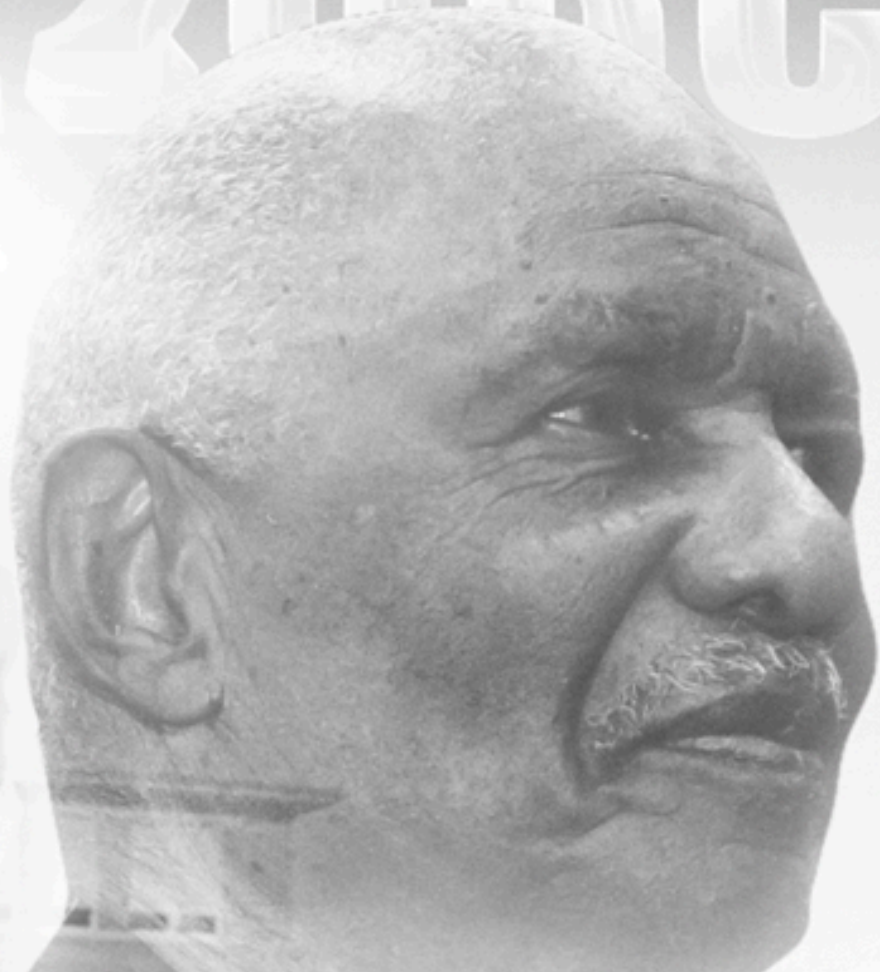


THE SOURCE

FALL 2025 EDITION



BRO. JIMMY SMITH, SR. LM #801

A LIFE OF PURPOSE: HONORING DECADES OF SELFLESS SERVICE,
BROTHERHOOD, AND A LEGACY THAT UPLIFTS US ALL.



MESSAGE FROM OUR

DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

“HONORING THE ROOTS THAT
BUILT THE MIGHTY NINTH.”

It is with great pride that I present to you this edition of The Source. Within these pages, you will find more than articles. You will find our history, our voice, and our legacy in motion. Each story serves as a testament to who we are: men committed to service, leadership, and brotherhood. From celebrating our milestones to amplifying the voices of our undergraduates, this issue captures the essence of the Ninth District's impact across generations.

Every contribution in this edition adds a new chapter to our living legacy. Together, these stories remind us that we are not just documenting history. We are making it.

This issue also reflects the power of our collective efforts. It demonstrates how every brother, every chapter, and every community initiative contributes to the larger story of the Ninth District. The sacrifices of those who came before us continue to echo, while the work of today ensures that future generations will inherit a strong and unshakable foundation.

As you read, I encourage you to see these articles not just as reflections of what has been done, but as a call to continue building upon what has been created. Our legacy is alive, and it grows with every effort we make to uplift, serve, and lead. May this edition inspire us all to remain steadfast in preserving our traditions while boldly creating new chapters that will be worthy of remembrance.

