

THE



# ORACLE

OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INCORPORATED

SUMMER/FALL 2018

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**DR. DAVID E.  
MARION**  
*1st* **GRAND  
BASILEUS**

*Et*

**DR. JOYCE COLE-  
MARION**  
**FIRST LADY**

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### ORACLE COVER DESIGN

By  
**Bro. Melvin Hodge**  
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TWO BROTHERS AND SCHOLARSHIP--Bro. Reed Blair (left) and Bro. Johnathan Blair (right) earned Juris Doctor degrees from Stetson University's College of Law. Reed was initiated in 2012 at Brown University and Johnathan was initiated in 2015 at Florida A&M University. They are the sons of Brother Marlow Blair, Upsilon Delta, 1981.

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**Brother Dr. David E. Marion**

## EDITOR'S NOTES

This issue highlights the mention of great Omega giants. Throughout Omega, we celebrate our new giant-our new leader Brother Dr. David Marion, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's 41st Grand Basileus.



One of our past GIANTS was our beloved leader the late Brother Burnel E. Coulon, the Fraternity's 31st Grand Basileus. For many of us in Omega, Brother Coulon was our friend, shepherd, and mentor. For those of us who had the pleasure of meeting his acquaintance we heard him fuss with laughter, and as a result, he taught us much—like serving Omega with enthusiasm, grace, and style. We will miss Coulon's iconic grandfather spirit. He provided all of Omega with a distinguished legacy of *Friendship* that is everlasting.

I first met Brother Coulon when I had began my Omega journey in Spring 1976. It was during my second week as a member of Upsilon Beta's Lampados Club when Coulon arrived on the campus of Ball State University wearing a fashionably loud sports coat. Brother Coulon, the Immediate Past Tenth District Representative, had an authoritative voice. During that visit, he brought another giant with him, Brother Judge Marion W. Garnett, the 29th Grand Basileus. I was only a 19-year-old journalism student when I was assigned by my Big Brothers at Upsilon Beta to photograph the two giants during their visit at the chapter's annual weekend gala.

In later years, Brother Coulon gave me the oath of office as a newly elected Tenth District officer. When I became the Oracle Editor, Coulon would often call me, and his conversations would start, 'Hey Brother Brown where is my Oracle?' The last time I would see my mentor was at the 81st Grand Conclave in New Orleans last summer. I gave him an Oracle and took a picture with him. He misplaced his Oracle early during the conclave, but I gave him another one because I wanted him to have his Oracle.

FIETTS,

Brother Dr. Milbert O. Brown, Jr.  
International Editor of *The Oracle*  
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# Omega's Past Grand Basilei



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**Dr. Edward J. Braynon**  
30th Grand Basileus



**Dr. Dorsey C. Miller**  
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**Lloyd J. Jordan, Esq.**  
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**Dr. George H. Grace**  
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FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND BASILEUS

Brothers,

As I pen this letter, I am humbled to serve as your 41st Grand Basileus. I appreciate your individual and collective support and I do not take for granted the trust that you have placed in me to lead our great Fraternity forward.

The highest level of leadership requires a greater level of service. This, my Brothers, is who we are called to be, servant leaders. During the times in which we now live, we need every brother to help us fight this fight. We need each brother to reclaim at least one brother. We need each chapter to do a fatherhood and mentoring initiative. We're fighting against the school to prison pipeline, voter suppression, police brutality, and discriminatory laws. We are fighting for economic equality, reducing the stigma attached to mental illness through our signature initiative, Brother You're On My Mind, increasing fatherhood and mentoring initiatives, and increasing our support of HBCUs. Our outstanding team of officers will continue to work hard to create positive change that will strengthen our rightful place as the premier fraternal organization in the world. Brothers, there are a lot of things going on in our communities that are disheartening and have the appearance of pre-civil rights days. However, since our inception, we have been known to serve our fellow man by providing for and protecting our own. It can't be any different now. The issues of our community are great and will only be eradicated with the collective efforts of men who have been called out from the masses to contend with them.

Since the conclave, with your support, we streamlined the committee structure and our operations at IHQ, instituted electronic registration and voting for international meetings, conducted an International Technology Summit, updated our financial system and membership data base, gave financial support to four HBCUs, and expanded our global footprint by chartering a new chapter in Shanghai, China. Omega is now in thirteen countries.

Lastly, let us encourage and build up one another to fulfill our divine assignment. Remember, we are brothers and friends as our motto states, "Friendship is Essential to the Soul." Friendship is a defining characteristic of Omega. There is an African Proverb that says if you want to go fast, go alone; but if you want to go far, go together. Brothers, by the grace of God, let's go far!

Fraternally,

David E. Marion, Ph.D.  
41st Grand Basileus



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**FROM THE DESK OF THE FIRST VICE GRAND BASILEUS**

Greetings Brothers,

As the New Year for the Fraternity comes into view, I trust that your life and that of your family has been gratifying.

I want to first and foremost thank you for entrusting me with your endorsement by electing me as your 35th First Vice Grand Basileus of our beloved Fraternity. Let her mantra of men of strong will and Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift continue to define us and serve as our guideposts as we uphold the precepts of our founders!

When I sought to become your 35th First Vice Grand Basileus, I said to you that "Excellence Was My Starting Point." I trust that you have taken notice of the care and attention given to keeping that commitment. I said that I would help the 41st Grand Basileus become the very best Grand Basileus in the history of our Fraternity. We are keeping that commitment.

In our communities world-wide, we have our mandated programs and we have our recently added programs. We actively do these things - Fatherhood and Mentoring, searching for and Illuminating Young talent and providing scholarship support - and we do these things not for ego or personal gain - but instead because it is our duty and our charge. We have been gifted with God 'sAmazing Grace and Talent to do the good things we do.

During Brother Dr. David Marion, 41st Grand Basileus administration, we are here to serve you and our communities. Here is what we are asking you to do to serve our communities and make a difference;

- Number 1. Save the Children through mentoring, scholarship offerings and tutoring.
- Number 2. Help mothers and fathers to be better mothers and fathers to our posterity.
- Number 3. Stay engaged with our brotherhood through (BYOMM):
- Number 4. Save our HBCUs and other schools through regular and consistent contributions :
- Number 5. Invest in Omega; pay your fraternity dues reclaim just one additional brother.

If we resolve to do these five things and do them well, we will continue to see the undeniable fulfillment of our charge of EFFECTING POSITIVE CHANGE in our communities

Yours in Friendship ,

Ricky L. Lewis, 35th First Vice Grand Basileus

## International Reclamation and Retention Committee Report "EACH ONE BRING ONE"

**O**n behalf of our Brother Dr. David Marion, 41st Grand Basileus, the Supreme Council, and the International Reclamation and Retention Committee, greetings and thank you for your continued commitment to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the greatest fraternal organization in the world.

As active and financial members, we all must continue to move "OMEGA" forward to new and unprecedented heights. While Reclamation and Retention is just one of the many core drivers of this Fraternity, it must be a primary responsibility of every Brother. Yes, "Friendship is Essential to the Soul" but being financial and active is critical to the Fraternity's survival.

We all know many (line, chapter, other) Brothers who claim to love Omega, who still participate in social Omega activities, and who represent Omega through the wearing of paraphernalia, friendships, etc., yet they are not active and financial with their local chapter, district or even at the national level.

We must reverse this trend and make a concerted effort to reach out to these Brothers to let them know that they are truly missed and Omega needs them to come

back into the fold. Remind them of our "oath" and how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. The International Reclamation and Retention Committee is excited to provide the tools, resources, and information necessary for you to communicate with those Brothers to make Omega stronger and better for all of us. Overall, the International Reclamation and Retention Committee is focused on the following primary goals for 2018-2019:

- \*Establish a Reclamation and Retention Motto – "Each One Bring One"
- \*Establish a process for reclaiming 10,000 non-financial members by October 31, 2019.
- \*Achieve 100% retention of existing members from the previous years.
- \*Establish a sustainable Reclamation and Retention program to engage all Brothers
- \*Update the Reclamation and Retention Resource Guide (forms, letters, and other reclamation and retention documents are all housed in one location)
- \*Update the IHQ membership database to identify accurate contact information (phone, email, address) on non-active members

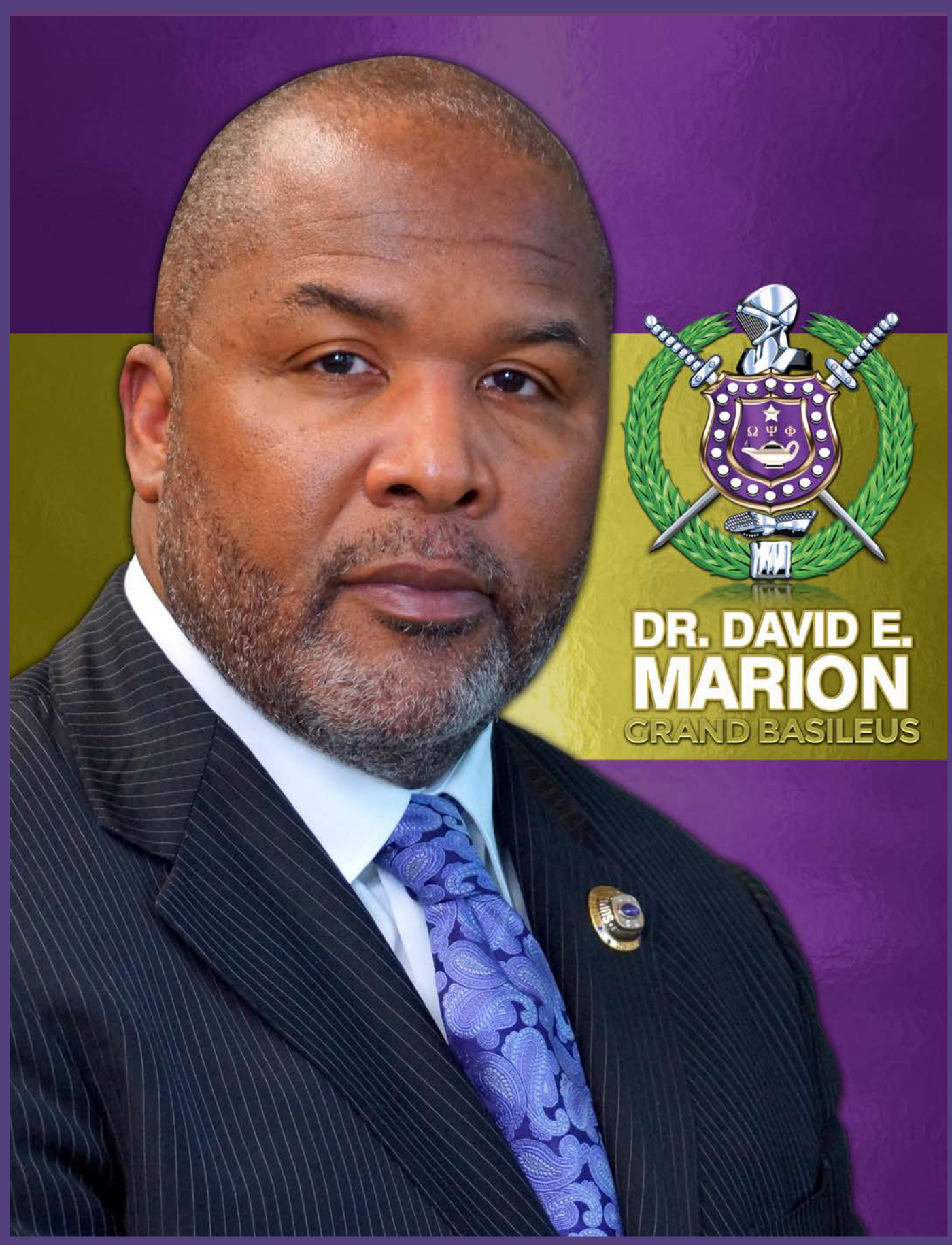
Brothers, Reclamation and Retention (being financial and actively working to uplift Omega) is only one of the many ways we make a difference and positively impact this Fraternity and our local communities.

Going forward, let's challenge every financial and active Brother to "Each One Reach One" and continue making Omega better than it has been and the best that it can be. Long live the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

*In Friendship and Fraternity,*

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# 41<sup>ST</sup>

## GRAND BASILEUS

**B**rother Dr. David E. Marion became a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. in 1979 through the Eta Xi Chapter in Starkville, MS. He has held the following positions: Vice Basileus – Eta Xi Chapter, Basileus – Eta Xi Chapter, Regional Representative – North Region Mississippi, State Scholarship Chair, State Marshal, 1st Vice State Representative (Mississippi – 3 terms), State Representative (Mississippi – 3 terms), Seventh District Historian, Seventh District Rules, Recommendations & Bylaws Chairman, 1st Vice Seventh District Representative (3 terms) and Seventh District Representative (three terms).

As the 21st Seventh District Representative, Brother Marion successfully leveraged the tremendous platform of leading the largest district in Omega. During his tenure as District Representative, chapters in the 7th District donated more than \$1 million dollars in scholarships to college-bound high school seniors and fed more than 1600 families in Mississippi and Florida. By utilizing the talents of the brotherhood, the 7th District developed the first online district-wide meeting registration, dues payment, and MSP candidate fee submission portal in the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Other accomplishments include increasing district scholarships for undergraduate Brothers to \$80,000; creating the first “Healthy Ques” newsletter focusing on

**STORY CONTINUES NEXT PAGE**



At the Grand Conclave in Summer 2018, Brother David E. Marion (center), then a candidate for the Fraternity's Grand Basileus position is presented to the brotherhood using the backdrop of festive New Orleans jazz music and Omega men in Zulu dress. Photograph by Oracle staff/Bro. Brown. (ZULU story page 24)

health matters for Black men and their families; and overseeing 7th district membership with approximately 5000 financial brothers in 147 chapters on the strength of reclamation efforts. In July 2014, Dr. Marion was elected 1st Vice Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi during the grand conclave in Philadelphia. In this role, he was responsible for the operation of all committees of Omega and the planning and execution of international leadership conference meetings of the Fraternity. Dr. Marion was elected the 41st Grand Basileus

in July 2018 at the Grand Conclave in New Orleans. He is the first Mississippian to be elected to an international seat for the Fraternity. Dr. Marion is a Licensed Professional Counselor in the states of Alabama and Mississippi and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the state of Mississippi. He is nationally certified in counseling.

Marion holds professional membership in the American Counseling Association and serves on the board of directors for the Clarity Foundation, the Friendship Foundation, Inc,

Three Undergraduates, Inc., Omega Charities, Omega Development Corporation, and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Credit Union. Dr. Marion served as Sire Archon (President) from 2015-2017 and Sire Archon Elect (Vice President) from 2013-2015 of Beta Gamma Chapter.

Dr. Marion is owner of Marion Counseling Services, PLLC, a mental health clinic that specializes in providing individual, group, marital or couple, and family counseling, psychological evaluations, psychiatric evaluations, and employee assistance programs to organizations throughout the state of Mississippi. He has been in the counseling field since 1992

in the counseling field since 1992 and in private practice since 1998. He holds a Ph.D. in Counselor Education with a minor in Public Administration and Public Policy from Mississippi State University, a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Mississippi State University, and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Jackson State University.

Dr. Marion has been married to the lovely Dr. Joyce Cole-Marion, a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and co-owner of Marion Counseling Services, PLLC, for more than 18 years. He has two children, Dr. Chelsea Marion, a physician in Atlanta, and Chloe Marion, a 10-year-old boss of many.

# FALLEN GIANT

*Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's 31st Grand Basileus*

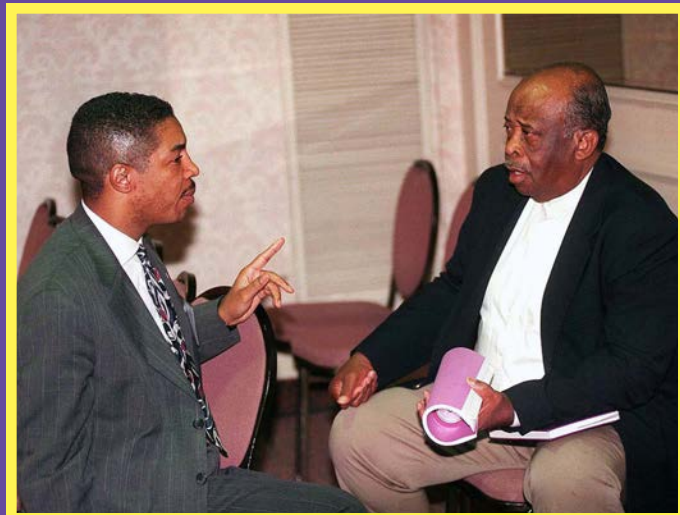
**Bro. Burnel E. Coulon**

**B**rother Coulon honored Omega with his brilliant mind and his unwavering dedication to the vision of our Founders and to our Cardinal Principles. He was never shy to express his thoughts and feelings.

At 89 years-old, Brother Coulon entered Omega Chapter on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 following an extended illness. Brother Coulon blessed us with his attendance at the 81st Grand Conclave that was held in his hometown of New Orleans.



# The Life and Legacy of Bro. Coulon



"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in," was among his favorite expressions. Born on July 6, 1929, Brother Coulon was raised in the Crescent City. To earn money for college, Brother Coulon served a three-year stint in the United States Army. Upon being honorably discharged, Brother Coulon enrolled at the Tuskegee Institute, where he studied commercial industries. While at Tuskegee, Coulon was initiated into the Fraternity through the Lambda Epsilon Chapter on November 16, 1950.

After graduation Brother Coulon launched a 40-year career as a commercial printer, publicist and educator. Brother Coulon served as the First Vice Seventh District Representative. Eventually settling in Indianapolis, Brother Coulon joined the historic Zeta Psi Chapter, where he later was elected Basileus. His service in Omega continued when Brother Coulon was elected as the District Representative for the Talented Tenth District.



