnace, Jr., the chapter's Fatherhood Initiative chair said some kids struggled at first on the ice and even fell a few times.

On November 17, 2019, Upsilon Omega celebrated its Founders' Banquet. The event was held at the chapter's Omega Center located in St. Louis, MO.

During the Achievement Week gala, the chapter recognized the late Brother Douglas Williams. He was the 22nd Eighth District Representative. Bro. Williams entered Omega Chapter in May 2019. Brother James Ball, the current Eighth District Representative presented Williams' widow, Mrs. Annie Williams with Bro. Williams' 60-year Fraternity Pin posthumously.

Also honored was Brother Dr. Leon Ashford for his excellent work in organizing the Omega Squires, a Black male youth development enrichment program. Bro. Ashford was initiated into the Fraternity through Omicron Sigma Chapter in 1949.



Bro. Rell Topps helps his daughter during their lesson on the ice. Photograph by Brother Jayson Jones, IHQ//Oracle and 8th District Director of Public Relations.

## Nu Rho Serves Community

**B**rother Sidney Hill, the chapter's Social Action chair said "voter registration and the census are the center of our social action agenda for 2020."

Bro. Hill also added that "we voted as a chapter to prioritize voter registration and education because this year's presidential election is critical for our community."

In reference to the census, Hill stated "helping to maximize the number of people who participate in the census will ensure that our community gets its fair share of federal resources."

During the year, Nu Rho Chapter

will be planning a series of events to educate and register voters leading up to the 2020 November presidential election.

The chapter also will be working with other Divine Nine organizations in the Albuquerque, NM area. The chapter is encouraging communities of color to participate in the 2020 census count.

Nu Rho Chapter joined the community in participating in the 2020 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Walk in downtown Albuquerque. The chapter is committed to renewing its service to the Albuquerque community.

# Chapters Observe Achievement Week

**T**hroughout the nation, and around the world, Omega celebrates its inception in November. During one week in the month, each Omega Psi Phi Fraternity chapter salutes Founders Love, Cooper, Coleman, and Just. The week also recognizes Brothers who, through their exemplary commitment to Omega, have uplifted their communities and reinforced the Fraternity's passion for service.

One such chapter that celebrated Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Achievement Week activities in grand fashion was **Xi Omega Chapter** located in Tulsa, OK. The chapter began the week with spiritual fellowship at Friendship Baptist Church's Sunday morning worship service. The chapter was welcomed by Reverend Bro. Jamal Dyer, the Senior Pastor.

On Tuesday, the chapter launched its Winter Clothing Drive as they sang karaoka tunes for coats. The activity held at the North Tulsa Community Center provided needy families with clothing items. "Big for a Day," was the theme of Wednesday's chapter event. The chapter partnered with the Tulsa Big Brothers and Big Sisters program.

On Thursday at the Heritage Manor, a senior living facility, the Brothers socialized and served Thanksgiving-style meals to the senior residents.

The chapter held a rededication and reclamation event on Saturday. At the event, Brothers joined together in reciting the Fraternity's oath as the Brotherhood rededicated themselves to the Principles of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

At the chapter's Founders Day Luncheon on Saturday, community and fraternal awards were presented. Also, six high school seniors received scholarship awards totaling \$7,000. The luncheon's keynote speaker was the Fraternity's International Grand Counselor, Brother Benjamin Crump, Esq.

**Eta Mu Mu Chapter** held its Achievement Week Symposium on November 9th at the University of North Texas in Denton, TX. Some of the symposium's workshops included discussions on financial literacy, police encounters, college readiness, and dining etiquette. The symposium was sponsored by the Purple Glove Foundation, the University of North Texas' Department of Institutional Equity & Diversity, and the university's Office of Outreach. Later, the chapter held their Achievement Week Banquet, awarding Joanna Woodard as the "Citizen of the Year." Woodard is the Vice President for Institutional Equity and Diversity at the University of North Texas.

**Psi Alpha Chapter**- Over 40 Brothers attended the chapter's Achievement Week worship service at Friendship Baptist Church. The chapter presented the San Antonio, TX church with a donation in support of its ministries.