Fraternally,

Bro. Marcus McCoy
Ninth District Director of Public Relations

Marcus McCoy



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THE MIGHTY 9TH



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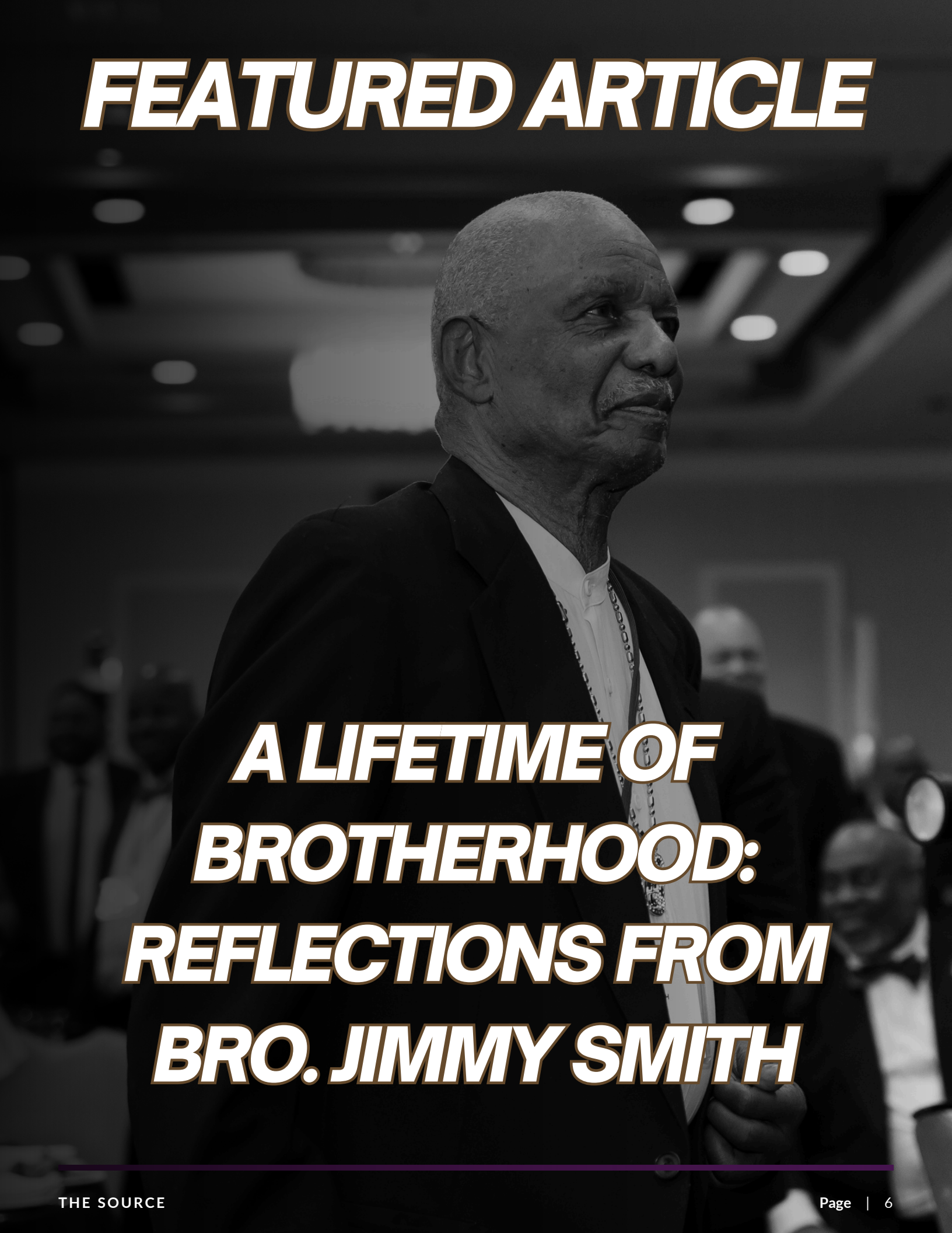
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FEATURED ARTICLE



A LIFETIME OF BROTHERHOOD: REFLECTIONS FROM BRO. JIMMY SMITH

A LIFETIME OF BROTHERHOOD: REFLECTIONS FROM BRO. JIMMY SMITH



BY TIMOTHY R. WILLIAMS | SPR. '13-GAMMA ETA, CURRENTLY UPSILON CHI
|PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER

For more than half a century, Brother Jimmy 'J.L.' Smith (3-66-Tau Sigma) affectionally known as 801, has lived the principles of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. His journey began with inspiration close to home and has carried him through a lifetime of service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the bond of friendship.

Inspired by Family and Tradition

Brother Smith recalls that his first exposure to Omega Psi Phi came from his cousin, who pledged in the fall of 1959. "During the Christmas holidays, I saw the paddle they made, and he started talking to me about Omega—what it was all about, who founded it, and where it was founded. When I learned that our colors were royal purple and old gold—the same colors worn by King David and King Solomon—I knew I wanted to be a part of it." That early inspiration sparked a lifelong commitment. In December 1966, Brother Smith crossed into Omega Psi Phi, beginning a journey that would profoundly shape his personal and professional life.

Memorable Moments and Brotherhood

When asked about his proudest experiences, Brother Smith immediately reflected on attending the National Conclave. "In 1969, in St. Louis, I had the chance to meet one of the last living founders of our great fraternity. I was there with my wife, Gwendolyn, a proud Delta Sigma Theta who had pledged just a year before me. That moment, meeting a founder and standing alongside my life partner was unforgettable."