*PHOTOGRAPH (TOP/Left)-In 1976, Bro. Burnel Coulon, (center) the Immediate Past 10th District Representative was joined by Bro. Judge Marion W. Garnett, the 29th Grand Basileus as they were presented special awards by members of Upsilon Beta Chapter on campus of Ball State University. The picture was taken by Milbert O. Brown, Jr., a young journalism student and a member of chapter's Lampados Club. Brown would later become Omega's International Editor of The Oracle, and would be mentored by Bro. Coulon.*

*PHOTO (Top/Right)- Bro. Burnel Coulon, the 31st Grand Basileus (right) shares ideas with Bro. Lloyd J. Jordan, Esq., the 36th Grand Basileus. PHOTO (Right) Bro. Coulon with Bro. Dr. George H. Grace, the 37th Grand Basileus. PHOTO (left)-Bro. Coulon receives special award from Bro. Antonio F. Knox, the 40th Grand Basileus and Bro. Warren Lee, the 38th Grand Basileus.*

Oracle/ IHQ Photographs

Historical Grand Basileus photographs by Bro. Milbert O. Brown, Jr.  
Homecoming service photographs by Bro. James Witherspoon



From there, Brother Coulon was elected as the First Vice Grand Basileus at the 57th Grand Conclave in Atlanta, Georgia. After serving two terms, Brother Coulon was elected as the 31st Grand Basileus on the first ballot during the 1979 Grand Conclave in Denver, Colorado.

Under his leadership Omega established its first endowed chair at Rust College in Holly Springs, MS. Brother Coulon often expressed that Omega should be more than just a social fraternity, but an organization that promotes and enriches mankind in a number of ways.

Brother Coulon was a true scholar of fraternal history, and he was known for his oratory ability and presence when he took the floor. He was well-read in numerous disciplines with the ability to recall in detail any aspect of a given subject. This uniqueness set him apart as one of the most prolific members of our Fraternity.

A once sturdy tree in the forest of Omega has fallen. Burnel Coulon was a true and loyal son of Omega.

Words from  
Dr. David Marion, 41st Grand Basileus



*PHOTOGRAPH (TOP)-Several hundred members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity attended Brother Coulon's homecoming service in Indianapolis, Indiana.*

*PHOTOGRAPH (CENTER)- Bro. Darell Comer, Sr., the current Indiana Representative (center) talks to the brotherhood. Bro. Comer, a member of Alpha Chi Graduate Chapter was initiated into Omega through Tuskegee's Lambda Epsilon Chapter several years after Bro. Coulon. He also served on the Supreme Council as an Undergraduate student and was mentored by his chapter brother-Coulon.*

# THE CLAVE



## FRATERNITY HELD 2018 GRAND CONCLAVE IN NEW ORLEANS

Several thousand Omega men enjoyed the City of New Orleans cuisine and Bourbon Street excitement at the Fraternity's 81st Grand Conclave. The mid-July 2018 conclave was hosted by several chapters. The chapters included: Rho Phi, Gamma Rho, Phi Iota Iota, Chi Kappa Kappa, Gamma Lambda Lambda, Theta Sigma, Xi Sigma, Omega Kappa, Alpha Lambda, Theta Mu and Alpha Delta Epsilon. "We would like to thank the Chapters of the greater New Orleans, LA metropolitan area for their due diligence in preparing the Fraternity for the 81st



herculean effort to bring the Fraternity together again as one," said Brother Patrick Bouvier Smith, the 25th Ninth District Representative.

According to Brother Al White, the International Social Action Chairman, on July 18, after months of planning, the Youth Leadership team and young men arrived at Xavier University for the Youth Leadership Conference. The brothers of Omega Psi Phi, served as mentors and instructors. They provided dialogue and guidance on topics that are pertinent to young men of color. Some of the topics included self-esteem, financial literacy, respect for womanhood, interaction with law enforcement, sexual awareness, health, college preparation, discipline, hygiene and the impact of social media. Each young man in attendance received a polo shirt, a purple tie, a backpack, and an assortment of other items as mementos of attending the three-day workshops.

On Friday, July 20, Omega men made a noticeable impact on New Orleans with their Social Action activities by partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank, New Orleans Mission, and STAIR (Start the Adventure in Reading). The day started with 25 Brothers gathering at the Second Harvest Food Bank and packaging more than 10,000 pounds of food. The teams then transitioned to the New Orleans Mission where they painted the exterior of the two-story building.

Brother White added that 60 additional Omega men from various chapters arrived to serve lunch to the homeless. The volunteers were divided into three groups. Group One loaded supplies from the kitchen: meat, bread, deserts, snacks, and water. Group Two prepared plates for more than 100 members from the community who needed a meal. Group 3 placed napkins, utensils, and water on the tables for each person, in attendance to receive a free meal.

New Orleans Mission was founded in 1989 and provides shelter, food, and spiritual guidance to a growing number of homeless people who live on the streets of New Orleans. The main goal of New Orleans Mission is focused on the three R's: RESCUE people from homelessness, strengthen the RECOVERY efforts of the people seeking support, and foster their successful RE-ENGAGEMENT into society as healthy, disciplined, and skilled people ready to lead a sustainable productive purpose-driven life. The day ended with donations of more than 2,000 elementary school books to the STAIR foundation. STAIR's fact sheet states that in Louisiana, 25 percent of students have been retained at least one year before entering fourth grade because of reading



inadequacy. Their goal is to ensure that all students are reading on grade level by the end of third grade. Ms. Amanda Chittenden Director, states the book donations will enable the organization to put books in the hands of first through third grade public school students at risk of academic failure.

On Saturday, July 21, in the truest spirit of collegial humanitarianism, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the Malcolm Jenkins Foundation, Shaquille O'Neal, Stephen A. Smith, Kingsley House, and Second Harvest Food Bank joined together for the Get Ready Fest to give food, produce, haircuts, school supplies, and information on local employment opportunities to more than 500 families. Antonio F. Knox, Sr., 40th Grand Basileus, stated, "This united exercise in stewardship and public service that provides this very important assistance to families in the community aligns with the founding and continued mantra of our Fraternity. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with the different entities of the community as part of our community endeavors."

# OMEGA PSI PHI'S

# 81<sup>ST</sup> CONCLAVE

Omega men were on full stride at the Fraternity's Military Ball at the Grand Conclave. Included in----  
**PHOTO/Top** are Brothers William Ward, Lt. General (Retired) U.S. Army (Left), Lee G. Willis, Senior Master Sergeant, USAF, and Charles F. Bolden, Major General (Retired) USMC on right.  
**PHOTO/Bottom**-Brothers Malcolm Jenkins, Philadelphia Eagles, Shaquille O'Neal, NBA Hall of Famer, Stephen A. Smith, Sports journalist, Bro. Antonio Knox, 40th Grand Basileus and Bro. Dr. David Marion, First Vice Grand Basileus.  
**Photographs on next page:** Brothers sharing with Omega men and friends at the conclave.



Photo on Left/bottom: Bro. Michael Brown, 12th District Chaplain (center) with wife, Heidi Brown (left) and sister, Cheri Lynn Brown (right).

PHOTOGRAPHY  
 BY IHQ/ORACLE INTERNATIONAL  
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**Dr. David Marion, the 41st Grand Basileus**

# Omega Elects New Leaders



PHOTO: Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Conclave Security team. Top Photo: Omega brothers exit after the end of a conclave plenary session.

**B**rother Dr. David E. Marion was elected as the Fraternity's 41st Grand Basileus at the conclave. Bro. Ricky Lewis was also elected as the 35th First Vice Grand Basileus. Bro. Mark E. Jackson was elected as the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal. Bro. Benjamin L. Crump was elected as the Grand Counselor. Bro. Daniel B. Jones, Sr., was re-elected as the Grand Keeper of Finance. Bro. Alec Fitzgerald Hall, Esq., was appointed as the Grand Marshal, and Bro Dr. Walter T. Richardson was appointed as Grand Chaplain. The Undergraduate Caucus elected Bro. Austin Tatum as the 2nd Vice Grand Basileus. Brothers Naaral King, Karanja Matory and Paul Anderson were selected as the Undergraduate Representatives.

**International Achievement Week Committee  
Award Winners Presented at 2018  
Conclave 2016-2017 -Fiscal Year**

Undergraduate Chapter of the Year  
Beta Eta Chapter  
University of Alabama  
Tuscaloosa, AL

Graduate Chapter of the Year  
Phi Chi Chapter  
Concord, NC

Large Graduate Chapter of the Year  
Nu Chi Chapter  
East St. Louis, IL

Large Graduate Chapter of the Year  
Psi Alpha Alpha Chapter  
Fairfax County, VA

Citizen of the Year  
Ms. Michelle A. Moore-Robinson  
Okinawa, Japan  
Nominated by Sigma Gamma Chapter

Undergraduate Chapter Advisor Award  
Bro. Justin M. Jackson  
Tau Gamma Chapter Advisor  
Southern Illinois University at  
Edwardsville

Col. Charles D. Young Military  
Leadership Award  
Bro. Brian K. Stanfield  
Omicron Lambda Lambda Chapter  
Hendersonville, TN

Superior Service Award  
Bro. Sean T. Long  
Chi Lambda Lambda Chapter  
Matteson, IL

Undergraduate Omega Man of the Year  
Bro. Raymond D. Smith-Byrd  
Phi Chapter  
University of Michigan

Graduate Omega Man of the Year  
Bro. Darryl L. Jones  
Tau Kappa Kappa Chapter  
Southfield, MI

Founders Lifetime Achievement Award  
Bro. Kenneth A. Brown  
Alpha Omega Chapter  
Washington, DC



A young violinist was one of the participants in the Fraternity's 71st International Talent Hunt Demonstration. IHQ/Oracle Photograph.

## Health Session

**A**t the conclave plenary an outstanding session on prostate cancer was presented. The presenter talked about the PSA, symptoms, and treatment for Prostate Cancer. The entire place was silent. This was a message that all men needed to hear. Brothers who had faced the medical challenges of Prostate Cancer were happy that this information was shared to help others. Brothers who were struggling with going to the doctor felt more informed. The fact is that if you don't know your rights, you don't have any rights.

All districts in our Fraternity are doing an outstanding job with Prostate Cancer Awareness. Some districts have prostate cancer panel discussions with a medical doctor, cancer survivor and a local medical agency. Also, other community agencies add another dynamic to the discussion. These forums provide an opportunity of a life time for Brothers to ask questions, in a safe environment without the

sensitivity and judgement that they once feared if they talked about prostate cancer.

Other districts have medical doctors speak to help Brothers gain an understanding of treatment, prevention, and how to take and maintain control of their personal health. Clearly, our District Leadership understands the importance of Prostate Cancer and the impact it has on all families and communities.

September is National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. During this month specifically, Brothers wear the blue ribbon in solidarity and recognition of the prevention, treatment, and educational awareness of this issue which can affect all Brothers. During this month chapters allow Brothers time during a meeting to give personal testimonies about their personal journeys. Some chapters even host Cancer Survivor Fundraiser dinners to create a high level of awareness and visibility in their community.

# ZULU

## culture

Story by Bro. Dr. Milbert O. Brown, Jr., Editor of The Oracle

**D**own on a darkened boulevard, a little ways from the dazzling welcome of Bourbon Street's flashy brilliance quietly sits a community treasure—the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club. The club's home is housed in a golden colored building that doubles as a meeting station or just a spot for friendly real talk. Carefully painted brush strokes of dark-black hue accent the hull's trim during social gatherings. The group has existed seemingly forever as it was established during the first decade of the 20th century. The Zulu culture has been part of the Black experience for years in the city of New Orleans. During the holiday season, the Zulu group often provide food items to residents of the Big Easy. But, the real heart of the Zulu culture is best expressed when members participate in Mardi Gras festivities.

More than 10 Omega men are active members of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club. Brother Juan Barthelemy mentioned that many Omega Brothers affiliated with the Zulu Club have a purple and gold costume for special events such as the Conclave and or District Meetings. The New Orleans native joined the Zulu Club in 2014. He is a current member of Phi Iota Iota Graduate Chapter and Bro. Barthelemy was initiated through Alpha Lambda in 1989. Barthelemy, a social work professor at the University of Houston, said that "being a part of the Zulu culture has been a wonderful experience. When I was growing up, I was always excited to see the Zulu men on parade floats." *Photograph Bro. Juan Barthelemy (Oracle Staff/Bro. M. Brown)*

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 61



# OMEGA MEN GATHER FOR 107TH BIRTHDAY REDEDICATION AT HOWARD



Brother Mark E. Jackson, the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal (center) was the keynote speaker for the Omega Rededication held at Howard University on November 17, 2018. All Photographs by Bro. James Witherspoon, IHQ/Oracle Director of Photography.

For 107 years, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. has improved the conditions of individuals in our community. The organization has championed the cause of the underserved populations and acted as a beacon of light for all of humanity. On Saturday, November 17, 2018 more than 1000 Omega men gathered at Howard University's Cramton Auditorium for the Fraternity's Founders Day Rededication Ceremony.

"The rededication event is an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the principles that we swore to uphold," said Brother Larry A. Brown, Chairman of the Achievement Week Committee, Washington, D.C., Chapters. Brother Kenneth A. Brown served as the program's Master of Ceremony. Brother John F. Howard, Assistant Executive Director from the

Fraternity's International Headquarters provided brief remarks. This year's ceremony was conducted by Bishop Brother Enoch Perry, III of the Ivory Coast Juris, Church of God in Christ. The keynote address was presented by Brother Mark E. Jackson, Sr., the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal.

Before his speech, Bro. Jackson said, "what Founders Day means to me is it is a time for reflection. It's a time to stop and reflect what our Founders laid out for us—and to say thank you. One thing that always plagues me is that if I was around during the Founders' time would they have chosen me?"

One of my motivation that keeps me going in Omega is that in fact, I believe if I was chosen, then I am not regular- I am not ordinary-not run of the mill and with that comes responsibility. It a time in which we come together and thank the Founders."

Brother Jackson also noted that he wanted mention the importance of the Founders "because without them there would be no Sons of Blood and Thunder. There would be no royal purple and old gold." As the GKRS, and an Information Technology (IT) executive, Jackson was responsible for leading the Fraternity's first Omega Psi Phi Information Technology Summit at the International Headquarters in September 2018.

Chapters Part of the Achievement Week Committee, Washington, DC

- \*Alpha Chapter, Howard University
- \*Omicron Gamma Chapter, University of the District of Columbia
- \*Kappa Psi Chapter, Washington, DC Graduate Chapter
- \*Alpha Omega Chapter, Washington, DC., Graduate Chapter
- \*Psi Alpha Alpha Chapter, Fairfax County (VA) Graduate Chapter
- \*Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter, Fort Meade Graduate Chapter
- \*Famma Pi Chapter, Prince George's Graduate Chapter

PHOTOGRAPH (Top)-- Bro. Kenneth A. Brown (left); Bro. Mark E. Jackson, Grand KRS (center) and Bro. Larry A. Brown, Chairman of Achievement Week Committee. OTHER PHOTOGRAPHS: Omega Brothers at the 2018 Rededication Ceremony.





## All Hands on Deck

### Rallying Black Fathers and Men To the Polls

**T**habiti Boone served as the moderator for the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) session on September 14, 2018. The session was hosted by CBC member and Omega's Honorable Brother James E. Clyburn, U.S. Congressman (D-SC) and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in Washington, D.C. Brother Boone was Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Fatherhood Representative for former U.S. President Barack Obama. At the CBC session titled "All Hands on Deck: Rallying Black Fathers and Men to the Polls," Bro. Boone said "As a Black community, we have faced some of the most challenging White House administrations since we've been in this country." Boone also added that "their agendas have not always been in our best interest. The current administration along with the national Republican base has been intent on rolling back critical gains so many have fought, marched, protested and died for."



Students from Richard Wright Public Charter School located in Washington, D.C., attended the Congressional Black Caucus session. Photograph by Oracle Staff/M. Brown

The Black community voted in record numbers for President Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012. The House was under Democratic control. We were pushing Black people and America forward.

With the 2016 Presidential election of Donald Trump, came his vicious policies. Midterm elections can present a major turning point for political power that will impact marginalized people in our country. Voter registration and turnout is extremely critical. So much continues to be at stake, Criminal Justice Reform, health care, employment, racial and gender equality, immigration and community resources and services.

Black women continue to lead the Black community on voter activism. Since 2008 and 2012, there has been a decline among Black male voters. Black men voted 22% lower in 2016 than 2012. Largest among Black men were ages 18-29.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity has a long history, along with other Black fraternities and organizations on understanding the importance and power of Black men voting.

This forum will offer a powerful lively discussion on the importance of Black men and fathers voting and raising their voices as a political and community force. The forum will examine the historic role and challenges Black men face as voters such as incarceration, mental health, fatherhood services, resources and voter suppression."

The forum included Brother S. Earl Wilson, the International Chairman of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Programs. Bro. Wilson, a retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, served as the Fraternity's Executive Director from 2000 to 2005. Other panelists included Kirsten John Foy, Kenn L. Harris and Nick Charles. Brother Clyburn, the U.S. Congressman from South Carolina also spoke during the forum.



**PHOTOGRAPH (previous page):** Members of the Supreme Council listen to panelists discussing issues facing Black men and fathers. The council members included (L to R) Brother Kevin Brown, 3rd District Representative; Reverend Brother Dr. Walter T. Richardson, Grand Chaplain; Brother Dr. David Marion, the 41st Grand Basileus; and Brother Rickey Lewis, First Vice Grand Basileus.

**PHOTOGRAPH (top):** Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Grand Basileus Dr. David Marion (right) presented comments. On left, Brother Thabiti Boone, moderator for the Congressional Black Caucus session.