**Rho Omega Chapter** celebrated its Achievement Week activity at the Faith Missionary Baptist Church. The chapter awards included: *Omega Man of the Year*-Bro. Adrian Saldana; *'Founders' Award*-Bro. Dr. Marion Henderson; *Superior Service Award*-Bro. Timothy Graham; *Colonel Charles Young Military Award*-Bro. Sergeant Twain Knight, and *Citizen of the Year*-and Bro. James Stewart, Caddo District Attorney.

Also, included were *Omega Unsung Heroes Award* winners- Bro. Myron Harris and Bro. James Rhodes. The winner of the 2019 High School Essay Contest was Chirstian Bates from the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts.

**Alpha Iota Iota Chapter**-In the observance of the Fraternity's Nationally Mandated Program, Achievement Week, Alpha Iota Iota chapter participated in the North Texas Metroplex Ques (NTMQ) Achievement Week Banquet. In an effort to collaborate with the neighboring chapters in the Dallas and Ft. Worth, TX area, all chapters shared achievements in support of the NTMQ coalition..The program was held at Concord Church in Dallas, TX., on November 15, 2019. This year the chapter recognized the recipients as pillars of uplift in the community. Bro. Lloyd Samuels served as Alpha Iota Iota Chapter's chairman for the event.

The awardees included:

*Omega Man of the Year* – Brother Eric Elliott

*Lawrence Carriere Brotherhood Award (Founders Award)* – Brother Horace Satisfield

*Superior Service Award* – Brother Carlton Young

*Citizen of the Year* – Chief Renee Hall



Charter members of Chi Lambda Lambda at their Chapter Anniversary in Chicago

## Chapter Celebrates 15th Year

In December 2019, the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Chi Lambda Lambda Chapter celebrated their 15th chapter anniversary. The event focused on the past, present, and future of the chapter. During the evening gala held at Chicago's Beverly Country Club, the chapter's charter members, past Basilei, and chapter Brothers were recognized for their

service to the community and Fraternity. Throughout Chi Lambda Lambda's 15 years in existence, the chapter has provided service globally. The chapter's crisis work has included work as far as the Bahamas, Haiti, and as close as Flint, MI.

Locally, the chapter has provided over \$25,000 in scholarships for high school students to attend college.

To highlight the importance of the arts in the local high schools, the chapter's Talent Hunt Contest has awarded \$9,000 to high school students who showcase their artistic talent.

The 26 charter members had an enduring vision of reclaiming Omega men to service in the greater Chicago south suburban area.

## Chapter Prepares Holiday Giveaway Baskets

Mu Xi Chapter began its holiday service to communities in the greater Chicago area. In November 2019, the chapter assisted the DuPage African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in preparing turkey giveaway baskets during the Thanksgiving season. The chapter joined with the REACH program, a food pantry and community outreach program that operates with DuPage AME Church.



Later in the month, the chapter also assisted the Servants For Hope, a non-profit organization that provides services to low-income areas. Mu Xi also joined with the All Things Through Christ Outreach, preparing turkey giveaway baskets in Chicago's Englewood community.

The neighborhood has the highest food insecurity rates in the county, averaging between 35% and 58% of residents turning to food pantries.



## Bro. Colonel Young Honored Former National Parks Service Head

The Board of Directors of the Colonel Charles Young Foundation invited the men of Omega Psi Phi to the California State Charles Young Memorial Highway Event.

The event was held in November 2019 at the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park. The California Legislature and the National Parks Service paid tribute to Colonel Young, a distinguished African American Army officer who dedicated his life to the service of the State of California.

A portion of State Highway 198 beginning at Salt Creek Road and ending at Kings Canyon National Park is the site of the Young Memorial Highway. National Parks officials said, "It was a moving and fitting tribute to a man who gave so much." Omega men wrote letters of support to the legislature in support of renaming a portion of the highway after Brother Col. Young.

Brother Dennis Martinez, the 12th District Representative and staff from the Fraternity's International Headquarters, attended the ceremony that highlighted Young's contribution to the national park. Col. Young remains a revered figure in the national park community. He served as the first Black superintendent of the Sequoia National Park.