He also carries the memory of his line brothers close to his heart. "When I first came into Omega in the fall of '66, we had twelve brothers, and we made a pledge on the Bible that none of us would ever harm another Omega. Today, only eight of us are still living, and we keep in touch with each other. Putting your hand on that Bible meant making an oath, and I've kept that oath all my life. I've never called another brother a dog. I say either 'frat' or 'brother.' You're not a dog; you're an Omega Man."

Witnessing Change Over the Years

Brother Smith has seen the fraternity evolve in many ways. Some changes, he admits, have been difficult to embrace. "We started as a Lamp Club, and the process built character, discipline, and brotherhood. It was about truly becoming Omega Men. Today, the process looks different, and sometimes I feel that newer members don't always understand the same depth of sacrifice and tradition. But the essence of Omega is still there—it's about brotherhood and uplift."

Omega's Influence on Life and Career

Beyond the fraternity experience itself, Omega Psi Phi opened doors that would impact Brother Smith for a lifetime. After graduating, he joined the Upsilon Omega Chapter in St. Louis, where his older brothers embraced him and guided him professionally. "Those brothers took me under their wings. They showed me how to connect with the right people, and one even helped me get my first car. From that point on, I stayed active in the fraternity, and in 1969, I became a Life Member. It only cost \$300 at the time—I paid \$150 up front and had four years to finish the balance. To this day, I've remained active, and it's one of the best investments I've ever made."

A black and white photograph of Brother J.L. Smith, an older man with a mustache, speaking into a microphone. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a dark shirt and a lanyard with a badge. The background is blurred, showing other people in a room.

CONTINUED

“Give Brothers Their Flowers While They’re Living” – The Legacy of LM 801

When asked how it feels to have the LM 801 Award named after him in the Ninth District, Bro. Smith reflected on one of his deepest beliefs. “I tell the brothers, give a man his dues while he is living. What sense does it make to put flowers around a brother’s casket when he can’t receive them? Do things while he can smile at you and thank you.”

For Bro. Smith, the LM 801 Award was more than a plaque or title; it was proof that his fraternity family chose to honor him while he could feel the love. “That award made me feel great, because I’ve seen people get recognition just for being athletes or being in the public eye. But I’ve never missed a Ninth District meeting since I joined Omega, and I’ve attended every Conclave I could afford. I’ve always been active. So, when the brothers recognized me, it felt like they were giving me my flowers while I was still here.”

This philosophy of honoring brothers in the present reflects Smith’s greater legacy: leadership rooted in brotherhood, service, and genuine care. His life and example remind every Omega Man that recognition is not about wealth, titles, or status, but about consistent dedication to the fraternity’s principles. The LM 801 Award stands as both a tribute to Bro. Smith’s unwavering service and a challenge to future brothers—to uplift one another now, not later.

Words of Wisdom for Younger Brothers

When asked what advice he would give today’s young members, Brother Smith didn’t hesitate. “Know what Omega really stands for. Back in my day, brothers looked out for one another. If you needed help, someone was there. Today, too many are only for themselves. Don’t forget that this fraternity is about brotherhood, service, and lifting each other. If you can’t live by those values, then you’re missing the point of Omega.”

A Lifetime of Leadership and Brotherhood

Brother J.L. Smith has been recognized for his service with awards that bear his name, but for him, the real legacy is the impact on people. His story is a reminder that Omega Psi Phi is not just an organization—it’s a lifelong bond that connects generations, builds leaders, and uplifts communities.

As he reflects on his journey, Brother Smith continues to live by the cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift, showing the next generation of Omega Men what true brotherhood looks like.

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BETA DELTA CELEBRATES BROTHER TREVOR JONES: A TESTAMENT TO SERVICE AND SUCCESS

The Beta Delta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, proudly celebrates the outstanding achievements of Brother Trevor Jones, a Spring 2024 initiate and current Vice Basileus of the chapter. On May 3, 2025, Brother Jones reached a remarkable milestone by graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. His academic success reflects his unwavering commitment to excellence, discipline, and perseverance both inside and outside the classroom.

In addition to earning his degree, Brother Jones further distinguished himself by commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. This accomplishment not only highlights his leadership but also his dedication to service—qualities deeply aligned with the principles of Omega Psi Phi. Balancing the demands of fraternity leadership, academic rigor, and military preparation, Brother Jones embodies the true spirit of perseverance and manhood.

As he transitions into this next chapter, Brother Jones sets an inspiring example for his chapter brothers and the broader Omega Psi Phi community. His journey serves as a reminder that with focus, determination, and brotherhood, success can be achieved at the highest levels.

The Brothers of Beta Delta Chapter extend heartfelt congratulations to Brother Jones as he embarks on a future defined by service, leadership, and achievement.

The background image shows a residential street scene. On the left, a white sign with a green border features a large blue 'LR' logo. Below the logo, the text 'ADOPT - A - STREET' is written in green. Further down, it says 'OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY INCORPORATED' and 'OMICRON LAMBDA LAMBDA CHAPTER'. A small circular logo with 'Keep Little Rock Beautiful' and a city skyline is also on the sign. To the right of the sign is a small, single-story house with light-colored siding and a dark roof. The house has a small porch with white columns and a dark door. The scene is set against a clear blue sky with some trees in the background.