**PHOTOGRAPH (center):** The Honorable U.S. Congressman Brother James E. Clyburn hosted the "All Hands On Deck: Rallying Black Fathers and Men To the Polls" CBC session.

Photographs by  
Brother James Witherspoon, IHQ/Oracle- Director of Photography

# A Drop in The Bucket

## Mentoring Young African-American Men

**T**his past September I was faced with a sobering reality. I had to witness my father's passing and subsequently oversee his homegoing. Although the process was earnest in nature, I was emotionally detached. It is hard to feel attached to someone who was never really in your life.

This level of detachment isn't foreign for many young men who've grown up in similar circumstances. However, since my father's death, I've reflected on my own growth into adulthood and the opportunities that his absence ironically created for me. As a high school student growing up amid the crack epidemic of the 1980's, I vividly remember being told by one particular teacher that I wouldn't amount to much of anything. In fact, he went on to say that in the next five years, I would more than likely end up like several of my classmates, dead or incarcerated. "You are just another drop in the bucket," he told me.

### Finding My Mentors

Because of my single-parent upbringing, I was eligible for several intervention programs geared towards helping young men diverted from the streets and guided towards a college track. During that time, I came across two men, Blas Guerrero and Anthony. They changed my life's trajectory.

Anthony was an undergraduate at the University of California at Berkeley (UC). He was from West Oakland and attended my rival high school. Just a few years my senior, Anthony was living proof that I, too, could attend a prestigious school like

UC Berkeley. He could relate to my Oakland experience. He shared with me how he navigated the world. I could see myself in Anthony.

Blas was in his late 20's or early 30's. He was the coolest guy I had ever met. He pushed me to participate academically through programs such as Achievement in Science, Engineering and Technology (a program Blas created as part of his work on his dissertation); Math, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA); and Upward Bound.

Blas held me accountable when I was off track by having conversations in a manner that was real, yet loving. He aligned himself with my family. Together, they guided me towards my goal of attending UC Berkeley like Anthony had. Blas would often tell me that although we were from different ethnic groups, we were similar, and it was his duty to pull young men out of the same place he had once been.

### Becoming a Mentor Myself

Today, I am seasoned in life. As I reflect now on those two relationships, I realize that we were all drops in the bucket. If left alone, we each would have evaporated into nothingness. Instead, together, we were able to provide one another refreshment and nourishment—what we needed to sustain our lives.

Because of my experience, I committed part of my life's effort to mentoring young men. Over the past 13 years, I've been able to impact the lives of young men through the Omega Gents Youth Mentoring Program, operated by Sigma Iota Chapter, a local unincorporated affiliated chapter of my Fraternity, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Again, the thought of "drop in a bucket" came to mind. I couldn't stand in good conscience and allow this narrative to exist for other young men. I needed to do something.

I convened a small group of Sigma Iota chapter members. Together, we designed the Omega Gents Program. It is a club-oriented mentoring program designed around the Fraternity's Cardinal Principles (Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift). It seeks to teach and encourage high school African-American males to positively define, plan, pursue and achieve their future.

### Mentoring Services in the Omega Gents Program

Services include monthly educational programs and workshops, quarterly social or cultural events, college preparation counseling, community service opportunities, life coaching and exposure to positive professional men. Topics covered during educational programs and workshops include:

- Self-Assessment, Self-Identity and Building Self-Esteem
- Goal Setting & Planning
- Academic Achievement & College Preparedness
- Developing Positive Relationships
- Etiquette & Respecting Women
- Community Service
- Health & Well-being

To date, the Omega Gents program has seen 42 young men matriculate through the program in pursuit of college. Three have become members of the fraternity and most have built positive long-lasting relationships with all who have participated in the program. I believe it's up to us—those who "escaped" the bucket—to step forward and create positive options for young people who might otherwise be lost to our communities. I am grateful I was given the opportunity to disprove my high school teacher's predictions. This is a moment in my personal life when I am reflecting greatly on purpose and meaning. I feel fortunate that I have been able to reach out to young men today and offer them similar opportunities.

### Story by Brother James Walker

Bro. Walker is a Project Specialist where he is a subject matter expert, content developer and technical assistance provider for the About Us Pilot Intervention. He is also a national consultant supporting community-based organizations, state and local entities in work related to positive youth development, HIV/STI prevention, training and program development. He can be reached at jamesw@diogenes.biz.



# Chapter Names Center After Omega Founder



**E**arlier in 2017, Omega Psi Phi's Mu Rho Chapter and the Mu Rho Uplift Foundation joined Asbury United Methodist Church in the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Bishop Edgar A. Love Conference Center.

The Love Center was created by the Mu Rho Chapter and the Foundation through the renovation and re-configuration of two under-utilized spaces in the Asbury United Methodist Church. The church is located in the City of Annapolis, Maryland's State Capital.

Asbury United Methodist Church will be responsible for the management and maintenance of the center. The conference center will provide much needed, reasonably priced meeting space in the heart of the City of Annapolis. Anticipated activities will include

community, civic, educational meetings, and business conferences. Close ties with the tourism industry is anticipated.

Brother Love was one of the Four Founding members of Omega Psi Phi. In 1911, Brother Love was the Fraternity's first Grand Basileus. He also served a term in 1913 as the Fraternity's Third Grand Basileus. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Howard University in 1913, Love began studies for Bachelor of Sacred Theology Degree also at Howard. Love earned a Bachelor of Divinity Degree from Boston University in 1918.

Brother Love was a former pastor at Asbury United Methodist Church from 1925-1927. Love also served as Bishop for the Central Conference of the United Methodist Church from 1952-1964.





# Youth Leadership Conference

## Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative 2018

**T**au Tau Chapter and the Omega Education Foundation sponsored its 25th consecutive Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) on October 21, 2018. Several Omega Southern California area chapters also participated in the fall event held on the campus of the University of Southern California (USC). This year's conference attracted more than 552 young men between the ages of 8 and 18, 114 mothers and approximately 80 fathers.

Brother Ricky Lewis, Omega's First Vice Grand Basileus and the YLC Founder, said "What a glorious day at USC. Our Omega brand was inundated with positives for the 25th Annual Youth Leadership Conference and Mentorship Program." The YLC was started by members of the Tau Tau Chapter out of a paternal concern for the health and well-being of young inner-city boys following the 1992 jury trial of police officers involved in the beating of motorist Rodney King.

The purpose of YLC is also to show youth that they are valuable and the program provides unique opportunities for them.

During the first few years of the youth conference, the focus was on working with and mentoring male youth of Los Angeles, ages 13-18. "After the first conference, the Brothers said that that was enough, job well done, we can go back home now and rest," said Brother Lewis. The First Grand Basileus pointed out that the phone kept ringing, parents kept calling and asking about having another youth leadership conference. And, what was thought of as a "one-and-done" mentoring conference continued into the next year, and the next year and the next year. Twenty-five years hence, it's still going strong but the difference now is that it includes a mother's conference that proposed by Brother Dr. Anthony Maddox.

Then in support of President Barack Obama's Fatherhood Initiative of 2009 and the Fraternity's call to action at its 76th Grand Conclave in Raleigh, NC, July 22-30, 2010, members of the Supreme Council through a resolution, approved the inauguration of a Fatherhood Initiative. With support at the International level of the Fraternity, a fathers' conference was added to the Youth

Leadership Conference; its general purpose being to aid in closing the gap of fathers' absence from the lives of their children. Part of the curriculum of the Mothers and Fathers conference included the request to VOTE. They were told of the "call to action" to take their sons, grandsons and/or mentees to the polls with them, take a photo of them voting and then send it to the Fraternity's website for posting.

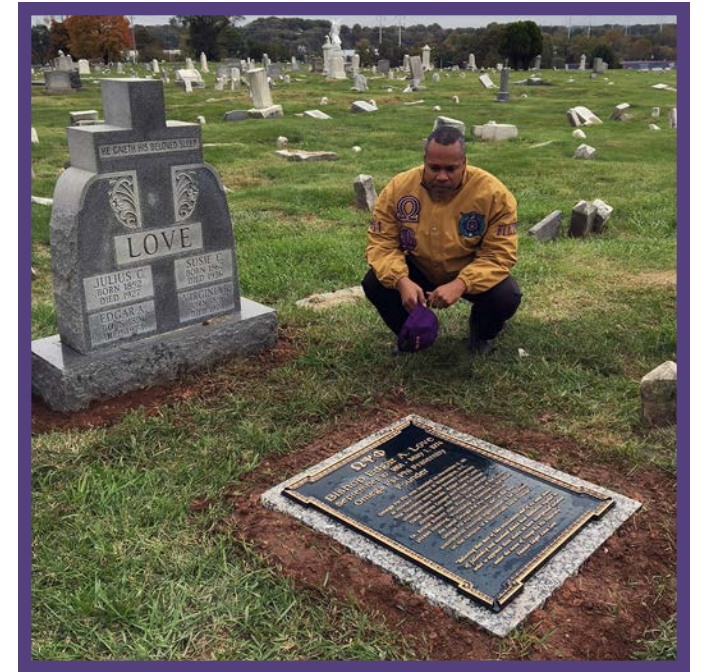
So just what is the essence of the Youth Leadership Conference and why do they (Men of Omega) do it? That question can be answered in so many ways, says Brother Paul Turner, Youth Conference Coordinator. "My answer is that we do it to provide an opportunity for the boys in our community to see, hear and have a positive, consistent and quality image of who they are, what they can do, who they can become and where they can go if they believe in themselves."

Turner said that there were several men in his young life whose words and actions shaped the way he thought and what he believed he could become. He said, "I believe that we are a part of the 'village' that is needed to raise our children. By giving them opportunities to see men of color in roles of authority, like police officers and teachers and lawyers and doctors and more, we give them an opportunity to interact with people who have their best interest in mind and also positive targets on which to focus."

And the youth saw these role models at the Youth Leadership Conference on the campus of USC. The doctors were there, the police came out, and so did the teachers and college administrators, some who came from as far away as Alcorn State University in Mississippi and Tuskegee University in Alabama.

And as said by Brother Turner, "our youth saw possibilities that can become dreams. Dreams that can become goals. Goals that can become realities!" The YLC is another venue that concerned parents can use to reinforce the messages they are passing on to their young men - that education is critical to success. He continued indicating that "there is still a place for chivalry and respect in our communities and societies. Turner commented that YLC "is the living embodiment of men looking back, reaching back and giving back to their communities to prepare our boys and young men for a better future; one that will exceed all of their dreams and goals and a future in which they will not only participate in but build."

*Story by  
Brother Dr. George D. Taylor,  
12th District Chairman of the  
Fatherhood Initiative and Mentoring Program*



Bro. Troy Manigault, Honor Guard Committee Chair for the Second District views the gravesite of Omega Founder Bro. Edgar A. Love.

## FOUNDERS MEMORIAL PROJECT

**Suitland, MD.** – The Second District Honor Guard Committee is committed to carrying out its charge to manage the Founders Memorial Project, and to providing guidance associated with the preparation and conduct of the Memorial Services for funerals.

The Committee secured funding commitments from International Headquarters (IHQ) to finance the completion and installation of the memorials for each of the Founders, and additional funding options are also identified from the Second District and other districts to help support memorial dedication programs. Each memorial plaque is made using a bronze plate (24"x30") with an inscription about the history of the Fraternity and a personal quote from the Founder on their respective memorial plaque. The bronze plate is affixed to a granite slab (28"x34") that is then placed in the ground at the gravesite to honor the contributions of the Founders.

To date, memorial plaques have been completed and installed for Founder Cooper (October 2017) at Whitmarsh Memorial Park in Ambler, PA, and Founder Love (November 2017) at Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Baltimore, MD. The burial sites for both Founders Coleman and Just are located at Lincoln Cemetery in Suitland, MD (Prince George's County, MD). However, clearances and approvals are still pending before the Fraternity can initiate paperwork for Founder Just's memorial plaque. Additional plans include eventually hosting memorial dedications for each of the Founders, with dates, times and locations to be determined and announced in coordination with IHQ. To volunteer or seek guidance, Brothers may contact the Honor Guard Committee via [honorguard@opp2d.org](mailto:honorguard@opp2d.org).

# Ques In Action News



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity members Brother Delray Brown (left) and Brother Norm Senior served as the media team for the newly launched "Ques In Action News." Photograph by Bro. James Witherspoon, IHQ/Oracle, Director of Photography

**D**elray Brown is an Omega man who stands above the crowd. His 6 foot 7 inch frame seemingly touches the clouds. One day in 2017, during one of Brown's cloud moments, he came up with a simply heavenly idea. His vision was to create a special YouTube Channel called "Ques In Action News." The channel would highlight interviews from the Omega membership and "is a good platform to increase Omega's social media presence," said Brown.

One of Bro. Brown's initial element in producing a first-class show was enlisting the services

of Brother Norman Senior his Alpha Omega Chapter line Brother. The chapter is based in Washington, D.C., so the pair has a wealth of material within the area that would serve an interest to Omega. Bro. Senior serves as the chief correspondent of "Ques In Action News" as Bro. Brown perform duties as the editor, producer and videographer of the channel's content.

For more than three years, Bro. Senior has gained valuable editing and reporting skills as the Fraternity's International Assistant Editor of the Oracle Magazine, and the 3rd District Director of Public Relations.

Senior noted that the primary mission of the news segment is to feature significant achievements, events, and programs the Fraternity is involved in throughout communities Omega serves. The channel's also features a variety of content like exclusive one-on-one interviews and the Fraternity's mandated programs, including voter registration, health initiatives and social action events.

Currently posted on the "Ques In Action News" channel is an interview with the Dr. David Marion, the Fraternity's 41st Grand Basileus.

Please subscribe to the "Ques In Action News" channel on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqVA2XBUoAUM\\_KvF84AsI1Q/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqVA2XBUoAUM_KvF84AsI1Q/) featured

## An Omega Man A Media Icon

**B**rother Garth Reeves Sr, the Publisher Emeritus of the Miami Times will be celebrating his 100th birthday in few months. Reeves, a World War II Army veteran was born on February 12, 1919.

Reeves was initiated into the Fraternity through Upsilon Psi chapter at Florida A&M University in 1937. After college Reeves worked at The Miami Times which was founded by his Father In 1923.

Next page story continues REEVES



Jazmine Goodwin, a student at Howard University interviews Brother Clayton Gutzmore at the National Association of Black Journalists' National Convention in Detroit, MI last August.

## Omega men in the Media Take on leadership roles as members of the National Association of Black Journalists

**T**wo Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity are members of the national board of directors for the National Association of Black Journalists(NABJ)/ The Omega men include Bro. Greg Morrison and Bro. Milbert O. Brown, Jr. Morrison was re-elected to the Treasurer position. Brown was elected as the Academic Representative at NABJ's annual convention in August 2018.

Brother Morrison is the Executive Producer/ Owner of Bumper2Bumper TV. His company is based in Atlanta and recently he produced a documentary pieces at Omega's International Headquarters featuring an interview with Dr. David Mariion. Bro. Morrison began his career as a radio reporter. Later, he was News Director at the Black Family Channel, and a Field Producer at CNN.

Bro. Brown, an Assistant Professor of Journalism at Howard University also serves as the Fraternity's International Editor of the Oracle. Previously, Brown had an extensive career as a photojournalist and public affairs writer before his career in higher education. He shared journalism's highest honor as a team awardee of the Pulitzer Prize for Explanatory Reporting (2001, Chicago Tribune). Recently, Brown completed his doctoral degree from Morgan State University and is now Brother Dr. Milbert O. Brown, Jr.

Other past NABJ officers include Brother Glenn Rice and Brother William W. Sutton, Jr. Brother Sutton served as NABJ's president from 1999 to 2001. The current National Association of Black Journalists executive director is Brother Drew Berry also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Brother Reeves is known for advocacy during the civil rights era. He was the first African American who served on the boards of Miami-Dade Community College, Barry University, the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, and the United Way of Dade County. "I noticed that most of the leadership in the downtown area had an absence of Blacks. I set my sights on the structure of leadership in Miami," said Reeves. Omega's Reeves served 18 years on the board for Miami Dade College. Reeves is also responsible for desegregating Miami's beaches and golf courses.

Brother Reeves only had one job in life and that was working for the Miami Times, "It goes to show you that you never know what you can become in life. I didn't expect I was going to become a newspaperman. Brother Reeves used his family newspaper as a tool to advocate social change.

The Miami Times is the oldest black newspaper in Miami. It is one of the largest black-owned papers in the Southeast. Reeves previously served as president of the Amalgamated Publishers of New York City for 10 years and served as president for two terms as president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA). Reeves has an honorary doctorate degrees from Barry University, University of Miami, Florida Memorial University and most recently Florida A&M University.

In 2017 Brother Reeves was inducted in the Hall of Fame for the National Association of Black Journalists. He is a member of Miami's Sigma Alpha Chapter.

Story by  
Bro. Clayton Gutzmore, a Miami area freelance writer

# TUSSLE AT THE TOP

## THE OVER ONE HUNDRED YEAR COMPETITION BETWEEN OMEGAS AND THE ALPHAS

BY BROTHER DR. VINCENT WINDROW

Perhaps no accurate words have been written to describe Omega's great history than those penned by our 35th Grand Basileus Dorsey C. Miller: "Omega Men have never run from a fight for human dignity. We have never run from a challenge. Throughout our history, Omega Men have been at the forefront of every major issue that faced our people: segregation, the Civil Rights Movement, voter's registration, economic empowerment, community development, education and programs for our youth." While Brother Miller's position is accurate in that Omegas has a great legacy of leadership, what we haven't been so great at is capturing and communicating that history.

A brief review reveals the most popular works on Black Greeks over the last 20 years have either been written or co-edited by members of Alpha Phi Alpha. Although well-researched, those books were written by Alphas through the eyes of Alphas which have caused the works to lean more heavily towards the achievements and exploits of their fraternity. It's important to note that while the respective histories of the other Black Greeks were neither mistreated nor misconstrued, the Alphas' history was highlighted in exemplary fashion. Remember, "The one who controls the message controls the mind."