"Colonel Young set the bar for how parks were to be managed 13 years before the National Park Service (NPS) was established," said retired NPS Director Jon Jarvis. Yosemite National Park Ranger Shelton Johnson is the only permanent Black Ranger in the Sierra Nevada region. He said "Young's work continues to inspire him. The problem is that America has not caught up with Charles Young," said Ranger Johnson.

## Bro. Dr. Alford Elected As A Member of NAI

Omega's Dr. Terry Alford, a member of Phi Iota Chapter, has been selected as a senior member of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). He was chosen because of his dedication to fostering a spirit of innovation at Arizona State University (ASU) while educating and mentoring the next generation of inventors.

Brother Dr. Alford is one of 54 academic inventors named to the spring 2019 class of NAI Senior Members. Bro. Alford serves as the associate director of the School for Engineering of Matter, Transport and Energy — one of the six schools in ASU's Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering — where he is also a professor and highly regarded mentor and teacher of materials science and engineering.

NAI senior members are active faculty, scientists and administrators from NAI member institutions who have demonstrated remarkable innovation producing technologies that have brought or aspire to bring, real impact on the welfare of society. Senior members have proven success in patents, licensing, and commercialization.

Brother Dr. Alford currently holds 10 U.S. patents and multiple invention disclosures. His efforts as an inventor and innovator have supported ASU's designation as one of the top 10 universities worldwide that grant U.S. patents.

"I use generating patent disclosures as a venue to train graduate students — a way to encourage them to be entrepreneurs, scholars, tinkerers, and intellectuals," said Dr. Alford.



# New Chapter in Mexico

**M**embers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Supreme Council led by Brother Dr. David E. Marion, the 41st Grand Basileus chartered a new chapter in Mexico.

Beta Nu NU Chapter was chartered on June 22, 2019 in Tijuana, Mexico.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY-

Brother James Witherspoon,  
IHQ/Oracle Magazine Director of Photography



PHOTOGRAPHS: (Top): Brother John Howard, the Fraternity's Assistant Executive Director plays the violin during a session with musicians. (Bottom): Supreme Council members Dr. David E. Marion, the 41st Grand Basileus; Dr. Trevor V. Hodge, the 13th District Representative; Dennis Martinez, the 12th District Representative and Ricky L. Lewis, the First Vice Grand Basileus wearing Sombreros.



## **“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**

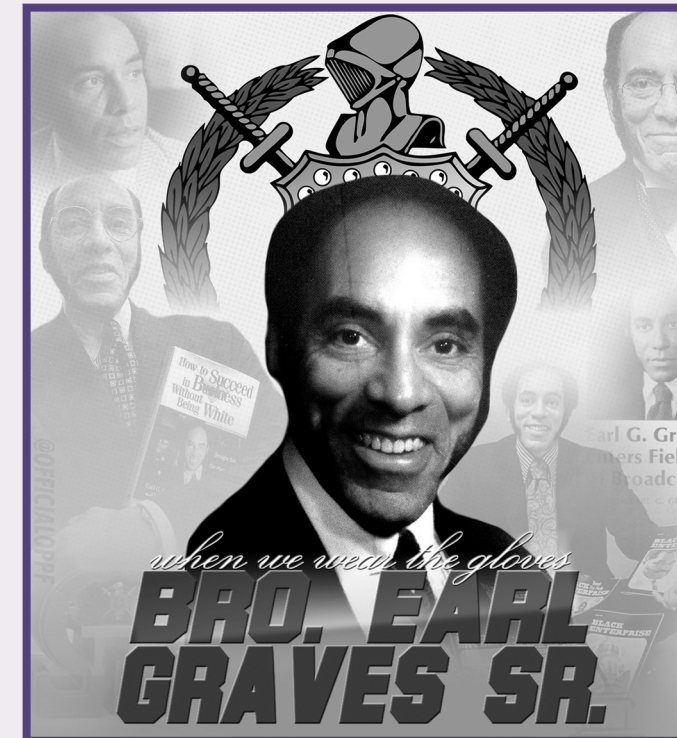
**When we wear the gloves  
A brother leaves the chapter rolls  
And moves to other worlds  
For when we say our last goodbye  
He walks on streets of Pearls.**

**When we wear the gloves.**

**by Brother Dr. Carver A. Portlock**

## **Media Titan Enters Omega Chapter**

***Publisher of Black Enterprise Who Championed Black Businesses***



1999. Other Omega men who received the civil rights group’s highest honor include Founder Ernest Just, Col. Charles Young, William H. Hastie, Carter G. Woodson, Langston Hughes, Roy Wilkins and Benjamin Elijah Mays.