OMICRON LAMBDA LAMBDA HONORED THROUGH CITY'S ADOPT-A-STREET PROGRAM

**BRO. DERRICK YOUNG / OMICRON
LAMBDA LAMBDA / LITTLE ROCK, AR**

The Omicron Lambda Lambda (OLL) Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. has strengthened its commitment to community service by partnering with the City of Little Rock's Adopt-A-Street Program. Through this initiative, the chapter pledged to clean designated areas of the community four times each year, demonstrating the fraternity's dedication to civic responsibility and neighborhood pride.

After successfully fulfilling its cleaning obligations for six months, the City of Little Rock recognized the chapter's impact historically. The street where the fraternity house is located was officially renamed "Omicron Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi" in honor of the brothers' outstanding contributions.

This partnership reflects more than beautification—it symbolizes OLL's commitment to creating a cleaner, stronger, and more united community. By combining service with action, the chapter continues to exemplify the fraternity's mission of uplift and leadership throughout the city.

A LIVING LEGACY: CELEBRATING BROTHER LEONARD WILBORN'S 70 YEARS OF SERVICE

*Bro. Rufus Woods IV
Kappa Chi - Magnolia, AR*

It was both an honor and a privilege to travel alongside Brother Leonard Wilborn to our 83rd Grand Conclave in Charlotte, North Carolina. This journey held special significance as we celebrated Brother Wilborn's extraordinary milestone of 70 years of dedicated service to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Initiated at Tau Sigma Chapter in 1952 and currently serving with Kappa Chi, the graduate chapter in Magnolia, Brother Wilborn stands as a living testament to our fraternity's enduring principles. Throughout our time in Charlotte, he captivated brothers with firsthand accounts of walking and speaking with the very founders of our great organization. His stories painted vivid pictures of our fraternity's formative years, connecting present-day members with our rich heritage in ways no history book ever could.

What proved most heartwarming was witnessing brothers from across the globe gravitate toward Brother Wilborn. From newly initiated members to other seasoned bridge builders, all sought opportunities to shake his hand, share a meal, or simply listen to his wisdom. His presence transformed the Grand Conclave into something truly memorable—a true intergenerational celebration of brotherhood.

Brother Wilborn's seven decades of unwavering commitment remind us that Omega is not merely an organization but a lifelong journey. His continued enthusiasm and dedication at this Grand Conclave exemplified the essence of our cardinal principles.

As we returned home, we carried not just memories of another successful conclave, but the profound inspiration of Brother Wilborn's remarkable legacy—a legacy that challenges each of us to remain steadfast in our commitment to Omega and to one another. His 70-year journey continues to light the path forward for brothers everywhere.



STREET NAMING, BRO. JAMES R. RODGERS SR.

BRO. MAJOR BANKS, JR. / PI OMICRON / LITTLE ROCK, AR

On June 18th, 2025, the Brothers of Pi Omicron, Beta Delta, Tau Phi, and Omicron Lambda Lambda came out to support the street naming of Bro. James R Rodgers Sr. (Pi Omicron '92 Omega Chapter) at the Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport in Little Rock, AR. Bro. James R. Rodgers Sr., at the age of thirty-three, was the first African American to be appointed manager of a major commercial airport in the United States. During his tenure from 1980 to 1993, some of his accomplishments were that boardings went from 494,000 in 1981 to more than one million, a 200,000-square-foot expansion of the terminal was completed, a runway was renovated and extended from 7,173 to about 8,000 feet, and a parallel runway was built. The expansion projects Rodgers coordinated totaled more than \$70 million. Brothers pictured (L-R) Bro. Randy Smith, Bro. Major Banks Jr., Bro. Charles Ziegler, Bro. Joe Blanks, Bro. Oscar Dean, Bro. Darris Grant, and Bro. William Davis.





ARKANSAS HOUSE HONORS OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY FOR SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

BRO. DERRICK YOUNG / OMICRON LAMBDA LAMBDA / LITTLE ROCK, AR

The Omicron Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was recognized and commended for its outstanding service and leadership across the state of Arkansas and around the world during the 95th General Assembly.

Representative Lincoln Barnett (D) introduced Resolution HR 1118 during the 2025 legislative session, honoring the fraternity for its many contributions to education, mentorship, community service, and leadership development. The resolution passed with unanimous support, underscoring the broad impact of the organization's work.

This recognition reflects the fraternity's century-long commitment to uplifting communities and fostering positive change. From youth mentorship to civic engagement, the Arkansas brothers of Omega Psi Phi continue to exemplify the fraternity's cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift.

The unanimous adoption of HR 1118 stands as a historic moment, affirming the value of Omega Psi Phi's legacy of service and its ongoing role in shaping leaders both locally and globally.