For more than 50 years since Dr. Robert L. Gill authored *The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Men Who Made Its History: A Concise History*, we Omegas have created history. However, we haven't adequately chronicled it. Moreover, we haven't viewed our history in such a way that appropriately promotes our legacy and raises the profiles of the many mighty Omega Men who paved the way for much of this nation's success with regards to the fight for rights and what's right. Armed with years of research on our rich history and with a desire to tell Omega's story through an Omega's eyes, I recently authored *Tussle at the Top: The Over One Hundred Year Competition between the Omegas and the Alphas*.

Based on my research, it is clear that we and the Alphas stand out from the other fraternities in several key categories including organizational leadership, member contributions, and national awards received. Thus, in order to determine primacy among Black Greek fraternities, the obvious competition is between the Omegas and the Alphas. Granted, the ones excluded probably have plenty of reasons as to why their respective fraternity should be considered.

One particular fraternity hails itself as The Fraternity of Firsts and offers several such first claims on an expanding number of chapter websites. Many of those claims are appropriately refuted in *Tussle at the Top*. For example, that particular fraternity claims that Melvin Herbert Evans was the first Black governor of the United States Virgin Islands. The more accurate statement is that Evans became the first elected Black governor in 1969. The fact is Omega's William H. Hastie was the first Black governor having been appointed to the office by President Truman over twenty years earlier in 1946. More such historical clarifications are provided in the book's first chapter.

The next chapters provide evidence of the ongoing competition between the Omegas and the Alphas starting, of course, with Omega's founding at Howard University on November 17, 1911. Following a necessary description of that historical context, Chapter Two describes how the Omegas and the Alphas competed for the top ranking at Lincoln University. A highlight of that chapter includes the relationship between Omega's Langston Hughes and Alpha's Thurgood Marshall.

Chapter Three features the chronicling of the major awards and recognition that Omegas and Alphas have received including the Spingarn Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Listed by name, the

recipients compose a hall of fame of noteworthy achievers. Further, the data disaggregation of the lists clearly distinguishes the two fraternities from the other three fraternities. Building on Chapter Three, Chapter Four showcases the many distinguished members of both fraternities and features short bios of members from each of nine categories.

To be clear, it is one thing for an Omega Man to consider Omega Psi Phi to be the greatest fraternity. It is another thing entirely to review the thoughts and writing of non-Omegas who have compiled various lists of the greatest Black male achievers. To that end, Chapter Five provides additional evidence of the separation between the two examined fraternities from the three excluded ones. Five different books and their respective lists are reviewed and Black Greek fraternity members noted, extracted, juxtaposed for comparison purposes.

While the majority of *Tussle at the Top* presents data and material to determine which fraternity is indeed the greater of the two and subsequently the greatest of all the Divine Nine fraternities, there has been considerable collaboration between Omegas and Alphas over the last 100 plus years as well. Concentrating on the Civil Rights Movement period, Chapter Six provides several such examples. Luminaries such as Omega's Roy Wilkins, Oliver Hill, and 11th Grand Basileus George Vaughn are given notable attention as are Alpha's Charles H. Houston, Thurgood Marshall, and Belford Lawson. Other lesser-known contributors to the Civil Rights cause are introduced to the reader as well.

Chapter Seven brings the extensively researched, tightly written work that contains more than 150 foot notes to a resounding conclusion with a progress update of the four major historical fraternities – Omega, Alpha, Kappa, and Sigma, and an extended look at how several prominent Omegas feel about their Fraternity. The chapter also gives the verdict that all Omegas and many people knew even before opening the book's front cover: The Ques win because Friendship makes the difference!

1 The Oracle (Fall 1995, Omega Psi Phi, vol. 76, no. 12).



### Oracle Contributing Writer and Author

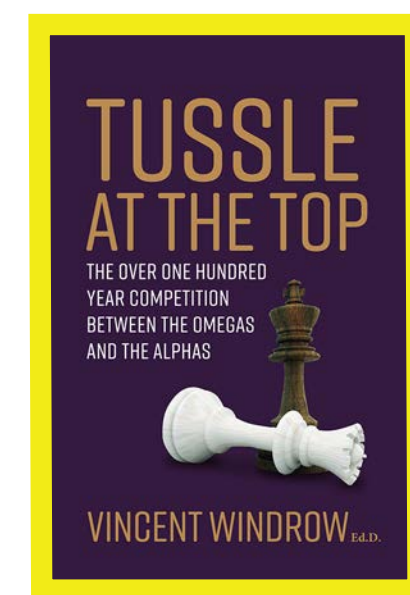
Omega's Brother Dr. Vincent Windrow was initiated into Omega Psi Phi through the Mu Zeta Chapter in 1986. He is a Life Member in good financial standing with the Pi Gamma Gamma Chapter located in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

In addition to researching, writing, and publishing *Tussle at the Top: The Over One Hundred Year Competition between the Omegas and the Alphas*, he also just this year worked to have 11th Grand Basileus George Vaughn nominated for Lane College's Alumni Hall of Distinction and succeeded in having a non-Omega deleted from a popular poster depicting famous Omegas and had Brothers Roy Wilkins,

Charles Bolden, Z. Alexander Looby, Ozzie Newsome, and Roy Wilkins added. Lastly, Brother Windrow attended his 18th consecutive Grand Conclave this year in New Orleans.

### A SHORT SUMMARY

Brother Dr. Vincent Windrow tells the powerful story of two of this nation's most achieved fraternities – Omega Psi Phi and Alpha Phi Alpha. Although several books have been written about Black Greek fraternities in the last few years, Windrow researches and writes beyond the standard story of both fraternities. He digs into their respective existences and discovers competition between the fraternities and collaboration between their members. This unique approach reveals powerful intersections and interactions, introduces lesser-known members, and celebrates the accomplishments of Omegas and Alphas in their quests to honor the visions of their founders.



TUSKEGEE AIRMEN'S 1942 PILOT TRAINING CLASS

# OMEGAS IN FIRST CLASS

Story by Brother Reuben Sparks, USAF, Lt. Colonel (Ret).

Two of the five men that graduated from the first class of pilots in the Tuskegee Airman Training Program were members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. They were Brother George Roberts and Brother Charles Debow.

On March 7, 1942, Class 42-C, the first class of the Tuskegee Airmen graduated. Thirteen men started the class but only five finished. Captain Benjamin O Davis Jr. was commissioned at West Point in 1936. His father Benjamin O. Davis Sr. had been the first African-American to reach the rank of General in the United States.

General Davis Sr. was named The Outstanding Citizen of the Year in 1940 by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The other four graduates were Lieutenants George Roberts, Charles Debow, Lemuel Custis, and Mac Ross. Brother Lieutenant George Roberts was initiated into the Fraternity through Theta Psi Chapter at West Virginia State College in 1935. He took command of the 99th Pursuit Squadron after Capt Davis Jr. was promoted. Lieutenant Roberts would eventually be promoted to Colonel and take command of the 99th Pursuit Squadron after Capt Davis Jr. was promoted to command the 332nd Fighter Group.

Colonel Roberts flew more than 100 combat missions in World War II over Africa, Europe and the Middle East. Brother Roberts was also the commander of the 332nd Fighter Group



and a Life Member of the Fraternity. Brother Roberts entered Omega Chapter in 1984. Brother Lt. Charles Debow, Jr. was a member of the Fraternity with Rho Sigma Chapter. Brother Debow, an Indiana native, earned degrees from Hampton Institute and Indiana University.

Lt. Debow commanded the 301st Pursuit Squadron and flew 50 plus missions in World War II in the European Theater. Lt. Debow flew missions in support of the Italian and D-Day invasions. After leaving the Air Force, Brother Debow became an Associate Lecturer in English at Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI). Brother Debow entered Omega Chapter in 1986.

**PHOTOGRAPH:** Members of the first class of graduating Tuskegee Airmen. (L TO R)- Top row: Capt. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr.; 2nd Lt Lemuel R. Custis; Bro. 2nd Lt. George S. Roberts; Bro. 2nd Lt. Charles Debow; and 2nd Lt. Mac Ross.

# FAMILY, THE MILITARY, AND OMEGA

When Brother Ronald Britt enters the room, his presence presents an orderly and commanding demeanor. During Fraternity meetings the pitch from his deep baritone voice bounces patiently across his muscular arms as his words hit the air with forceful attentiveness. For two years, Brother Britt has served as the Sergeant of Arms for his chapter, Tau Pi.

The Omega Life member is a retired United States Army Lieutenant Colonel. Britt was commissioned into the Army through Morgan State University's ROTC program in 1981. In between his commission date and his 2009 retirement, he became an Omega man, married an angel and had two wonderful sons.

While serving at Fort Hood, Texas in the 1st Cavalry Division, a young Captain Britt decided to become an Omega. He was initiated in 1986 through the Ninth District's Omicron Pi Chapter. Later, Brother Britt would remain active throughout his prestigious military career serving as a member in five chapters.

Those chapters and districts included: Lambda Gamma Gamma, 2nd District; Tau Alpha Alpha, 12th District; Kappa Iota Iota, 3rd District; Xi Xi, 5th District and currently Tau Pi Chapter, 2nd District.

While serving in Texas, Brother Britt was introduced to an Army nurse on a blind date. That nurse, a member of Delta Sigma Theta



Sorority, Inc. would become Britt's wife, Hortense Redd Britt. Their union would produce two sons, Ronald II and Randall. Ronald is a captain in the U.S. Army, and Randall is an engineering student at Hampton University. Before retirement from the Army, Britt served at the Pentagon's National Military Command Center.

Brother Britt and his wife would retire from the military with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel like his father-in-law, Brother Butler Redd, U.S. Air Force. Redd enlisted into the U.S. Army in 1943 serving in World War II before enrolling into Tuskegee Institute.

While at Tuskegee, Redd, a veteran had the opportunity to complete a college degree with the aid of the newly created "GI Bill." During his studies at Tuskegee, Redd received his commission into the U.S. Air Force and was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. through Iota Upsilon Chapter. On March 2, 2019, Brother Redd will celebrate his 94th birthday. Also, Brother Britt's father, John W. Britt, Sr., retired from the U.S. Army.



**PHOTOGRAPH (TOP)** A young Army couple, Brother Ronald Britt and his wife, Hortense. **(CENTER)** Lt. Colonel Britt while serving at the Pentagon. **(BELOW):** Brother Butler Redd.

# Ques Serve in Top Military Roles



Bro. Holsey's sea assignments included deployments aboard the USS Jesse L. Brown (FF 1089), USS Nicholson (DD 982), USS Vreeland (FF 1068), USS Vella Gulf (CG 72), USS Gettysburg (CG 64), and USS Simpson (FFG 56). He commanded Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 37 and the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island (LHD 8).

His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (three awards), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various unit, campaign and service awards.

Brother Alvin Holsey holds the rank of Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy. The Fort Valley, GA native was commissioned through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) program at Morehouse College in 1988, where he received a degree in Computer Science. He earned a Master of Science in Management from Troy State University in 1995 and attended the Joint Forces Staff College in 2010.

Admiral Holsey became commander of the Carrier Strike Group One, June 12, 2018 in San Diego. The commissioning was attended by several Brothers from Phi Omicron Chapter. He previously served as deputy director for Operations, National Military Command Center, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The Admiral served in a variety of training and operational squadrons including Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 36, Helicopter Training Squadron (HT) 8, Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 40, and Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 44



**Bro. Major General Hamlar**

For Brigadier General Bro. Dr. David D Hamlar, Jr. service is truly his chosen way of life. In August 2014, Bro. Hamlar was promoted to Assistant Adjutant General of the Minnesota Air National Guard.

Bro. Hamlar is the first person of color ever to be promoted to serve in such a role in Minnesota history. As Assistant Adjutant General, Bro. Hamlar assisted in the leadership and

oversight of the Minnesota Air National Guard. He joined the 133rd Airlift Wing as a traditional guardsman and general practice physician in 1995.

During his military career, Hamlar held several positions within the 133 Air Wing and Medical Group eventually gaining Command in 2001 and in 2013 becoming the State Air Surgeon. General Hamlar has served in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and numerous military humanitarian efforts around the world.

General Hamlar graduated from Tufts University, Boston, MA, with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. He then attended Howard University College of Dentistry as a National Health Service Corps scholarship recipient, gaining a commission at the equivalent Naval rank of Lieutenant. While practicing dentistry in Columbus, he entered medical school at the Ohio State University in 1985. After completing his studies in three years, he spent his fourth year as a basic research scientist.

Omega's General Hamlar retired from his military career in June of 2017. On January 7th of 2018, Governor Mark Dayton honored Bro. Hamlar with a Brevet Ceremony. During the Brevet ceremony, at the state capital, in a room packed with friends, family and colleagues, he was honorarily pinned as Major General David D. Hamlar. Brother David D. Hamlar Jr., Life Member # 8655 was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Gamma Chapter in 1975.



**MS. AMERICA AND OMEGA**  
The newly crowned Miss America, Nia Imani Franklin, a Winston-Salem, NC native has a connection with Omega. As a high school student, Ms. Franklin was a contestant in Psi Phi Chapter's Talent Hunt. Her grandfather, Brother James Franklin Sr., (right) was a former Basileus of Psi Phi Graduate Chapter. Her father, Brother James Franklin, Jr., (left) is also a member of Psi Phi Chapter in Winston Salem, NC.

Oracle/IHQ Photograph by Brother Galvin Crisp, Jr., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Assistant International Photographer

# Johnson Part of Executive Program

Omega Psi Phi's Bro. Larry Johnson recently graduated from the African American Federal Executive Association's Senior Executive Service Fellows Program. The program prepares graduates for future Senior Executive Service positions within the federal government. Brother Johnson is a Special Agent in Charge of the Policy and Administration Division for the Office of Inspector General Social Security Administration.



The Tallahassee, Florida native was the first Black American manager for his organization west of the Rocky Mountains. Bro. Johnson holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminology from Florida State University and a Masters of Criminal Justice from the University of Central Florida. During his career in public service, Johnson has worked as a Postal Inspector for the United States Postal Inspection Service and for the Orlando Police Department where he rose to the rank of Detective. While at the Orlando Police Department, he was a

recipient of the "Officer of the Year Award." He was the second Black American to win the honor in the Department's history. Bro. Larry Johnson is actively involved and holds offices in the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE); International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators (IAFCI); the Financial Institutions Security Association (FISA), and Preventing Crime in the Black Community Network.

Johnson's love for public service has spanned over his life. His devoted

service has provided him the opportunity to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community. Larry's passion for helping young people with the same opportunities he has been awarded became evident in 2011, with the founding of The Lenora Paschal Johnson Foundation in memory of his late wife, Lenora Paschal Johnson. The foundation awards college scholarships to students from low socio-economic backgrounds, who have a passion for helping others and giving back to their communities.

Bro. Johnson has been able to influence high school students to achieve their dreams of attending college. Johnson attributes much of his success to the men in his life who were outstanding role models, his father and grandfather. Being grounded in his FAITH and The LORD has allowed him to have a strong balance of work, family and community. Johnson recently moved to the 2nd District from the 12th District. Currently, he is an active member of Tau Pi Graduate Chapter. He was initiated into Omega through Chi Tau Chapter.

**BRO. CHAMBERS STANDOUT BASEBALL PLAYER AND SCHOLAR**

# A QUE NAMED ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

**M**aryland Eastern Shore's Bro. Isaiah Chambers of Bowie, MD was named the 2018 Male Student-Athlete of the Year by the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) on June 11, 2018. "I would like to congratulate Isaiah Chambers," MEAC Commissioner Dr. Dennis Thomas said. "He's had an absolutely phenomenal career at the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, not only as a student-athlete, but academically and in extracurricular activities as well. I wish him continued success and I would like to thank his family and all of the people who had a positive influence on Isaiah."

Chambers becomes the third male student-athlete from Maryland-Eastern Shore to win the award. "We at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore are proud of Isaiah Chambers on winning this award." Director of Athletics Keith Davidson said. "Chambers exemplifies what it means to be a Hawk, and continues our tradition of developing student-athletes into excellent young men and women."

A four-year letter winner on the baseball team, Chambers competed in 131 contests for the Hawks with 79 starts. In his senior year he batted .244 with 11 RBI's and a career best 10 stolen bases. Over his four years, he earned a reputation as a strong second half performer, which proved pivotal in the Hawks' three MEAC Championship berths during his tenure.



In 2018, Chambers reached base safely in 10 consecutive games to close the season, including the sweep of Delaware State that propelled the Hawks to Daytona Beach for this year's championship. Chambers' efforts went far beyond the baseball field. He has

earned a number of scholarships and awards, including a Jostens Sportsmanship Award, a Citizen Athlete of the Year Award, and The Hazel Endowment—all awarded by the university. Isaiah was also named to the MEAC Commissioner's All-Academic Team (2015-18), earned a Diverse Issues in Higher Education Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Award (2018) and a 2018 Teachers of Promise honor. He also served in several leadership roles as a Hawk. In athletics, Chambers worked as vice president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. In other university ventures,

he was Basilues of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Pi Epsilon Chapter, and served as Chair of the Homecoming Steering Committee. "Isaiah is a great, all-around young man on and off the field," baseball coach Brian Hollamon said. The senior baseball player graduated on May 25, 2018 with a 3.6 GPA and a degree in Special Education.

*Story/Photograph courtesy of University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, Department of Media Relations.*

## Undergraduate Chapter News

**O**n July 23, 2018 at the 81st Grand Conclave in New Orleans, LA, Beta Eta Chapter on the campus of the University of Alabama received the "International Undergraduate Chapter of the Year Award."