Born in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, New York in 1935, Graves later matriculated to Morgan State University. He earned an undergraduate degree in economics. Upon graduation, Brother Graves served two years as an officer in the Army, and worked in law enforcement and real estate. In 1965, he joined the staff of U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy as his administrative assistant. When Kennedy was assassinated in 1968, he decided to refocus his career.

Brother Graves launched Black Enterprise after he secured a \$250,000 loan from Chase Manhattan Bank, according to his obituary written by Derek T. Dingle. “The time was ripe for a magazine devoted to economic development in the African American community,” Graves wrote. “The publication was committed to the task of educating, inspiring and uplifting its readers. My goal was to show them how to thrive professionally, economically and as proactive, empowered citizens.”

Over the years, Black Enterprise spawned from a single-magazine publishing company to a diversified multimedia business that reached more than 6 million African Americans through print, digital, broadcast and live-event platforms. Each year, Black Enterprise published a list of the nation’s top 100 businesses.

In addition to his success with Black Enterprise, Graves was also the CEO and owner of Pepsi-Cola of Washington D.C., the largest minority-controlled Pepsi franchise in the United States at the time. Grave also wrote The New York Times best-seller, “How to Succeed in Business Without Being White.”

His wife, Barbara Kydd Graves, passed away in 2012. They were married for 50 years. Graves is survived by his three sons. His son, John followed in his father's footsteps joining Omega in 1983 through Sigma Nu (Brown University).

**I**n 1970, Earl Graves Sr. launched Black Enterprise, a magazine that championed and chronicled the rise of African-American entrepreneurs in the United States. Through its pages, Black Enterprise or BE, provided the fledgling African American business owner a virtual roadmap on how to succeed in the mainstream and “achieve their measure of the American dream,” Graves said, according to his online obituary in Black Enterprise.

On the evening of April 6, Brother Graves, who was initiated into the Fraternity through Pi Chapter on the campus of Morgan State College on Dec. 10, 1954, passed away following a longtime battle with Alzheimer’s. Bro. Graves was 85.

For nearly 50 years, Bro. Graves served as the lodestar for generations of accomplished black business owners, civic leaders and community servants. He played a pivotal role in securing the presidential election of Barack Obama through his endorsement in the pages of Black Enterprise. Prior to that, Graves supported the presidential candidacy of Brother Jesse L. Jackson.

His decades-long fight for racial justice and economic parity earned Graves the NAACP Spingarn Medal in

**By OPPF Editorial Board, April 7, 2020**



## Omega's Larry Edgeworth Victim of Coronavirus Crisis

**L**arry Edgeworth, an award-winning technician and audio engineer for NBC News and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity member, has died after testing positive for the coronavirus in March 2020. Brother Edgeworth, 61, was initiated into the Fraternity on June 30, 1986 through the Nu Omicron Chapter in Queens, New York. He was the 'Ace' on a pledge line of three. While at NBC News, Edgeworth spent 25 years as an audio technician in the network's news division. He had often traveled with correspondents around the world.

In a Facebook post, Brother Art Norman, a longtime NBC anchor and reporter in Chicago, wrote: "We lost a great man of Omega Psi Phi today. Larry Edgeworth was an Award Winning Technician and Audio Engineer for NBC. Edgeworth succumbed to complications surrounding the Covid-19 virus. Please keep his family and his NBC News co-workers in prayer during this difficult time." A number of Omega men posted messages of condolences to members of Edgeworth's family, friends, and fellow chapter Brothers.