XI RHO, PLANTING THE SEEDS OF FINANCIAL WISDOM WITH TENACITY

At Maddux Elementary in West Memphis, Arkansas, a quiet revolution was underway. In classrooms filled with curious 3rd to 5th graders, three enthusiastic Omega Men—Yazid Al-Khaafidh, Arviance LeFlore, and Kimsey Lovell (Xi Rho Spring '25 LBs)—embarked on a mission to teach financial literacy in a way that resonated with Generation Alpha.

With the support of Principal Kalisha Pitts, the team launched a dynamic, age-appropriate program designed to instill financial responsibility, entrepreneurial thinking, and long-term planning. Understanding the Need By Challenging the Difficult. The journey began with a needs assessment to gauge students' existing knowledge. The results revealed significant gaps—but also a spark of curiosity. This insight shaped a blended curriculum combining teacher-led instruction with self-guided learning, supported by colorful handouts and real-world examples.

Curriculum Tailored by Gold Boots with Purple Laces on the Ground

Students were introduced to key financial concepts:

- The 50-30-20 Rule: 50% for needs, 30% for wants, 20% for savings.
- S.M.A.R.T. Goals: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound.
- Opportunity Cost: Understanding trade-offs in decision-making.
- Charitable Giving: Encouraging empathy and community support.

The curriculum emphasized entrepreneurship, encouraging students to brainstorm income-generating ideas like lemonade stands and handmade crafts. They tracked earnings, calculated savings, and made informed spending decisions.

Metrics and Outcomes as Measured by Seeing it Through

The program's impact was measured using a data-driven framework:

- Income Earned: Students generated revenue through small ventures.
- Savings Percentage: Many began saving 20% or more of their earnings.
- Spending Behavior: Students demonstrated improved decision-making.
- Engagement Levels: High participation and enthusiasm across all grades.

Outcomes included:

- Creation of personalized savings plans.
- Increased awareness of earning potential.
- Development of critical thinking around money.





PHOTO: COHORTS ONWARD AND UPWARD

Partnerships and Mentorship Molded by Putting in Work

The initiative was strengthened through collaboration with:

- Ongoing mentorship from the Omega Men and school staff.
- Support from Principal Pitts, who ensured continuity and engagement.

Mentorship sessions provided space for students to ask questions, clarify doubts, and receive personalized guidance.

Sustainability and Future Plans to Continue the Scholarship

This wasn't a one-time lesson; it was the start of a movement. The team developed a sustainability plan to ensure long-term impact, including:

- Returning after Spring Break 2025 (April 1st) to engage new student groups.
- Refining the curriculum based on feedback and outcomes.
- Exploring integration of financial literacy into broader school programs.

One Smart Money Move with Humility and Perseverance

Through this initiative, young students at Maddux Elementary gained more than financial knowledge—they gained confidence, independence, and a vision for their future. The program proved that with the right tools and mentorship, even the youngest minds can make smart money moves that ripple through families and communities.

And so, in a small school in West Memphis, a big change was underway—one smart money move at a time with Omega Men as guardrails and support.



THE BROTHERS OF THE PHI MU MU SUPPORT JET STARS ATHLETICS

BRO. CHARLES SIMMONS / PHI MU MU / CONWAY, AR

The Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Phi Mu Mu Chapter, recently demonstrated their commitment to service and community on June 25, 2025, by supporting Ms. Serana Brewer and the Jet Stars Athletics program. Understanding the importance of opportunity and access for young athletes, Phi Mu Mu provided critical transportation to ensure the Jet Stars athletes could travel to Missouri for competition.

This contribution reflects the fraternity's dedication to uplifting youth and empowering the next generation. For many of these athletes, participation in programs like Jet Stars is not just about sports; it's about discipline, teamwork, and exposure to experiences that broaden their horizons and inspire their dreams. By providing transportation, the Brothers removed a significant barrier, allowing the athletes to focus on competing, learning, and representing their community with pride.

Ms. Brewer and the Jet Stars program have long been committed to building character and excellence in young athletes. The support of Phi Mu Mu not only helped them reach their destination but also affirmed the fraternity's belief in investing in the future of our youth.

This effort is one more example of Omega Psi Phi's enduring principle of service to uplift and strengthen the communities in which we live. The Brothers of Phi Mu Mu are honored to stand alongside Ms. Brewer and Jet Stars Athletics, ensuring that young people have the resources they need to succeed on the field, in the classroom, and in life.

KAPPA CHI CHAPTER AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS IN HONOR OF BRO. JAMES "WATCH-DOG" BERRY

BRO. RUFUS WOODS IV / KAPPA CHI / MAGNOLIA, AR

The brothers of the Kappa Chi Chapter of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. proudly awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to outstanding young students from our thumb print of El Dorado, Camden, and Magnolia, Arkansas. The awards ceremony highlighted the fraternity's ongoing commitment to educational excellence and community support. These prestigious scholarships were presented in honor of Bro. James "Watch-Dog" Berry, a distinguished life scholar, dedicated teacher, principal, superintendent, and beloved friend, whose legacy continues to inspire academic achievement throughout the region. Bro. Berry's passion for education and mentorship left an indelible mark on countless students and community members.