The award was given for the chapter's significant contributions on every level of the Fraternity and to the community where it was chartered during the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

During this time, the chapter had a cumulative 3.02 GPA with 14 brothers having above a 3.0. The chapter has given almost \$8000 in social action projects. Partnering with the Beta Eta Alumni Association, they recently endowed a \$25,000 scholarship at the University of Alabama. The undergraduates raised \$3500 and also leveraged another \$6500 that was given to the Black Belt Community Foundation in Selma, Alabama, one of the poorest regions in this nation, to support education, arts and culture, health and wellness, and community economic development projects funded by the Black Belt Community Foundation.

### KAPPA CHAPTER

On September 6, 2018, Kappa Chapter concluded their Back pack and School Supplies Drive by welcoming back students on their first day of school at Van Duyn Elementary School.

The Syracuse University chapter handed out stuffed backpacks to over 200 students. The students loved seeing all the energetic smiles and support on their first day back at school and were even more excited about receiving the backpacks and school supplies from the Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.



Alpha Mu Nu Chapter held their Voter Registration event on the campus of East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania in East Stroudsburg, PA.

## Alpha Mu Nu Joins NAACP

**I**n April 2018, Alpha Mu Nu Chapter established a presence in conjunction with the Fraternity's Mandated Program—the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Brother Brandon Teal, Brother Ty Quattlebaum and Brother LJ Duckett were instrumental in chartering the Monroe County Youth Council.

This charter will oversee Monroe County at East Stroudsburg University as part of the NAACP Youth And College Division. The NAACP believes strongly that future leaders must develop the skills of today and the future.

Created in 1936, more than 25,000 young people, under the age of 25, representing over 500 Junior Youth Councils, Youth Councils, High School Chapters and College Chapters are actively involved in the fight for civil rights. The NAACP has one of the largest organized groups of young people of any secular organization in the country.

The mission of the NAACP Youth And College Division is to address the problems affecting African Americans by advancing the economic, education, and social causes.

It aims to stimulate an appreciation of the African Diaspora and other people of color's contribution to civilization and to develop intelligent, effective youth leadership. The neophytes were able to establish a presence to continue to be at the forefront of one of the most significant social movements of the 21st century.

The chapter also held a Voter Registration session at East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania on October 2, 2018. Many students came out to express their interest in registering before the Pennsylvania deadline date.

The chapter's event coincided with the Fraternity's Voting Registration, Education and Mobilization Mandated Program.

# Major League Baseball's Final Color Line TUCKER HELPS TO DESEGREGATE THE RED SOX



Members of the Boston branch of the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) greet Pumpsie Green and Earl Wilson of the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park in 1959. The NAACP members included Bro. Herbert Tucker, Earl Wilson and Bro. Otto Snowden. Photo Courtesy of Freedom House Collection, Northeastern University.

**T**hroughout his life, Brother Herbert E. Tucker, Jr., worked tirelessly in bringing equality to his Roxbury community. During Bro. Tucker's efforts he was often joined by his childhood friend and Omega Brother Otto Snowden. In 1959, the pair, with members of the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) helped to change Major League Baseball. The group took on the Boston Red Sox and began to dismantle the 50-year legacy of racial segregation and intolerance.

Bro. Herbert E. Tucker, Jr., born in the era of a sharply segregated Boston, ascended from the position of a redcap, toting bags in South Station, to a civil rights attorney and judge. Bro. Tucker was the 23rd Grand Basileus of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Tucker knew the meaning of Perseverance. His incredible journey went from hauling bags as a Red Cap at South Station in the 1930's to

*Story by Brother David L. Carl, Esq.*

becoming the presiding court judge of Dukes County District Court in Edgartown, MA (1979).

After Jackie Robinson broke the color line, and the rest of the league integrated, Boston remained an all-white club for over a decade. Despite having the opportunity to sign Black players including Jackie Robinson and Willie Mays, whose undeniable talents had potential to improve Boston's failing teams, the franchise's decision makers refused to hire Black players. This legacy of discrimination continued until 1959, making Boston the last team to integrate.

When the Red Sox invited Elijah "Pumpsie" Green to Spring training camp, the issue of race took center stage. Green, forced to stay and eat alone in rooming accommodations miles from the team's hotel, endured

social isolation and open hostility. Despite playing well and receiving much media attention, on April 7, the Red Sox optioned him to their Triple-A Farm Club, explaining they felt "the first Negro to wear a Red Sox uniform needed more seasoning".

Immediately upon Green's demotion, Herbert Tucker, then president of the Boston branch of the NAACP, took swift action. He waged opposition to the Red Sox's use of a newly proposed parking lot based on the treatment of Green. Tucker told the Globe, "We feel very strongly that any business that would sacrifice the principles of fair play and the American way of life—as was evidenced in the treatment accorded Pumpsie Green during the Spring training season and the subsequent results thereof—should not be allowed to benefit financially by utilizing public lands for their private use."

Brother Tucker demanded an investigation of the Red Sox for alleged discrimination. He cited a 12-year history of continued discrimination even after Major League baseball had integrated. The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) commenced a public hearing into the Red Sox's hiring practices of both the players and Fenway Park staff.

Omega's Tucker argued the Red Sox had an anti-Negro policy and chastened that it remained the only team without a Negro player. Tucker also said that the Boston Red Sox rejected Jackie Robinson, Sam Jethroe, and Willie Mays, all of whom became stars. This could only be explained by a pattern of explicit racism or complete managerial incompetence.



Left to Right--At the Pre Game Ceremony on August 19, 2019 for the late Judge Herbert Tucker included: Brother Sharrieff Christmas, the First District Achievement Week Chair (Gamma Chapter); Brother Francois Fils-Aime, First District Representative (Iota Chi Chapter); Bro. Chris Collins (Epsilon Chi Chapter); Sam Kennedy, President of the Boston Red Sox

As the Red Sox opened the season with poor play, a reporter asked manager Pinky Higgins if he had considered recalling Green. He responded by openly calling the reporter a "nigger lover." However, amidst continued pressure from Tucker and his coalition of civic groups and political organizations, when the team continued to struggle, management finally conceded. It replaced the manager, and three weeks later, on July 21, 1959, Pumpsie Green entered the game making Boston the last team in the major leagues to end the color barrier. One week after Green's promotion, the Red Sox brought in their second Black player in pitcher Earl Wilson.

On July 23, 2018, the African American Heritage Trail unveiled a plaque on the building in Brother Tucker's honor. Brother Judge Tucker's grand daughter Gretchen Mercer and his great-grandson Brandon Mercer stood on the mound at Boston's Fenway Park-home of the Red Sox. The Tucker family, fans and Red Sox management celebrated Judge Tucker's legacy during pre-game ceremonies on August 19, 2018.



**An Oracle  
Contributing  
Writer**

Omega's Brother David L. Carl, Esq., is a member of Boston's Gamma Chapter. Bro. Carl is an attorney and real estate broker in the greater Washington, D.C., area. Carl earned a BA in Political Science from Tufts University, and a JD from George Washington University's School of Law.

## MU OMEGA MARCHES IN PARADE

Five Mu Omega Brothers known as part of the "Que Vets" were invited to ride on the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's float in the 3rd Annual Juneteenth Parade. The five Omega men who participated included Bro. David Benson, Que Vets Chair; Bro. Bill Harris, Bro. Bill Smith, Bro. Elmore Phillips and Bro. Larry Smallwood.

The celebration symbolizes the end of slavery in the State of Texas on June 19, 1865. The first abolition of slavery in the United States was the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, over a year before Juneteenth.

The float was sponsored by the 2nd District and coordinated by Bro. Qasim Rashad, Second District NAACP/CEF Chairman. Also riding on the float were the Second District Council and Omega Psi Phi Supreme Council members, Miss Omega from Lincoln University, the Mu Omega Basileus and his wife. The event was held on June 23, 2018 in Philadelphia, PA. The Que Vets are a committee of military veterans within the Mu Omega Chapter. Their goal is to provide recognition for its members and to keep the committee members active in veteran events such as Memorial Day programs, flag planting, wreath laying, graveside services and veterans' parades and services. The Que Vets also provide its members with current information on VA benefits.

Que Vets chairman David Benson said "We have 58 members whose names and military information are inscribed on a plaque in the Mu Omega Fraternity House."



Omega men gathered for Pi Chapter's 95th Anniversary Dinner. The event was celebrated by the Pi Alumni Foundation on October 28, 2018

## Chapter Supports School Programs

Phi Omega Chapter started their summer "My Brother's Keeper Male Academy" event on August 6, 2018. The chapter program consisted of 86 seventh and eight grade boys.

The chapter members were invited to share words of wisdoms on the following topics: Respect for Women, Responsibility, Leadership, Anger Management, Integrity, Healthy Living, Commitment, Morality, Pride, Perseverance, Effective Communication, Vision, Dependability and Work Ethic at McKinley High School in the Buffalo City School District.

Brother Rick Fleming, Director of Bands at Buffalo State University, spoke to a group of boys on the subject "Tell me about dependability."

On September 6, 2018, members of Phi Omega Chapter greeted students

*The Oracle - Summer/Fall 2018*

as they returned to their school. "It is time for the chapter to be a positive role model for future generations," said Brother Daren R. Thomas, the chapter's Basileus. The selected school was School # 74.

The building is named in honor of the late Brother Claude Clapp. Brother Clapp was the first black assistant principal and principal appointed in the Buffalo City School District. He later became an associate superintendent, and retired as Deputy Superintendent.

Brother Clapp was an active member of Phi Omega Chapter. Basileus Thomas mentioned "we are proud to continue the superb legacy of the late Brother Clapp by adopting School #74."

## Bro. Drayton Named President

The National Bar Association issued the following statement following the installation of Joseph Drayton as the organization's 76th President: Joseph Drayton of New York was sworn in as the 76th President of the National Bar Association during the organization's annual conference held in New Orleans. Omega Psi Phi's Drayton, a leading patent and commercial litigator in New York City, is a partner with Cooley, LLP.

Brother Drayton has been recognized as a top lawyer by several legal directories and publications. In June 2018, he was named a "Distinguished Leader" by the New York Law Journal.

He is named a "Client Service All-Star" by BTI Consulting Group (2016-2017) for "delivering superior client service" and was recently named to the IAM Patent 1000 list, a recognition that honors the top patent practitioners in the world.

In July of this year, he was named again one of the "most influential black lawyers" by Savoy Magazine. He has also been recognized by the New York City Bar Association with the 2014 Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award. In 2010, he was named among the National Bar Association's "Nation's Best Advocates: 40 Lawyers Under 40."

Drayton will serve a one year term promoting the platform of his presidential administration- "NBA R.I.S.E.: Harnessing the Power of Us." R.I.S.E. stands for (1) Refine our bar, (2) Influence our legal landscape, (3) Safeguard our community and (4) Enhance our lifeline. Drayton's goal is to maximize the career trajectory of members while ensuring each positively gives to their respective communities.

In addition, recognizing the dire need for social justice initiatives, his 2018 legislative agenda will focus on Voting Rights, Police Violence, Bail Reform, Criminal Justice, Equal Pay, the School to Prison Pipeline and Gun Violence. The NBA will push for positive bipartisan change.

The National Bar Association was founded in 1925 and is the nation's oldest and largest national network of predominantly African-American attorneys and judges.

It represents the interests of approximately 60,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students from over 80 affiliate chapters nationally and globally; including Maryland affiliate chapters such as the Monumental City Bar Association (Baltimore, MD) and the J. Franklyn Bourne

Bar Association (Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, MD).

Currently, he lives in New Jersey where he is a Partner at Cooley, LLP in New York. His law practice is in the areas of intellectual property and complex commercial matters.

Brother Drayton graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1997. Prior to that he graduated from the University of Maryland College Park in 1993. He was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Chi Delta Chapter in 1991. The Life Member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is active with Epsilon Chapter.





### Lambda Omega Chapter Involved in Reading Across American Program

## CHAPTER SERVES THE COMMUNITY

In customary tradition, Lambda Omega Chapter Brothers participated in the annual Reading Across America program. Each year Brothers from the chapter volunteer to visit a local elementary school the event. The men of Omega visited Norfolk's Ready Academy Christian School. They spend time reading to the students in the classrooms. NEA's Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss.

The program was established March 2, 1998, and is now the largest celebration of reading that takes place nationwide in the United States.

This is not the only program where the men of Omega are involved with the youth in the community. The Male Youth Academy enriches the lives of young males in the community, middle to high school ages, is a Fraternity Mandated Program with a four-month curriculum.

The Reading Across America program gives the Brother's an opportunity to go into the classrooms and interact with kids of both genders and all races. There are children in Norfolk, VA who rarely get the opportunity to interact with a positive male figure stressing the importance of a good education, and being a perfect example of where education can take them in life.

**PHOTOGRAPH: Brother Earl Fraley, Jr., (left) is joined with Lambda Omega Chapter Brother Ted Price as they read to children in school.**



Earlier in 2018, Lambda Omega Chapter joined with Grace Episcopal Church in volunteering their time and service by assisting them with their food distribution (Bernard Eure Assistance Program) outreach ministry. This is a collaboration that the chapter participates in annually.

Grace Episcopal Church is a historical African-American church in the Norfolk community just blocks away from Norfolk State University. This

year the church celebrates its 135 year anniversary.

The Brothers provided funding for the food that was prepared and served a greatly appreciated three-course dinner to roughly 44 individuals. This is just a mere handful of the many homeless men and women that live in Norfolk.

It is not easy to accurately say how many homeless people are in the Hampton Roads community, but in 2016, officials counted 1,885 homeless people in area cities including Norfolk, Chesapeake, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach.

## Brothers Guide Young Black Males



**Bro. Roscoe Nance (left) stressed the importance of choosing friends wisely during Omicron Kappa Kappa Chapter's ROAD DAWGS Camp.**

## Sigma Kappa Kappa Fights Against School Bullying

Bullying is an epidemic that affects far too many school age youth. Often time victims are forced to suffer in humiliating silence and loneliness. Greenville County Public School investigated a video that went viral. It showed a student being bullied by other students on a school bus.

The nearly four-minute video which was posted on Facebook presented a 7 year-old first grader named Gabriel who began to cry after enduring laughter about his shoes. Accounts noted that he hid his face in his jacket and leaned up against the seat in front of him.

After learning of the incident, the brothers of Sigma Kappa Kappa

stepped in and purchased new shoes for Gabriel. The chapter then formed the "Bruhz Against Bullying Taskforce" in 2018. The taskforce has begun to network with local school officials in facilitating Anti-Bullying Campaigns.

Brother Daryl Jones of Sigma Kappa Kappa Chapter volunteered to chair the newly established task force. Beginning in Fall 2018, the chapter began working with the school district in ending bullying. Sigma Kappa Kappa has asked other area chapters to join in the fight against bullying. Bro. Jones noted that the taskforce will help combat the issue of bullying that affects so many young Black boys.

The Brothers of Omicron Kappa Kappa (OKK) Chapter continued their commitment to being a positive influence in the lives of Black male youth by participating in a pair of mentoring programs in August 2018.

The two programs included the Boys Fun Camp at Heritage Christian Church in Reston and Road DAWG (Don't Associate With Gangs) Summer Camp in Fairfax, Va.

Brother Chuck Smith, a charter member of OKK and a member of Heritage was the facilitator for the Boys Fun Camp, a summer program for middle school students. Omicron Kappa Kappa Brothers had lunch with the campers and talked with them about their life experiences.

They also encouraged the campers to begin thinking about career choices and to begin developing strategies to secure college scholarships. Road DAWG is a one-week summer camp for middle school youth who are at risk of substance abuse or gang involvement.

The Brothers talked to the campers about the importance of making good choices in life and the consequences of making poor ones, why they should choose their friends wisely and benefits of setting goals for themselves. The program was sponsored by the Fairfax (VA) County Police Department.

# "Sons of The Colonel"

## 90th Birthday



Brothers of Upsilon Chapter affectionately known as the "Sons of The Colonel" celebrated their 95th chapter anniversary in March 2018. Brother Charles H. Young is closely associated with Wilberforce College and the community.

In 1894, the Army assigned him as the Professor of Military Science at the Ohio school. Young owned a home about a mile away from campus. That home is now a National Historic Landmark designation. During the celebration weekend for Upsilon Chapter, many Omega brothers visited the Young home. Brother Young was elected as the Fraternity's second honorary member in 1912.



**PHOTOS: Upsilon Chapter Brothers at the 95th weekend celebration. Bro. Colonel Charles Young's home.** Some of the festivities included: a Meet & Greet on Friday evening; a Black Tie Luncheon, Dean John Salter's Purple and Gold Alumni Scholarship Ball and Que Ball, all on Saturday.

*Story and photographs by Brother Myron E. Reed, Contributing Writer/ Oracle Magazine*

# MU IOTA WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

Students from Eastgate Elementary School had the honor of being welcomed to their first day of school by the Omega men of Mu Iota Chapter last August. At the entrance to the Columbus, OH school, children were met by their parents, community leaders, and the smiling faces of Omega men dressed in purple and gold.

Earlier in the year, the Columbus-based chapter held their 6th Annual Charles R. Drew Memorial Blood Drive in April. Mu Iota Chapter was joined by All in the Family Blood Drive Challenge, Sickle Cell Rare Donor Match and other Divine Nine organizations. The goal of the chapter's Dr. Charles R. Drew Memorial Blood Drive was to raise awareness of how blood donations save lives. A total of 108 participants produced 12 units of blood. Brother Dr. Charles R. Drew, an Omega man and an American Red Cross physician, was a pioneer in the field of blood banking.

On June 16, 2018, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Mu Iota Graduate Chapter joined with the Christ United Methodist Church and the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department as sponsors of the Community Health Fair. The chapter also sponsored the Diaper Challenge. Over 9,000 diapers were donated to families. Mu Iota Chapter also partnered with Celebrate One, Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther's initiative on Infant Mortality as the chapter distributed remaining baby supplies to the Community Baby Shower.