Dr. David E. Marion, 41st Grand Basileus, also expressed his sympathies: "Brother Edgeworth's passing is a reminder that life is precious and we should take nothing for granted. While we mourn the passing of this great Brother, father and chapter member, I offer my sincere and heartfelt prayers and condolences to his wife, his two sons and those who knew and loved

Brother Edgeworth during their time of bereavement. I also ask that all Omega men take seriously the advice and guidance concerning this global pandemic and govern themselves accordingly."

article by the OPPF Editorial Staff

### OBITUARIES FOR THE ORACLE

#### Background and Purpose

*To write an appropriate obituary, it's important to capture the spirit of the loved one who has passed. Compose a paragraph that describes not only what the Omega Man did, but also his work in the Fraternity. For example, focus on dates, job, and duties. A short, factual obituary is needed.*

*The following steps should be taken when writing an obituary:*

**1. Start with the full name of the deceased, and the date he entered Omega Chapter.**

**2. Provide a very brief summary of the deceased's life, starting from birth and working forward. You don't need to include every detail; just the key facts/information such as initiated Chapter, schools, profession, and any duties he may have held in the Fraternity.**

#### Example:

*Bro. John Jones transitioned to Omega Chapter on December 1, 2019. He was born January 16, 1928 in Fayetteville, NC. Bro. Jones was initiated through Alpha Chapter in 1949. Bro. Jones was a retired Air Force Judge Advocate General. He was to be promoted to the rank of Major General two-months before his untimely death. He served as the Keeper of Finance for his Tau Tau Mu Chapter for five years.*

## TRIBUTE TO OMEGA PSI PHI BROTHERS WHO HAVE DIED OF COVID-19



Bro. Alfred Adams, II  
Detroit, MI



Bro. Dr. Harry Blake  
Shreveport, LA



Bro. Dr. Truby B. Clayton  
Marshall, TX



Bro. Judson F. Eneas  
Nassau, Bahamas



Bro. Dr. Gerald Glisson  
Patterson, NJ



Bro. Lloyd "Luck" Hall  
Indianapolis, IN



Bro. Larry Hammond  
New Orleans, LA



Bro. Jerry Hoagland  
Indianapolis, IN



Bro. Harold Lang  
Detroit, MI



Bro. Daryl Lynch  
Pontiac, MI



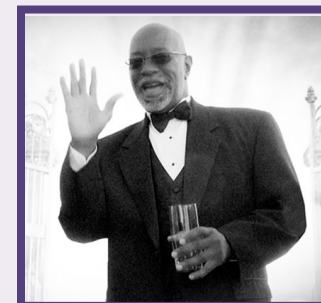
Bro. Orlando McDaniel  
Dallas, TX



Bro. Michael Murrell  
Atlanta, GA



Bro. Marlowe Stoudmaire  
Detroit, MI



Bro. Johnnie Walker, Jr.  
Capitol Heights, MD

*To read more information about each Brother who has entered Omega Chapter listed on this page, please go to:*

<https://oppf.org/tribute-to-omega-psi-phi-brothers-who-have-died-of-covid-19/>

### **Brother Stacy Brown**

*Businessman*

Brother Brown entered Omega Chapter on November 28, 2019. He was initiated into Omega through Mu Psi Chapter at North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University (NC A&T) in 1990. At NC A&T, Brother Brown majored in Accounting, and later joined Beta Kappa Kappa Chapter after graduation in 1991. He served as the chapter's Basileus, Vice-Basileus, and the Keeper of Finance. He also served as the advisor to Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter, and as the Sixth District's Assistant Keeper of Records and Seal. Bro. Brown was a three-time *Omega Man of the Year*, and he was also a recipient of the *International Superior Service Award*. Professionally, Brown was an Assistant Vice President at Lincoln Financial. He also worked at AT & T and Wix Filtration Corporation. He is survived by his wife, Karen; son, Miles and daughter, Miyah.

### **Brother Samuel Cooper, III**

*Attorney*

Brother Cooper entered Omega Chapter on December 21, 2019. He was initiated into Omega through Mu Chapter in 1967 on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania. While at Penn, Bro. Cooper was a member of the school's track team. Cooper was known as an outstanding student and athlete. He later attended Harvard University Law School graduating in 1972 with Juris Doctorate. At Harvard, Bro. Cooper was awarded a Law Review Fellowship for exceptional scholarship. Throughout Bro. Cooper's career, he founded businesses in healthcare, wireless technology, and telecommunications. As an attorney, he argued before the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the National Cable Television Association.