"These scholarships represent our chapter's dedication to uplifting the next generation of leaders," said the Kappa Chi Chapter Basileus, Bro. Rufus Woods III. "By honoring Brother Berry's memory, we hope to inspire these young students to pursue their educational dreams with the same passion and determination he exhibited throughout his life." The recipients, selected based on their academic achievements, community involvement, and leadership potential, expressed gratitude for the financial support that will assist them in their collegiate pursuits.

The Kappa Chi Chapter has established this scholarship program as part of its broader community and fraternal initiatives, which focus on youth development, educational advancement, and social action throughout southern Arkansas. For many years, the fraternity has maintained a significant presence in El Dorado, Camden, and Magnolia, working diligently to make a positive impact on the lives of area residents through various service projects and mentorship opportunities.



A photograph of two men standing side-by-side. The man on the left, Brother Derrick Young, is wearing a purple suit jacket, a white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is smiling and holding a dark award plaque with a white feather. The man on the right is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a blue and white striped tie. He is also smiling. The background is a dark, textured curtain.

BROTHER DERRICK YOUNG RECOGNIZED FOR LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

BRO. DERRICK YOUNG / OMICRON LAMBDA LAMBDA / LITTLE ROCK, AR

Brother Derrick Young was honored as a recipient of the Honoree Award at the National Pan-Hellenic Council of Little Rock's Awards Banquet, recognizing his continual leadership and dedication to community service.

This prestigious award highlights not only Brother Young's personal commitment to service but also reflects the collective impact of the Omicron Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Through its programs, mentorship, and outreach, the chapter continues to make a significant difference in communities across Central Arkansas and beyond.

Brother Young's recognition stands as a powerful reminder of the fraternity's mission of uplift and the lasting influence of servant leadership. His example reinforces the chapter's ongoing work to inspire, serve, and positively shape the lives of others.

KAPPA CHI ACHIEVES 100% GOAL AT ANNUAL DR. CHARLES R. DREW BLOOD DRIVE

*Bro. Rufus Woods IV
Kappa Chi - Magnolia, AR*

The men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Kappa Chi chapter, demonstrated their commitment to community service by hosting their annual Dr. Charles R. Drew Blood Drive in partnership with LifeShare Blood Services. The event, held on Saturday, achieved remarkable success by meeting its ambitious goal of collecting 15 units of blood.

This achievement represents more than just numbers—each unit collected has the potential to save up to three lives, meaning the fraternity's efforts could directly impact up to 45 community members in need of life-saving blood transfusions.

The blood drive honors the legacy of Dr. Charles R. Drew, a pioneering African American physician and researcher who revolutionized blood storage and transfusion techniques. Dr. Drew's groundbreaking work in developing blood plasma programs saved countless lives during World War II and established the foundation for modern blood banking systems.

"Reaching our goal of 15 units shows the dedication of our chapter members and supporters to serving our community," said Bro. Rufus Woods III (Chapter Basileus). "This drive embodies the principles of Omega Psi Phi—manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift—by directly contributing to the health and welfare of those around us."

Life Share Blood Services emphasized the critical importance of community blood drives, noting that donated blood is essential for trauma patients, surgical procedures, cancer treatments, and various medical emergencies. The consistent shortage of blood supplies makes drives like this one vital to maintaining adequate reserves.

The Kappa Chi chapter extends gratitude to all donors and volunteers who made this successful drive possible. Their willingness to give of themselves exemplifies the spirit of brotherhood and community service that defines Omega Psi Phi.



A photograph of a man with a beard, wearing a purple and white striped shirt, sitting on a red stool and reading a book to a group of young children. The children are sitting on the floor in a circle, facing him. They are in a classroom with wooden desks and chairs, and shelves filled with books in the background. The text "TURNING PAGES, CHANGING LIVES: PHI MU MU SPARKS YOUNG IMAGINATIONS" is overlaid in large, bold, yellow letters.

TURNING PAGES, CHANGING LIVES: PHI MU MU SPARKS YOUNG IMAGINATIONS

BRO. CHARLES SIMMONS / PHI MU MU / CONWAY, AR

In a heartwarming initiative, the brothers of the Phi Mu Mu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. have been making a meaningful impact in the community by visiting local elementary schools to read to the students. This program, which has been warmly received by both students and teachers, aims to foster a love of reading and learning among young minds.

Throughout the visits, the fraternity brothers engage with students by reading a variety of children's books, sparking curiosity and encouraging a lifelong passion for reading. The program not only supports literacy but also provides positive male role models for the students, showcasing the importance of education and community involvement.

Teachers and administrators have praised the initiative, noting the excitement and enthusiasm it brings to the classrooms. The Phi Mu Mu Chapter remains dedicated to encouraging scholarship and to making a difference, and plans to continue this reading program every month, hoping to inspire and uplift even more young learners in the future.