*Bro. Reginald L. Adams and Bro. Greg O. Fountain contributed to this article.*



*Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Mu Iota Graduate Chapter members join parents and other community organizations in welcoming students back to school.*

## Beta Iota Host Programs

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Every year, more than 40 million Americans struggle with mental illness. African-American men are as likely as anyone else to have mental illness, but they are less likely to get help. Depression and other mental illnesses can be deadly if left untreated. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among African Americans between the ages of 15 and 24.

Last May, Beta Iota Chapter hosted "Brother, You're On My Mind." The purpose of the event was to change the dialogue about African-American Men and mental health. The chapter seeks to raise awareness about the effects of mental health among African-American men, their families, and underserved communities.

The Brothers of Beta Iota Chapter served as coaches for the Career Development Conference. The April 2018 conference focused on teaching high school students about a variety of topics related to business. The sessions discussed leadership qualities, critical thinking skills, and public speaking.

In June, the chapter held their 6th Annual Fatherhood Community Celebration. Joining the chapter was the Talbert House, a leading Cincinnati fatherhood advocate. The Talbert House Fatherhood Project is funded in part by the United Way of Greater Cincinnati and assists men in their efforts to become responsible, committed, and nurturing fathers for their children.

## Theta Alpha Alpha and Epsilon Phi Chapters

# Provide Services

Food was distributed to over 600 Bowling Green, KY families by Theta Alpha Alpha Chapter in June 2018. The chapter partnered with Feeding America, a nationwide organization that provides hunger relief to people in need.



Families receive enough food for about four or five days which translates to about five filled bags. The food is a combination of donations, such as frozen chicken from Perdue, and U.S. Department of Agriculture government commodities, including canned vegetables.

Feeding America serves 42 counties in Kentucky and provides food to 220 organizations. A total of 16,700 people per week benefit from food and 12.5 million meals are distributed yearly. About 20,000 to 25,000 pounds of food a month is available for residents of Warren County. Food is also distributed to 13 organizations within the county. Omega men passed out boxes of food items to families which includes frozen chicken, assorted drinks, snacks bags and canned food.

As in June, the chapter surpassed their mark of selling hamburgers and hot dogs during Theta Alpha Alpha's fund raiser for the Relay for Life event. The chapter joined the American Cancer Society of Warren County at the Relay For Life event held at a Bowling Green High School.

Theta Alpha Alpha and Gamma Theta Chapters provided two \$750.00 scholarships to two local area students. The funds will assist them in pursuing higher education. One of the students included Diamond Beachamp of Glasgow High School. She plans to attend

the University of Louisville majoring in nursing. Austin Brown of Bowling Green High School also plans to enroll into the University of Louisville. He plans to study sports administration. Brown said, "many minorities excel in sports, but we are only encouraged to strive to play professionally and not exposed to the many different career paths in the sport industry."

In conjunction with Mid-South's Commission on Aging, Epsilon Phi Chapter solicited funds from Memphis residents in purchasing electric fans for elderly citizens.

In June, the chapter purchased over 400 fans stocked at the Memphis Walmart. The local TV Station, WHBQ Fox 13 provided coverage of the fan project during their early morning, mid-morning and evening newscasts. The TV station also created an informational poster that was featured on Facebook. The chapter's fan project was established in 1998, when Brothers Joel Weathers and Commodore Primous presented the idea to the chapter in order to provide heat relief for the elderly.



Phi Gamma Gamma Chapter's Brother Antonio Wheeler served as the volunteer coach for the Vikings Flag Football team.

## Chapters Essential Part of the Community

In May 2018 Phi Tau Chapter's Brother Willie Peale, Jr., was a corporate sponsor of an educational program titled "Blue And Gray in Black and White." The historical presentation focused on the American Civil War. The event by the Frankfort Arts Foundation was held at Kentucky State University.

Omega's Pi Gamma Gamma Chapter hosted their 28th Annual Terry Looper Basketball Camp on July 28th. The event was held at the Patterson Park Community Center in Murfreesboro, TN.

The camp was open to boys and girls ranging from ages five to 17. The event provided fundamental basketball instruction, teamwork and sportsmanship. The free camp featured coaching instruction from the Middle Tennessee State University coaching staff.

The chapter also provided a community cookout after the camp activities. Pi Gamma also provided schoolchildren with new backpacks filled with school supplies for the upcoming school year.

## A Moment in Omega History

Rev. Benjamin Hooks

Omega's Reverend Judge Benjamin L. Hooks, a Memphis native, was the fifth son of Robert and Bessie Hooks. The younger Hooks first attended LeMoyné College, but graduated from Howard University in 1944. Shortly after graduation Hooks enlisted in the U.S. Army. He earned the rank of staff sergeant and after his discharge from the military, he enrolled into DePaul University's College of Law graduating in 1948.

In addition to his Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree, Brother Hooks was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1956. A year later, Hooks joined Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

The Tennessee Governor appointed Hooks as a judge the criminal court division. He was the first Black judge in the State of Tennessee's history. In 1972, Hooks was appointed by U.S. President Richard M. Nixon as a member of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) becoming the commission first Black member. In 1977, Bro. Hooks served as the executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He was awarded the NAACP's Spingarn Medal in 1986.

Brother Hooks was initiated into Omega through **Epsilon Phi Chapter in 1942**. Bro. Hooks entered Omega Chapter in 2010.



Bro. Dr. Thaddeus J. Bell (center) cuts the ribbon of the new Thaddeus J. Bell Family Health Care Center.

## CLINIC HONORS BRO. DR. BELL

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Brother Dr. Thaddeus J. Bell has made many accomplishments and has a long-standing career in the health care profession. On August 13, 2018, he received the distinction of having one of South Carolina's newest health care facilities named in his honor. The Fetter Health Care Network named its newest facility the Thaddeus J. Bell, MD Family Health Center, located in Summerville, SC.

Bro. Dr. Bell received his M.D. degree from the Medical University of South Carolina in 1976 and has since been a notable figure in the field of medicine in South Carolina. Not long after completing his residency at Richland Memorial Hospital in Columbia, SC, he would help establish the Family Health Care Center in Cross, SC. After nearly a decade of service there and earning numerous awards and recognitions, Bell has served the Charleston community as a Family Practice Physician since 1986.

Brother Bell was later appointed to be Director of University Diversity in the College of Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina in 1996. In the same year, Brother Bell was named the Physician of the Year by the South Carolina Academy of Family Physicians and was the first African-American to win the award.

Dr. Bell has been affiliated with the Fetter Network, serving on its Board of Directors, for over 20 years. He has also made a significant impact in South Carolina with his Closing the Gap initiative that educates the underserved population through health care commercials, public service announcements, seminars, and workshops across the state. Family and friends, career associates, former and current patients, and a throng of members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity attended the ribbon cutting ceremony.

## Chapters Celebrate Milestones

### 80 and 90 Years of Service to Their Communities

During the first week of August 2018, Mu Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., kicked off its 80th Anniversary celebration with two weeks of activities and events. Founded on August 6, 1938, the chapter has been a devoted community organization in the areas of service and providing scholarship opportunities and programs for local students.

Mu Alpha has had several notable member over the years including former NFL (Detroit Lions) standout Brother Robert Porcher, U.S. Congressman Brother James E. "Jim" Clyburn, and Dr. John Potts, the Fraternity's 22nd Grand Basileus. Brother Potts served as Basileus of Mu Alpha from 1950-1952 later serving as Omega Psi Phi's Grand Basileus from 1953 to 1955.

On August 6th, members of the chapter met at the Trotters Restaurant for a brotherhood lunch. Several members would participate in the weekend activities of the Charleston County School District's First Day Festival, packing and distributing school supplies to local area students.

On, August 14, the chapter held a Rededication Ceremony for members of the organization at Mount Zion A.M.E. Church. The church plays an important role in the organization's history, as it was once a place of worship for Mary Just, mother of founding member Brother Dr. Ernest

On August 17, the Office of the Provost at the Medical University (MUSC) hosted members of the Fraternity including the 40th Grand Basileus Brother Antonio F. Knox, and Brother Melvin M. Mitchell, the 41st Sixth District Representative. At the event the chapter formally launched the Dr. Ernest Everett Just Scholarship Endowment at MUSC's Colcock Hall. The endowment was the product of the chapter's effort in honoring Brother Just.

Brother Knox released \$25,000 in funds in support of the Dr. Ernest Everett Just Scholarship. Mu Alpha also contributed over \$42,000 for the scholarship. "This scholarship will play a major role in supporting students who will impact the diversity of the school but increase the numbers in career pathways where people of color are not sorely underrepresented," said Brother Knox.

Brother Kurt Walker, Mu Alpha Chapter's Basileus also noted that "The Just Endowment will be a game changer for the landscape of MUSC in the years to come and grant access to those who would otherwise not be financially able to do so."

The Dr. Ernest Everett Just Gala was held at the Galliard Center on the evening of August 18th. Grand Basileus Brother Knox delivered the keynote address and the presentation of the Fraternity's scholarship funds to MUSC's Dr. Titus Reaves.

Pi Phi Graduate Chapter continued to celebrated their 90 years of leadership and service in the Charlotte, NC community through a series of Achievement Week activities. The chapter recognized veteran service men at the Pi Phi Fraternity Building. A special message was delivered by Omega's Brother Abraham J. Turner, U.S. Army Major General (Ret.).

The chapter also held a reclamation event to welcome detached Omega men back into the arms of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Later in the week, the chapter conducted a clothing drive. Over 700 pounds of clothing was donated to the Crisis Assistance Ministry's Clothing Closet.

Six Pi Phi scholars were showcased during the chapter's Omega Youth Night. During Achievement Week, the chapter announced the winners of their Essay Contest. Near the end of the week, the chapter focused on the Fraternity's International Initiative, "Brother, You're On My Mind." The initiative was designed to remove the stigma attached to mental health issues with regards to African American men.

Pi Phi Graduate Chapter was chartered in 1927, and has served the greater Charlotte communities with outstanding leadership.



*Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Brothers celebrate the inauguration of Brother Dr. Ross at Alabama State University in Montgomery.*

## Alabama State Selects An Omega, President

**B**rother Dr. Quinton T. Ross, Jr., was inaugurated as Alabama State University's 15th President at their Montgomery, AL campus on August 30, 2018. Brother Ross served as an Alabama State Senator (District 26) and was the Senate minority leader before he resigned his position to become president of his alma mater, Alabama State.

Dr. Ross graduated from Alabama State with a B.S. in Political Science; M.A. in Education, and a Doctorate in Education in Educational Leadership. The Mobile, Ala., native also served as a high school administrator, and later the Director of Adult Education for Trenholm Community College.

An event was hosted by the Omega Fifteen Committee as a fund raiser for scholarship funds for Alabama State in the name of Brother Ross. One of the highlights of the event was participation of Sigma Phi Chapter members Bro. Andre Howard, Bro. Dr. Howard Robinson, and Rev. Bro. Farrell J. Duncombe, former Grand Chaplain. Also represented were Omega Iota Iota Chapter members Bro. Daryl Sinkfield and Bro. Abdullah Salaam. Brother Senator Bobby Singleton served as the Master of Ceremony.

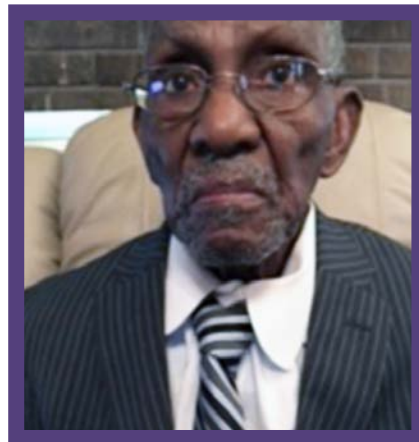
Dr. Ross is married to Kelley, and they have two sons, Quinmari and Quinton, III.

*The Oracle - Summer/Fall 2018*

## Legacy Award to Bro. Whisenton

**A**fter many years apart from the Fraternity, Brother Samuel Houston Whisenton was reclaimed by Epsilon Kappa Kappa Chapter member and brother-in-law Herb Anderson (Omega Chapter). Since that time, he has been extremely active and involved in various activities sponsored by the chapter.

Brother Whisenton, 90 years-old, is a walking history book. As the chapter's oldest Brother in both age and years in the Fraternity, Epsilon Kappa Kappa present Bro. Whisenton with the



chapter's first Legacy Award. The award celebrates an Omega man in the chapter who has been a trailblazer and made a lasting impact on the community.

Brother Whisenton was born on November 30, 1927 in Canton, MS. He joined Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., through Eta Chapter on the campus of Alcorn State College on November 18, 1949. He and eight other students became the first members of Eta Chapter at Alcorn College. Whisenton served as the chapter's first Keeper of Records and Seal.



## Alexander First Black UM Chief of Police

**O**n June 26, 2018, an Omega man made history. Beta Mu Nu Chapter's Brother Timothy Alexander became the first Black Chief of Police at the University of Montevallo. The school is located in Montevallo, Ala. Brother Alexander, a native of Montevallo, joined the Shelby County Sheriff's Department as a teenager and at the age of 40, he held the title of Captain with the City of Montevallo Police Department. Alexander was officially sworn in as Chief of Police by Shelby County District Court Judge, The Honorable Daniel Crowson,

### ZETA MU NU CHAPTER NEWS

**JONESBORO, GA.**-Zeta Mu Nu Chapter partnered with the Department of Family Services in presenting the Fatherhood Program. The program initiated by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal laid out provisions designed to help non-custodial parents, mostly fathers remain active in their children's lives. The Fatherhood Program held in September 2018, provided training and job placement for non-custodial parents that had child support issues.

*The Oracle - Summer/Fall 2018*

### PHI KAPPA KAPPA NEWS

**P**Earlier in 2018, the chapter held their first Daddy Daughter Dance. The theme for the March event was "A father's most precious pearl." The event was held in Atlanta on the campus of Atlanta Metropolitan College

"We are always doing things for our sons and young boys within our communities, so we decided to switch things up a bit and do something for our daughters and nieces," said Brother Tony Alexander, the Committee Chairman of the event.

Each young lady was announced and escorted by the gentleman that brought them. As the young ladies walked down the purple carpet at the end they received a tiara which brought smiles to their faces. There was also a Social Media Booth available for everyone to post pictures on their site. The candy filled table with "To Go" bags was also a big hit.

### SIGMA ALPHA CHAPTER NEWS

The Lamplighters of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Sigma Alpha Chapter of Miami convened with family and friends on May 12, 2018 for a banquet. The festivities took place at the chapter's Omega Activity Center where the Lamplighters celebrated their accomplishments with chapter brothers, family; friends and mentors.

The Lamplighters program provides mentorship to young male students as they matriculate into the role of men and leaders. This year's program currently serves more than 20 Lamplighters who were taught the educational, cultural, social, emotional and psychological essentials necessary to develop a prosperous life in society. Members of our Fraternity engaged and influenced them along their journey in becoming productive men of tomorrow.

The speaker for the event, Brother Major Tim Belcher of the North Miami Police Department, delivered an inspirational address focused on Friendship, one of the cornerstones of the Fraternity.

Brother Belcher encouraged the young male students to establish their purpose. He reflected on his past experiences from high school to his present career.

*Chapter Brothers Understand the Meaning of Service*

## UPSILON OMEGA BROTHERS SERVE WITH HONOR

**W**ith over 500 years of combined service, about a dozen Omega men continue to provide a shining light of hope throughout the Greater St. Louis community. Members of their chapter, Upsilon Omega, have said in many ways that the sage members have also been an inspiration to them and the Fraternity. In August 2018, the chapter honored the brothers who exemplify the true meaning of service.

Some of the Brothers who have served Omega and the community for many years include: Dr. Lynn Beckwith Jr., 60 Years; Bro. Aaron Robinson, 45 years; Dr. Edwin Bailey 55 Years; Bro. Kevin Collins, 45 years; Bro Harold Palmer, 60 Years; Bro. Augustus Bell Jr. , 70 Years and Bro. Gary White, 55 Years. Bro. Nathaniel Keeling Sr., 60 years; Bro. John Head, 45 Years,; Bro. John Wright Sr, 60 Years and Bro. Frank Robinson, 40 Years.

In September, Upsilon Omega joined with the Target Store in Florissant, MO in presenting gifts to the children at St. Louis Children's Hospital. Over 150 coloring books and over 2400 pieces of crayons were donated to the Child Life Department at the hospital.

With this generous donation, the men of Omega will ensure that every child that visits the emergency room, clinics, and who is admitted into the hospital receives a coloring book and some crayons to lift their spirits and bring a smile to their face during a difficult time.



*L to R: Bro. James R. Ball, the 8th District Representative with Brothers Bell, Beckwith, Bailey, Head, White, and Piphus.*

## An Omega Elected Chair of Communities That Cares

**B**rother Jerald Gatlin, XI PI Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Colorado Springs, Colorado is currently the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Colorado Building & Construction Trades Council (CBCTC) for the State of Colorado.

The CBCTC program promotes and educates the public regarding opportunities available to communities of interest in joint labor/management apprenticeship programs. He is charged with performing direct outreach to individuals, organizations, public schools and targeted communities of interest to conduct presentations and

build a coalition of broad community interest. The program also supports registered apprenticeship programs.

Brother Gatlin was elected as the Chairman of the Fountain Valley Communities That Care (CTC) organization for Colorado Springs, CO. (CTC) organization brings together youth, parents, schools, community agencies, and local governments to promote the health and well-being of young people. CTC also provide community process for preventing health and behavior problems among youth.