### **Brother Ivan N. Dixon, III**

*Actor and Director*

Brother Dixon entered Omega Chapter on March 16, 2008. He was initiated into Omega through Tau Psi Chapter in 1954 on the campus of North Carolina Central University. While at North Carolina Central, Bro. Dixon majored in Drama. Dixon was famously known for playing the role of Staff Sergeant James "Kinch" Kinckloe on the "Hogan's Heroes" TV series. He also directed other series and TV movies such as *The Waltons*, *The Rockford Files*, *The Bionic Woman*, *Magnum, P.I.*, and *The A-Team*. He also directed the 1973 feature film "The Spook Who Sat by the Door." He was born in Harlem, NY in 1931.

### **Brother Frank F. Fennell, Sr.**

*United States Air Force Officer*

Brother Fennell entered Omega Chapter on January 13, 2020. He was initiated into Omega through Lambda Epsilon Chapter, Tuskegee Institute in 1951. Bro. Fennell graduated from Tuskegee with a B.S. degree in Education and English. Upon graduation in 1953, he was commissioned as an Air Force Second Lieutenant after completing the school's famous ROTC program. Bro. Fennell was trained by Lt. Colonel Herbert Eugene Carter, an original member of the famed 99th Fighter Squadron, the Tuskegee Airman-"Red Tails." He later completed his Master of Business Administration in Industrial Management from Florida State University. Fennell served for 21 years in Air Force earning the wings of a Master Navigator. He retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1974. As a World-Wide Transoceanic Navigator, he flew over 13,000 flight hours, and plotted air navigational missions into over 100 countries. Brother Fennell was a highly decorated officer who flew combat mission in Vietnam. He was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses and two Bronze Stars. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Bettye Jo and children; Rosalyn, Frank, Jr., David and Thomas. Bro. Fennell was an active member of Tau Pi Graduate Chapter in Columbia, MD.

### **Brother Dr. David Garrett**

*Scientist*

Brother Garrett entered Omega Chapter on December 30, 2019. Garrett joined Omega through Theta Omicron Chapter in 1974. Later he moved to the Detroit area, and joined Tau Kappa Kappa Chapter. Earlier, he graduated from Morehouse College, Magna Cum Laude in 1967 with a B.S. in Chemistry. He also earned a M.S. and a Ph.D., in Physical Chemistry from the University of Iowa. Professionally, Bro. Garrett was a scientist in the automotive industry. He worked for the Ford Motor Company, and Delphi Automotive Group, retiring in 2007.

### **Brother James Johnson**

*Educator*

Brother Johnson entered Omega Chapter on January 15, 2020. Bro. Johnson joined Omega through Gamma Gamma Chapter (Grambling State University) in 1956. He received a degree in Education from Grambling State, and later a MS in Teaching from the University of Wisconsin. He taught school in Pontiac, MI, and was elected to the Pontiac School Board. He also served on the Board of Community Network Services, and was a member of the North Oakland County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Brother Johnson was a member of the Omega Life Membership Foundation, and was a charter member of Omicron Alpha Alpha Graduate Chapter in Pontiac, MI. Brother Johnson was known simply by many as "JJ" and he was a legendary fixture at 10th District Meetings and throughout the Fraternity.

### **Brother Robert E. Matthews**

*Civil Service*

Brother Matthews transitioned to Omega Chapter on July 6, 2019. He was initiated into the Fraternity through Pi Chapter Morgan State College. After college graduation, he entered the U.S. Army becoming a Staff Sergeant while stationed in Germany during the Korean War. After his discharged from the service in 1952, Matthews worked for the Baltimore Police Department and the Parole and Probation departments. In 1970, he earned his Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Maryland. He later taught at Morgan State University.