BROTHERHOOD IN ACTION: KAPPA CHI CHAPTER'S HIGHWAY 82 COMMUNITY SERVICE INITIATIVE

BRO. RUFUS WOODS / KAPPA CHI / MAGNOLIA, AR

The men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Kappa Chi Chapter, demonstrated the true meaning of brotherhood and community service during their annual Highway 82 cleanup initiative. This year's event brought together an impressive cross-section of brothers spanning five decades of fraternal excellence.

From the newest initiate of 2025 to the respected bridge builders who crossed the burning sands in 1973, brothers united with a shared commitment to serving their community. The sight of these men walking in unison along Highway 82 embodied the fraternity's cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift.

The cleanup effort was enhanced by the participation of Brother Sheriff Martin, who ensured the safety of all volunteers while they worked diligently to beautify this vital thoroughfare. His presence not only provided security coordination but also demonstrated how Omega men continue to serve their communities in various professional capacities.

Throughout the day, brothers maintained their focus on both environmental stewardship and fraternal fellowship. The intergenerational nature of the event created meaningful mentorship opportunities, as seasoned brothers shared experiences with newer members while working side by side to collect debris and maintain the highway's appearance.

Sheriff Martin's attention to hydration and safety protocols ensured that all participants could contribute effectively while staying protected from the elements. This level of care reflects the fraternity's commitment to looking after one another while serving others.

The annual Highway 82 cleanup has become a signature community service project for the Kappa Chi Chapter, showcasing how Omega Psi Phi continues to make tangible differences in local communities. Through this initiative, the chapter reinforces its dedication to uplift while creating lasting positive impacts that benefit all area residents and travelers.

This brotherhood's collaborative spirit serves as an inspiring example of sustained community engagement across generations.



OMEGA UPLIFT ACADEMY

BRO. BILLY WARD JR. / XI RHO / WEST MEMPHIS, AR

The Xi Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., proudly launched the Omega Uplift Academy for Youth Mentoring as a direct response to the numerous social, educational, and personal challenges facing young African American males today. Recognizing the critical need for positive role models and structured support systems, the chapter created this program to serve as a beacon of hope, guidance, and empowerment for school-aged youth within the community.

The Omega Uplift Academy is specifically designed for young men who demonstrate a commitment to academic success, exhibit a willingness to grow, and show genuine enthusiasm for becoming change agents in their schools, neighborhoods, and beyond. By placing a strong emphasis on moral character, leadership development, and community engagement, the Academy catalyzes personal transformation and long-term success.

Young men in the program acquire essential life skills, including financial literacy, how to tie a tie, and the importance of accountability and personal responsibility. They also participate in hands-on experiences, such as fundraising events like car washes, raffles, and community cookouts, which teach teamwork and civic engagement.

The Omega Uplift Academy also provides crucial life skills training to prepare students for adulthood. Participants learn practical skills, such as budgeting and managing money, tying a tie and dressing professionally, and taking ownership of their responsibilities both at home and in society. These lessons are designed to instill a sense of self-discipline and maturity, helping each young man understand the value of hard work, respect, and integrity.



CONTINUED

Cultural and recreational enrichment is also an integral part of the Omega Uplift Academy experience. To broaden horizons and expose students to opportunities they may not otherwise have access to, the program organizes special outings and events. Notably, the young men have had the memorable opportunity to attend two NBA games with the Memphis Grizzlies—a first-time experience for many that left a lasting impression and served as both motivation and inspiration.

Perhaps most importantly, the Omega Uplift Academy is grounded in a values-based approach to personal development. Participants are taught to live by a powerful hierarchy of priorities: God first, then Family, followed by Education, and finally, the Community. This foundational teaching serves as a compass that guides their decisions, actions, and long-term aspirations. It also reflects the enduring principles of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., which continue to uplift generations of African American men across the nation.

Through mentorship, structure, exposure, and love, the Omega Uplift Academy is not only changing lives but also building futures. It is molding today's young men into tomorrow's leaders, husbands, fathers, professionals, and role models. And in doing so, it is strengthening the very fabric of our communities—one young man at a time.



GRILL & GRACE: PHI MU MU JOINS CONNECT FOR A SPIRIT-FILLED CELEBRATION

BRO. CHARLES SIMMONS / PHI MU MU / CONWAY, AR

In April, Connect Church marked a significant milestone—its third anniversary—with a joyous and heartfelt celebration. This special occasion was made even more memorable by the presence and partnership of the Phi Mu Mu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Known for their commitment to service and community empowerment, the brothers of Phi Mu Mu brought their culinary skills to the forefront, grilling and barbecuing to provide a mouthwatering feast for everyone in attendance.

The anniversary event was more than just a celebration; it was a reflection of the growth, resilience, and unity that have shaped Connect Church over the past three years. Attendees were treated to an atmosphere filled with warmth, laughter, and gratitude. Members of the church, first-time visitors, and community friends came together to reflect on the journey thus far and to look forward with faith and excitement to the future.