## Chapter donate gifts for kids

**O**n September 7, 2018 the men of Omega

Psi Phi Fraternity's Upsilon Omega Chapter, Upsilon Omega Foundation, and employees from the Target Store in Florissant, MO gathered over 150 coloring books that will be presented to St. Louis Children's Hospital. In addition, kids from the hospital's Child Life Department will received over 2400 crayons. With this generous donation, the men of Omega will ensure that every child that visits the emergency room, clinics, and is admitted into St. Louis Children's Hospital receives a coloring book and some crayons to lift their spirits and bring a smile to their faces during a difficult time.



of brothers, the distances of Phi Mu (35 minutes) and Eta Alpha (1.5 hours) from Fort Leonard Wood created a barrier to fraternal service.

On September 22, 2017 that problem was solved. Omegas from the Ft. Leonard Wood area founded Sigma

Mu Nu Chapter. The charter members included Brothers Justin Speed, Ed Kolen, Terry Lee, Mark Preston, O'Niel Francis, Darell Coffey, Isaac Nelson, Oscar Brewer, Alfred Boone, Joe Johnson, and Jordon Davis.

The chapter was formally introduced at the 69th Eighth District Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. After electing chapter positions and publishing the bylaws, the chapter began to service the Ft. Leonard Wood community. Some of the chapter's plans include partnering with the local NAACP chapter, churches and other organizations in establishing a mentorship program.

### NEW CHAPTER STARTS AT FORT LEONARD WOOD

Fort Leonard Wood is a United States Army installation located in the Missouri Ozark region bordering the town of Saint Robert, MO. The Army base is known as the home of the Engineer Regiment, Military Police Corps, and Chemical Corps as it houses the Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) for those branches.

Due to this reason, brothers of Omega Psi Phi that serve in these branches of the Army have rotated through Fort Leonard Wood for decades. Those that elected to maintain service to the Fraternity while there had to affiliate with chapters outside the area such as Phi Mu of Rolla, Missouri or Eta Alpha of Jefferson City, Missouri due to the lack of a local chapter. Depending on the training schedules

*Story by Brother Terry Lee,  
Sigma Mu Nu Chapter Reporter*



Pi Omicron Graduate Chapter completed their successful summer fan project. The chapter delivered over 70 fans to the Watershed Social Hospital.

## Omega Men in the News



Bro. Dr. Otis R. Drew

Dr. Otis R. Drew has been recognized as the 2018 top Orthopedic Surgeon and Sports Medicine Specialist in the State of Louisiana. Dr. Drew practices in Lafayette, LA and is a team doctor for the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. "I pride myself on treating all of my patients with the same respect regardless of socioeconomic status. I make sure that whatever decision we decide is in the best interest of my patients," said Drew. Brother Dr. Drew was initiated into Omega through Mu Lambda Chapter on the campus of the University of Louisiana-Monroe.



Bro. Dr. Lonnie R. Williams

Dr. Lonnie Williams was appointed as the special assistant to the chancellor at Arkansas State University in July 2018. In Brother Dr. Williams new role, he will direct the Student Health Center and the university's Counseling Center. Brother Williams previously served as the associate vice chancellor for student affairs. He had served in that role for 15 years at Arkansas State. Bro. Dr. Williams is an Omega Life Member and the Ninth District's Arkansas State Representative-North. Williams is a member of the Upsilon Chi Chapter located in Northwest Arkansas.

## Chapter Starts New Veterans Program

On August 29, 2018, Psi Upsilon Chapter started a new initiative called the "Never Forget Veterans Friendship Program" at the Lawton Veteran Center. This program was designed to be an ongoing effort to spend time with some of our Military's Veterans located in Lawton Veteran Center. The chapter had a chance to spend valuable time sharing with each Veteran.

## OMEGA TEXAS CHAPTERS SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES

Epsilon Alpha Graduate Chapter will participate in the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day in January 2019. Last year, the event featured a march and parade in Fort Worth, TX.

Sigma Tau Chapter supported programs that highlighted breast cancer and domestic violence awareness. According to United States Breast Cancer statistics, approximately 1 in 8 U.S. women (about 12%) will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of their lifetime.

In 2017, an estimated 252,710 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in women in the U.S., along with 63,410 new cases of non-invasive (in situ) breast cancer. Another issue with the United States is domestic violence statistics. According to Alanna Vagianoes' article, "30 Shocking Domestic Violence Statistics That Remind Us It's an Epidemic," the number three represents the number of women murdered every day by a current or former male partner in the U.S. Breast cancer and domestic violence awareness are two the chapter's main social action programs of October.

# DISTRICT BRINGS CONCLAVE TO NEW ORLEANS BIG EASY STYLE CULTURE



Brother Julius Elmore (center) welcome Omega members to New Orleans during the Fraternity's Grand Conclave. (Oracle Staff/MB)

## ZULU STORY CONTINUES -From Page 24

Julius Elmore, a member of Omega Phi Phi's Phi Iota Iota Chapter said it takes about 45 minutes to apply his power-based makeup. He also mentioned that a lot of soap and water is needed to clean the black and white coloring from one's face. Even with the lengthy make-up process Brother Elmore said, "As a Zulu member I like being part of the history and culture of New Orleans. I grew up as a 5-year-old kid watching the Zulus. I really liked the way they related to the crowd and moved."

According to the history of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club, the Zulu group started when many Black men joined the Benevolent Aid Society.

Benevolent Societies were the first forms of insurance in the Black community. As part of membership dues, the men received financial help when sick or financial aid when burying deceased members. Also throughout the city of New Orleans, each ward had its group or "Club." The Tramps were one such group. After seeing the skit, they retired to their meeting place (a room in the rear of a restaurant/bar and emerged as Zulus. This group was probably made up of members from the Tramps, the Benevolent Aid Society, and other ward-based groups. While the "Group" marched in Mardi Gras as early as 1901, their first appearance as Zulus came in 1909, with William Story as King. 1

Reference 1: History committee.History of the Zulu Social & Pleasure Club website. Retrieved from <http://www.kreweofzulu.com/history>



Iota Chapter's Brother Marco Johnson and Chicago Police officer (far right) talks to a team from the Englewood Police Youth Baseball League.

# Chapters Involved With Youth

The Englewood Police Youth Baseball (EPYBL) was established in 2015, and has had a long partnership with the local Chicago Police District. Iota Chapter along with several community organizations has been very involved with the baseball league. Brother Marco Johnson, a member of Iota Chapter has been very active in working with the league as a Chicago Police Officer. It was Bro. Johnson's idea of working with Black males in one of Chicago's highest crime neighborhoods.

The mission of the EPYBL is to save as many Chicago children as possible from violence and gangs. The teams provide a safe zone for young boys to learn baseball and citizenship skills. Each of the team was named after a significant African American Chicagoan or a former Negro League team.

### OMEGA NU'S YOUTH FISHING EVENT

In Springfield, IL the Fraternity's Omega Nu Chapter hosted their Annual Inter Youth Fishing Event on May 19th. The fishing site was held at the pond located on the grounds of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The program engages children ages 5 to 15 with their parents in outdoor activities designed to provide positive learning experiences for future anglers. Special efforts are made to engage girls, young ladies and their mothers.

The program also brings together kids, parents and members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. with other members of the community and IDNR staff who provide fishing and safety instructions for the participants. Utilizing the IDNR Location allowed Omega Nu to secure substantive support from the IDNR Fisheries Department, the Illinois Conservation Foundation and Primo Designs.

Approximately 50 children attended with their parents. The participants were provided free "Fishing with the Ques" tee shirts and wristbands, fishing poles, snacks, lunch, and IDNR's very well-stocked pond to fish in.

In addition to the chapter's youth fishing event, other activities in the Springfield Area include Friend N Deed, a large-scale Christmas Food distribution program; Feeding the Homeless, an ongoing shelter meal service program at local shelters; Youth Mentoring, with the Springfield School District 186 and the Boys and Girls Club of Central Illinois,

Story by Brother Joseph Washington,  
Omega Nu Chapter Editor

# IOTA PI SPONSORS SCOUT TROOP

Scout Troop 238 (Pack 3206) was established in 2012 by Bro. Kenyatta Brame in Grand Rapids, MI., after he was unable to find a diverse scouting group. Each year, Iota Pi Chapter sponsors a summer camp for troops commonly called the Omega Scouts.

With the support of the chapter, the Scouting Council, the church ministry, and parent involvement, the boys have experienced camping, hiking, fishing, and several other outdoor activities. The chapter also sponsors the Tipping Point Initiative and the Scout Reach programs. Scouting is a nationally-recognized program. Many American leaders attribute the boy scouts' experience as having contributed to their leadership development.



Scouting is a nationally-recognized program. Many American leaders attribute the Boy Scouts' experience as having contributed to their leadership development..

PHOTOGRAPH ABOVE--Iota Pi Graduate Chapter's Scout Master members with Scout Troop 238.

# Chapter Promotes Awareness

On August 17, 2018 Detroit's Nu Omega Chapter collaborated with The Center for Urban Youth and Family Development (CUYFD) to sponsor and host "The 10th Annual Prostate Cancer Survivors Golf Outing".

The event was held in Livonia, MI at "Idyl Wyld" Golf Course. The event hosted 130 registered golfers, and was the most successful of the 10 annual events. As part of its national mandate to support prostate cancer awareness, prevention, early

detection, and survival, the Brothers of Omega Psi Phi provided International, District, and chapter support. Former 10th District Representative Larry "Hondo" Boyd and former Omicron Alpha Alpha Basileus Tarzza Willams served as Honorary Event Co-Chairman. Tournament Director Brother Marsialle Arbuckle, Founder, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Executive Director of The Center For Urban Youth & Family Development also served as a chairman of the event. Brother Arbuckle, a Prostate Cancer survivor

since 2007, established the event in 2008 to celebrate his survival and victory in his battle against one of America's leading health issues for men, in particular men of African descent. Statistically, the prevalence of this form of cancer is alarming:

- \*One in seven men will get prostate cancer.
- \*One in 39 men will die from prostate cancer.
- \*While diagnosis is rare before the age of 40.
- \*Six out of 10 cases are diagnosed after men turn 65 with the average age of diagnosis being 66.



San Diego Chapter Provided a Decade of Service

## PHI OMICRON CELEBRATES MENTORSHIP

**T**hrough hard work and commitment to the youth of the community, the Brothers of Phi Omicron Chapter in San Diego, CA have built a signature program.

The Dr. John Arrington Mentorship Program or Dr. J.A.M. was started in 2007 to address concerns our community had with the youth. The chapter set out to develop a program that would help address those concerns.

The program is named in honor of Brother Dr. John Arrington, a member of the chapter who has been a leader in the community in the areas of education and religion for over 30 years. Dr. Arrington was initiated into the fraternity at Nu Rho Chapter in Albuquerque New Mexico in 1966. Serving 9th through 12th-grade young men in San Diego County, the program has two major components. The first is the monthly educational component.

Each month the group gets together and has a session that deals with one of the core principles of the group.

- Character Development
- Academic Success
- Cultural Awareness
- Social Service

The second component is the group activity component. A diverse series of trips, activities, and events are planned for the year, and these events are used to build brotherhood and give the young men a chance to fellowship with



Omega brothers Quentin Davis, Walter Torrence III, Huey Ratliff and Windell Tidwell with Dr. J.A.M. Mentees.

members of the chapter. Brothers Robert Rush Jr., Dan P. Falconer, Victor Baker, and Harry Cooper were instrumental in developing the components of the program and were some of its first coordinators, mentors, and volunteers. Over the years the program has served more than 200 young men in San Diego. Many of these "Jammers" have gone on to college and promising careers. For more information visit: [www.bajaques.com/drjam](http://www.bajaques.com/drjam)

Story by Bro. Quentin Davis,  
12th District Director of Public Relations

In June 2016, Phi Omicron Chapter also hosted their 3rd Annual "A Celebration of Fathers Breakfast." The event was aimed at honoring fathers in the San Diego area who have been instrumental in the community.

In addition, they honored men who have served as fathers to the community (i.e. coach, mentor or teacher) without the official title of "Father". Over 150 people came together to help the chapter honor fifteen men from the San Diego community.

## Chapters support their communities

**SALT LAKE CITY, UT**--On August 6, 2018 the Brothers of Iota Iota Chapter executed several of the Fraternity's mandated program through their 12th Annual "Back to School BBQ and Health, Education, and Voter Registration Fair" it was held at the Sugar House Park.

Local News Station KTVX Channel 4 helped to spread the word after their interview with Brothers Maurice Mapps and Marlin Lynch, III on their morning show. The interview heightened the community's awareness of Omega's vital role and contribution to the community through its outreach programs. The "Back to School BBQ and Health, Education, and Voter Registration Fair" is a great way of giving back to the community by donating school supplies and stressing the importance of maintaining good health.

The event was open to the public and provided a full afternoon of food and games for kids. Information about health, education, scholarships, and financial literacy. The American Red Cross was on site to sign-up blood donors. The University of Utah's Wellness Bus provided blood pressure and glucose screening. Other sponsors and supporters included the University of Utah, Weber State University, Salt Lake Community College, and Planned Parenthood. Over 500 backpacks stuffed with school supplies were distributed at the event.

**PASADENA, CA**--On September 6, 2018, Zeta Tau Chapter and Zeta Tau Foundation recognized community leaders at their "Finding Friends Honors" Award Reception. Brother Larry Hammond, coordinator of the event, greeted the guests on behalf of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Tau Chapter -- affectionately known as the "Rose Bowl Ques."

Brother Dr. George D. Taylor, President, Zeta Tau Foundation also talked about the importance of the foundation. Bro. Hammond also mentioned that the Fraternity's motto was "Friendship is Essential to the Soul." He noted that "understanding the meaning and essence of the motto has been a lifelong journey of exploration and examination.

The evolution of that journey, has manifested itself into the Finding Friends Honors brainchild," said Hammond. The recipients of the Finding Friends Honors was Gerald Freeny, the first African American President of the Tournament of Roses. Two other individual awardees were: Brother Danny Bakewell, Sr., senior executive publisher of the Los Angeles Sentinel and Joe Hopkins, Esq., executive publisher of the Pasadena San Gabriel Journal and Zeta Tau Chapter's "2008 Citizen of the Year." Bakewell and Hopkins were instrumental in Freeny's ascension to the position of President of the Tournament of Roses. Both were recognized for their role in this epic moment in American history.

Finding Friends Honors exemplifies the community coming together - working across all lines for the advancement and the betterment of the community as a whole. In presenting the awards to Freeny, Bakewell, Sr., and Hopkins, Brother Hammond said that, "friends become our chosen family and today we welcome into our family and honor those that chose to take a stand and made a difference."

Before presenting the award to Gerald Freeny, Brother Hammond expressed how difficult it must be to attain the illustrious position of Tournament of Roses President. "We actually saw the first African American President of the United States before we got to see the first African American President of the Tournament of Roses," said Hammond.

In accepting the first Finding Friends Honors Award from Zeta Tau Chapter, Freeny expressed his deep appreciation to the Fraternity and to the Foundation for the Recognition. He also thanked the members of the Executive Committee of the Tournament of Roses for being open to bringing about the change that was sought by the community.

"Without the help and cooperation of the executive board of the Tournament of Roses, none of this would be possible today," Freeny said to a warm and receptive audience.



## SGG Named "Chapter of the Year"

The members of Sigma Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter located in Okinawa, Japan received the 13th International District 2017 – 2018 *Chapter of the Year Award*. The announcement was made during the 13th International District Meeting held in July 2018 prior to the commencement of the 81st Grand Conclave of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. The Conclave was held in New Orleans, LA. This marked the third year in a row that Sigma Gamma Gamma has received this award.

The Chapter of the Year Award is presented to the chapter in the 13th International District of Omega Psi Phi that has made significant contributions on the District and the International level of the Fraternity as well as to its local community. The 13th District consists of 17 chapters in the following countries and locations: Canada, Ghana, United Kingdom, Japan, Republic of Korea, Germany, Okinawa, Bahamas and Hawaii. In addition to receiving the Chapter of the Year Award, the following members from Sigma Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter received the following awards

**PHOTOGRAPH ABOVE:** A record number of Omega men attended the 81st Grand Conclave in New Orleans in July 2018. Photo by Bro. James Witherspoon, IHQ and Oracle Magazine Director of Photography.

from the 13th International District: **Omega Man of the Year Award – Brother Michael Robinson** The Omega Man of the Year Award is awarded to a member who supports all the Fraternity's Mandated Programs, has held various leadership roles and made significant contributions to his Chapter, local community, District and on the International level of the Fraternity above and beyond the ordinary participation levels. **Superior Service Award – Brother Cortez Pree.**

The Superior Service Award is awarded to a member who has demonstrated outstanding contributions and concern for the activities of his Chapter and local community. He must have served in a manner above and beyond the ordinary participation levels necessary to implement programs and projects.

## Chapter Awards Scholarship

Tau Chi Chapter located in Ghana recently awarded their first Moses Amesimenu Scholarship. The award was named in honor of deceased chapter member Brother Moses Amesimenu.

The recipient of the Moses Amesimenu Memorial Scholarship of 500 Ghana Cedis was Ms. Gloria Germain Afari. Her winning essay best presented the topic "What Action Can You Take to Promote Social Justice and Embrace Diversity of all People?"

Germain, 17, lives with her foster parents in the Central Ghana Region. She is studying to become a journalist and she wants to use her skills for a successful television and radio journalism career. Her community service and participation in the Social Public Expenditure, Financial Accountability Group, the Gender & Social Protection Service and Health Education programs have given her an extensive awareness of social justice.

She also has a concern for improving gender fairness and equality. Her dream is to use her career to sponsor these organizations to be an example for social justice and diversity fairness.

Tau Chi Chapter is honored to help make a difference in the life and education of Gloria Germain Afari, the first recipient of the Moses Amesimenu Memorial Scholarship.