### **Brother Sylvester F. Mosley**

*Educator*

Brother Sylvester F. Mosley transitioned to Omega Chapter on September 6, 2019. He was born on September 26, 1931 in Inkster, MI. He attended Alabama State University, but his education was interrupted in 1952 when he was drafted into the United States Marine Corps to serve in the Korean War. After being honorably discharged in 1954, Sylvester returned to college. Bro. Mosley was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Gamma Sigma Chapter on May 6, 1954. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1956 and later obtained his Master's Degree in Education from Eastern Michigan University. Bro. Mosley enjoyed a 34-year career as an educator, serving as teacher, coach, vice principal, and principal in Inkster Public Schools. He stressed academic excellence to all his students, many of whom earned college scholarships and moved on to successful careers.

### **Brother Montago T. McCraney**

*Armed Service Veteran and Civil Servant*

Brother McCraney transitioned to Omega Chapter on September 12, 2019. He was born June 29, 1969 in Memphis, Tennessee. McCraney was initiated through Mu Xi Chapter in 2010. He graduated with a BA in Accounting from the University of Phoenix. Bro. McCraney was a United States Air Force veteran, serving in the Gulf War and Operation Desert Storm. Also, while in the Air Force, he served with the 355th Civil Engineering Squadron, the Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers and at the Osan Air Force Base in Korea.

He continued his government career working at the United States Post Office in various leadership roles over the last 20 years. He was an active member of Mu Xi Chapter.

### **Brother Willie Payne**

*Journalist and Community Leader*

Brother Willie Payne entered Omega Chapter on October 3, 2019. He was born on May 19, 1955 in Monroe, LA. He was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Omicron Alpha Alpha Chapter in 2003. Payne graduated from Grambling State University with a degree in Journalism. Bro. Payne was an investigative reporter for the Oakland Press where his investigation of a highly controversial case in Montgomery, AL led to the critically acclaimed book, *The Todd Road Incident*. Bro. Payne later became a Pontiac, MI., Police officer and was elected as the city's Mayor.

### **Bro. Dr. Clarence L. Stone, Sr.**

*Educator*

Brother Stone transitioned into Omega Chapter on December 31, 2019. He was initiated into Omega Psi Phi through Pi Epsilon Chapter in 1955 at Maryland State College. He earned a bachelor's degree in Biology in 1958. Bro. Dr. Stone was a long time educator in the state of Michigan, serving as a high school biology teacher, football coach, counselor and administrator. In 1968, he earned a M.Ed. from Wayne State University. In 1972, he became the Principal of Highland Park High School. He later became the Director of Personnel and Labor Relations at Highland Park Community College. In 1981, he earned a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. He retired in 1992.

### **Brother Thomas W. Sumners, Sr.**

*Educator*

Brother Sumners entered Omega Chapter on August 18, 2019. He was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Epsilon Epsilon Chapter. He graduated from Benedict with a bachelor's degree in Social Studies. He later earned a master's degree from Trenton State College. He was a long-time educator. His second career was as an Assistant Director of Security at Rider College. Bro. Sumners was an active member of Delta Upsilon Chapter.

### **Brother Raleigh Trammell**

*Pastor*

Brother Trammell entered Omega Chapter on August 15, 2019. Trammell was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Beta Psi Chapter in 1958 at Clark College. He earned his degree from Clark in 1959. A year later he met Morehouse graduate, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1963, Brother Trammell participated in the March on Washington.

In 1965, he took a stand by joining the historic march for voting rights from Selma to Montgomery. His efforts led to him being inducted into the Selma Civil Rights Hall of Fame. Reverend Trammell was a former national board chairman of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the pastor of Central Missionary Baptist Church.



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.  
International Headquarters  
3951 Snapfinger Pkwy  
Decatur, GA 30035

EACH  
WEDNESDAY  
7:11PM  
EST

THE MEN OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.  
REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE ON THE

# INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CALL

*The need for this time to pray is informed  
by the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 7:11PM EST**

**(712) 775-7031**  
ACCESS CODE - 674-166-340



**EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN THE CALL**  
*HOSTED BY REV. DR. WALTER T. RICHARDSON (GRAND CHAPLAIN OF OMEGA PSI PHI)*

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