At the Conclave Ms. Michelle Moore-Robinson (center) was awarded as the Fraternity's International Citizen of the Year. (L to R)-Bro. Tracey George, 13th District Achievement Week Chairman' Bro. Antonio Knox, Sr., 40th Grand Basileus; Moore-Robinson; Bro. Michael Robinson and Bro. Kenneth Rodgers, the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal.

## School Principal Receives Citizen of the Year Award

Michelle A. Moore-Robinson, Principal of Bob Hope Primary School on Kadena Air Base received the 2017-2018 Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's *International Citizen of the Year Award* during the 81st Grand Conclave held in New Orleans in July. The 40th Grand Basileus, Bro. Antonio Knox, Sr. presented Ms. Moore-Robinson with a plaque and sterling silver bracelet for her outstanding service and accomplishments.

The Citizen of the Year Award recipient is selected each year from outstanding citizens nominated for unique contributions to humanity. The nominee should be a person of local, regional and

international recognition and who is acclaimed by a significant segment of society for outstanding contributions to the welfare of mankind. Prior to winning this award Moore-Robinson was named the "2017 DoDEA Principal of the Year" and "2017 National Distinguished Principal of the Year." She is the first person nominated from Sigma Gamma Gamma and the 13th International District to receive an international award from the Fraternity.

The Gastonia, NC native holds a Bachelor's degree from North Carolina A & T State University, and a Master's from Michigan State University. She is married to Michael Robinson, an engineer technician at Kadena Air Base.

# 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, A light goes from this earthly life. The visor closed again.*

*Yet all the heavens open wide, To let a new star in.*

*When we wear the gloves, A brother leaves the chapter rolls, and moves to other worlds.*

*For when we say our last goodbye, He walks on streets of Pearl, When we wear the gloves.*

*by Brother Carver Portlock*



# Omega Chapter

## Brother A. Thomas Baity

*Educator*

Brother Baity entered Omega Chapter on July 27, 2018. He graduated from the University of District of Columbia's Teachers College. He also holds an MS in Education Administration and Supervision from John Hopkins University. Brother Baity served in the U.S. Navy for 23 years and retired with the rank of Lieutenant. He was a long-time member of Tau Pi Graduate Chapter serving as the KRS, and was the recipient of the chapter's *Educator of the Year Award and the Omega Man of the Year*.

## Brother Paul R. Barnes

*Educator*

Brother Paul Barnes entered Omega Chapter on August 9, 2018. He graduated from Tuskegee Institute in 1950, but left school in his 2nd year to service in the U. S. Army before returning. In the Army, Barnes was awarded the Purple Heart. He later graduated from New York University with a Master of Arts in Education. Barnes served on the Paterson (NJ) Police Force before returning to work an educator. He served as an Industrial Art teacher, and later as the Dean of Students at Eastside High School. The Life Member was active with Lambda Upsilon Graduate Chapter. In 1988, he was honored as the chapter's *Omega Man of the Year*.

## Brother Dr. Sydney L. Cousin

*Educator and School Superintendent*

Brother Cousin entered Omega Chapter on Saturday, August 25, 2018. He was initiated into Pi Chapter at Morgan State College on October 29 1964. He graduated from Frederick Douglas High School in Baltimore, MD. He did post graduate work at Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania where he received his Master's Degree. In 1986, he obtained his Doctorate from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA.

He started as a history teacher in 1967 in Baltimore City Schools. After receiving his Master's Degree, he worked as a capital program planner in 1972 for the Baltimore City Department of Planning. In 1973, he rejoined Baltimore City Schools in the Division of Physical Plant Planning and Programming. In 1987, Bro. Cousin joined the Howard County School System as Director of School Construction and Planning. In 1989, he became Superintendent of Finance and Operations. In 2001, he was named Deputy Superintendent and Chief Operating Officer. He left the School System briefly and returned in 2003 as the Interim Superintendent. Later in the year, he was appointed as the permanent Superintendent and the First African American to hold this prestigious position. Howard County is affluent with a high performing school system. The African American student population varies between 20 to 22 percent with an African American teaching staff around 10 percent.

In 1975, Bro. Cousin was a Charter member of Tau Pi Chapter. In 2003, he received the Chapter's *Educator of the Year Award*.

## Brother Dr. Lloren A. Foster

*Educator*

Brother Foster entered Omega Chapter on October 2, 2017. Foster was initiated into Eta Chapter in 1978. He was a Life Member. Bro. Foster served as the Chapter Advisor to Gamma Epsilon Chapter (Hampton University) and the Gamma Theta Chapter (Western Kentucky University). He a recipient of the *Chapter Advisor of the Year Award* and he served as the 5th District's scholarship chairman. Dr. Foster earned his PhD. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Bro. Dr. Foster was a champion of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and served as the Executive Director of Multicultural and Diversity Affairs at the University of Florida. At his passing, Dr. Foster was the Chairperson of the English and Foreign Language Department at Hampton University.

## Brother Chester "Chet" Gibbs

*Former District Representative*

Brother Gibbs entered Omega Chapter on May 21, 2018. He was initiated into the Fraternity through Beta Chapter on May 23, 1945. Gibbs was a charter member of Delta Chi Chapter in Springfield, MA in 1954. Brother Gibbs served as the 11th First District Representative from 1956 to 1959.

Bro. Gibbs began his public service career in 1952 as a social worker for the Boston and Springfield Public Welfare Departments, and the state's foster care and adoption agency. After officials of Prince Edward County, Virginia chose to close public schools rather than integrate them, Chet chaired a committee of social workers, sponsored by the American Friends Service that placed students with Springfield families so they could finish their educations. In 1961, Governor John Volpe appointed him as a Commissioner to the Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination. Chet was the first resident of Western Massachusetts to serve in this position.

His determination and commitment to the goal of social justice was further manifested by his serving as the Executive Director of the Springfield Urban League, and by his founding Springfield Corporation, a housing rehabilitation and job training agency. Later, Chet served as a consultant to US companies, developing their affirmative action plans and providing training to ensure equal access for minority and women-owned contractors and employees.

He served on the Boards of distinguished organizations and institutions including Western New England and Springfield Colleges, Dunbar Community Center, Holyoke Health Center, Nueva Esperanza, Holyoke Community Land Trust, the MacDuffie School, and the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. He was a Trustee of Springfield Institution for Savings for 26 years, serving on the Investment Committee and later as the Chairman of the Internal Audit Committee.

### **Brother Dr. J. Ranaldo Lawson**

*College Professor*

Brother Lawson entered Omega Chapter on August 23, 2018. Brother Lawson was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1963 through the influence of Iota Psi Chapter. He was a beloved History Professor at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) for nearly three decades. . Brother Lawson was an active member of Beta Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and for many years he faithfully served as the Undergraduate Advisor for Tau Psi Chapter at North Carolina Central University.

### **Brother Dr. Henry Marshall**

*Dentist*

Brother Marshall entered Omega Chapter on August 14, 2018. He was initiated by the Omicron Phi Chapter into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated on April 26, 1963. Brother Marshall sought the truth and believed in doing the right thing. He supported numerous Fraternity programs with scholarship and Mardi Gras listed as his top favorites. Brother Marshall was a key proponent in obtaining the Omega House in Columbia, SC. Recognizing his commitment to OMEGA, he was elected to the highest leadership positions in the chapter; Vice Basileus and then Basileus, serving from 1981-1983. He received the bachelor degree from Benedict College and his Doctor of Dentistry from Howard University.

### **Brother Noel J. McFadden, Sr.**

*Government Administrator*

Brother Noel Josephus McFadden, Sr., was born on January 5, 1948 in North Charleston, SC. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from Voorhees College. While at Voorhees College, Noel was one of the Charter Members of the Sigma Theta Chapter. Bro. McFadden was employed as the Director of the Social Security Administration Telecommunications 800 Network and retired after 36 years of service. He also served his country as a reservist in the Air Force Reserves retiring as a Senior Master Sergeant after 26 years.

### **Brother Willie McLaughlin**

*Educator*

Brother McLaughlin recently entered Omega Chapter. He was initiated into Omega Psi Phi on April 13, 1956 through Xi Psi Chapter at South Carolina State University. He remained active in Epsilon Gamma Gamma Chapter for many years serving as the Keeper of Finance, Keeper of Peace and Parliamentarian. Bro. McLaughlin was a retired school teacher serving for 35 years teaching Agriculture Education and Horticulture at Brewer High School, Greenwood High School and Greenwood Vocational Center.

### **Brother Monroe Perrott**

*An Omega Man*

Brother Perrott entered Omega Chapter on April 4, 2018. He was initiated into Omega through Zeta Epsilon Chapter on April 14 1973. Brother attended Indiana University where he received a BS in Sociology. He worked for AT&T for over 30 years. Bro. Parrott served on many committees as a member of Alpha Chi Chapter, and was the recipient of the "2017 Omega Man of the Year Award."

### **Brother Lawrence C. Pittman, Jr.**

*U.S. Army Officer*

Brother Pittman entered Omega Chapter on September 15, 2018. He was initiated into Omega through Tau Iota Chapter. After relocating to Columbia, MD he joined the Tau Pi Graduate Chapter. In 1954, Pittman graduated from Gumberry High School as the Valedictorian of his class. After graduation he enrolled into Hampton Institute majoring in Biology. He was in ROTC, a member of the distinguished military Honor Society "Scabbard and Blade," and a member of the Hampton Track Team. Pittman received his B.S. in 1960. While at Hampton, he caught the interest of Claudia Pearson and they later married having three children, Iris, Lawrence III, and Kevin.

Brother Pittman served on active duty as a U.S. Army Reserve officer. He achieved the rank of Captain and worked as an Ordinance and Bomb Disposal Specialist. After nine years of military service, Bro. Pittman began his civilian career in Aerospace and Defense contracting. Bro. Pittman was a member of Locust United Methodist Church for 38 years.

### **Brother Ozro T. Wells, Esq.**

*Lawyer*

Brother Wells was initiated at Psi Chapter in 1954. He graduated from Morehouse College with B.A. in 1953. He later received his law degree from Boston University's School of Law in 1956. In the early 1970's Brother Wells was appointed by President Richard Nixon to serve as part of a delegation of three attorneys sent to Germany. During the Civil Rights Era, Wells was co-counsel along with Attorneys Percy Sutton and Mark Lane in the first sit-in cases that occurred in New York City

Brother Wells was President of the National Bar Association, National Bar Foundation, and the National Negro Golf Association, the oldest African American golf association in the world.

# **Brother Calvin C. Zellars**

## **24th Second District Representative**

**C**alvin Coolidge Zellars was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated in 1976 through Tau Pi Graduate Chapter in Columbia, MD. Brother Zellars was a member of the new chapter's charter line. Bro. Zellars exemplified outstanding leadership, sustainable, superior and distinguished service to his community through the Tau Pi Chapter for many years. He served Tau Pi in several leadership capacities including Keeper of Records & Seal, Vice-Basileus and Basileus.

On the District level, Brother Zellars ascended into numerous Second District offices that included the Second District Keeper of Records and Seal and First Vice-Second District Representative. Ultimately, Zellars became the 24th Second District Representative where he was a member of Omega Psi Phi's Supreme Council from 1994-1996.

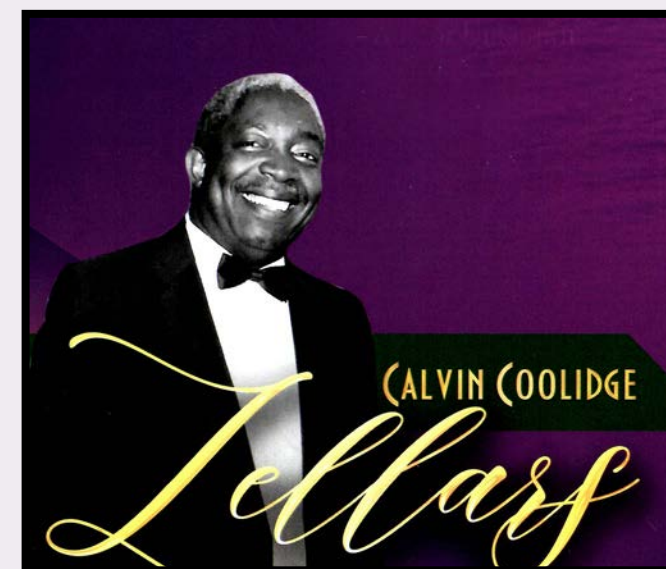
Bro. Zellars received numerous awards for this service between 1979 and 2016, including Chapter Educator of the Year in 1979, Business Man of the Year in 1981, and Omega Man of the Year, 1985 and 1992. In 1998, he was the recipient of District Omega Man of the Year in recognition of his dedicated service, commitment, and devotion to the Fraternity. At the 80th Grand Conclave in 2016, Zellars received Omega's 40 Years of Service Award.

Calvin C. Zellars was born to the late Joe and Lillian Zellars in Lincolnton, Georgia. He was affectionately known to family and friends as "Cooley," "Z-Man," "Brother Z," and "Mr. Calvin." Brother Zellars spent his formative years in Philadelphia where he graduated from Thomas A. Edison College Preparatory High School. After high school, he attended Howard University in Washington, D.C., where he received a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. He also earned a degree from the Antioch School of Law. Zellars worked for the Washington Post retiring from the company after 30-years of service. During his career at

the Post, he started Zellars & Associates, a thriving tax business.

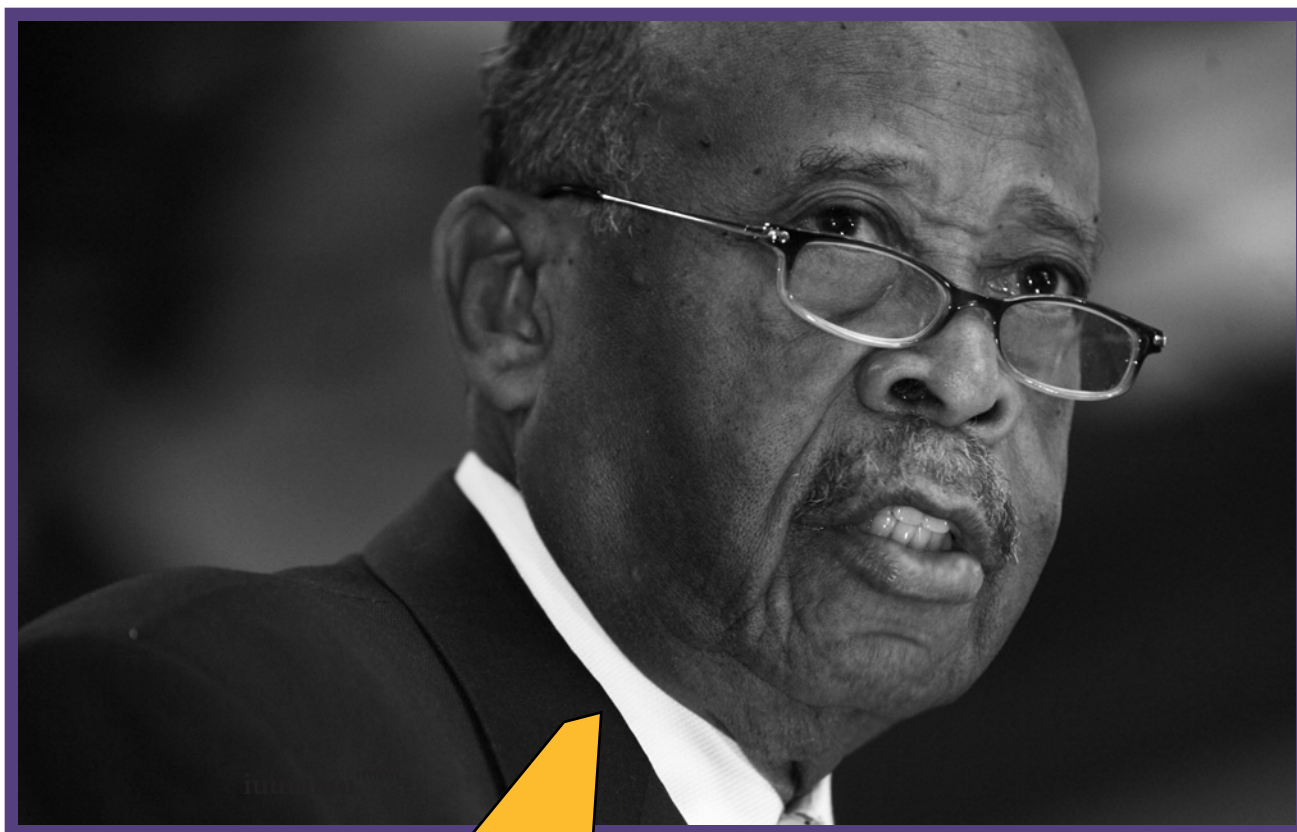
Zellars worked for the Washington Post retiring from the company after 30-years of service. During his career at the Post, he started Zellars & Associates, a thriving tax preparation business that remained open for over 40 years. With his "Philly Swagger," Calvin was the epitome of "cool" with a "heart of gold." He loved cars and music, especially Curtis Mayfield. On any given weekend, he would be relaxing outside on his deck enjoying the weather and reading a good book.

Calvin had a great sense of humor. He always enjoyed telling and hearing a good joke, and was known to have "never meet a stranger." His smile and laughter would light up the room. He was a gentle and free spirited person who loved to socialize with friends and hanging out with his two daughters. His daughters noted that their father was a generous and easy-going person who was full of wisdom. As a long-time resident of the Howard County area, Zellars had been a member of St. James Catholic Church, St. Johns Baptist Church and Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church. Brother Zellars was preceded in death by his wife Mary Jeanette, parents Joe and Lillian Zellars, and his brother, Jonathan Zellars.



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# OMEGA'S GIANT



A

*society grows great when old men  
plant trees whose shade they know  
they shall never sit in.*

*Words from a Greek Proverb often delivered*

**by the late Brother Burnel E.  
Coulon, Omega Psi Phi's 31st  
Grand Basileus**