The support from the Phi Mu Mu Chapter carried special significance, as the founder and lead pastor of Connect Church, Pastor Charles Simmons, is himself a proud Brother of Omega Psi Phi. The spirit of Omega's Four Cardinal Principles—Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift—was unmistakably present throughout the event, not only in the brotherhood represented but also in the heart of the celebration.



OMICRON LAMBDA LAMBDA JOINS DIVINE NINE FOR MLK DAY OF SERVICE

BRO. DERRICK YOUNG / OMICRON LAMBDA LAMBDA / LITTLE ROCK, AR

Brothers from the Omicron Lambda Lambda (OLL) Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. joined fellow members of the Divine Nine in honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through a day of service.

The fraternity partnered with the Chi Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. to support their 12th Annual Backpack Drive in Conway, Arkansas. Together, volunteers assembled and distributed backpacks filled with essential supplies to members of the local homeless population.

The event not only provided much-needed resources but also demonstrated the power of unity and collaboration among historically Black Greek-letter organizations. For OLL, it was an opportunity to live out the fraternity's mission of service and uplift, while honoring Dr. King's vision of community and compassion.

By serving side by side, the Divine Nine showed that collective action remains a driving force for positive change, leaving a lasting impact on the community.

COVERED IN CARE: PHI MU MU DONATES WINTER ESSENTIALS TO CONWAY MINISTRY CENTER

BRO. CHARLES SIMMONS / PHI MU MU / CONWAY, AR

In an effort to serve the most vulnerable during the colder months, the Phi Mu Mu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. made a meaningful donation to the Conway Ministry Center, delivering vital winter supplies to support individuals experiencing homelessness.

The donation included tents, sleeping bags, coats, socks, and shoes, all of which were intentionally selected to meet urgent needs faced by many in the Conway community. The brothers of Phi Mu Mu recognized the growing demand for warmth and shelter, especially as temperatures dropped, and responded with compassion and purpose.

Located in the heart of Conway, the Conway Ministry Center is known for its work in outreach, advocacy, and direct services to those in need. Staff members expressed their gratitude for the timely donation, which was immediately distributed to those who needed it most.

This outreach project reflects the Fraternity's cardinal principle of Uplift, reminding the community that true brotherhood extends beyond words—it takes action. Through thoughtful generosity, the Phi Mu Mu Chapter continues to embody the legacy of Omega Psi Phi by meeting people where they are and serving with both heart and hands.





BRO. TRISTAN SIMMONS / RHO OMEGA / SHREVEPORT, LA

The 9th District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. held its annual 9th District Undergraduate Summit in Shreveport, Louisiana from August 29-31, hosted by the Rho Omega Chapter and Shreveport's undergraduate chapter, Alpha Delta Omicron. The three-day gathering took place on the campus of Centenary College and welcomed fraternity brothers from across Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma. More than 200 young men registered and attended the summit, which focused on strengthening leadership, enhancing service, and ensuring Omega Psi Phi continues to make a lasting impact on college campuses and in communities throughout the region. District leadership, advisers, and members worked side-by-side with undergraduates to exchange ideas and set goals for the year ahead.

"This summit was about learning, building on our legacy, and taking some of the lessons learned back to our campus and communities," said Aidan Arnold, the 2nd Vice District Representative, who led the meeting. "Omega Psi Phi has always stood on our 4 cardinal principles (Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift) and we want to make sure that our presence on campus reflects those values." The event also carried special significance: Centenary College, which proudly hosted the summit, is now home to an Omega Psi Phi chapter in 2025, just as the college celebrates its bicentennial year as an institution of higher learning. From strategy sessions to brotherhood building, the summit showcased the power of unity, mentorship, and service.

The men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. remain committed to carrying forward the organization's mission and ensuring their "footprint" continues to be felt across campuses and communities alike.





Unified Omegas of Louisiana Executive Council

CHAIRMAN: BRO. DR. WILLIE SIGLAR

2ND VICE: BRO. JALEN BOYD

RECORDER: BRO. JODY DAVIS

TREASURER: BRO. ELLIOT SEARCY

COUNSELOR: BRO. CHARLES AYLES

PUBLIC RELATIONS: BRO. KOBI KELSON

SERGEANT AT ARMS: BRO. LEE HENDERSON



RHO BETA CHAPTER - FRATERNITY OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT

BRO. SCHUYLER OLIVIER, RHO CHI (LAKE CHARLES, LA)
McNeese State University Honors Rho Beta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi as Fraternity of the Year

On May 7, 2025, McNeese State University proudly awarded the Rho Beta Undergraduate Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, the title of Fraternity of the Year during its annual Student Engagement and Leadership Awards Banquet. This event, held in Lake Charles, Louisiana, celebrated the most exceptional student organizations and leaders who exemplify excellence, service, and leadership throughout the academic year.

The Rho Beta Chapter earned this esteemed recognition by consistently demonstrating excellence across four key areas: **Academics**, **Brotherhood**, **Campus Involvement**, and **Community Service**. These young men, representing one of the Divine Nine historically Black organizations, have become pillars of integrity, perseverance, and unity within the McNeese community.

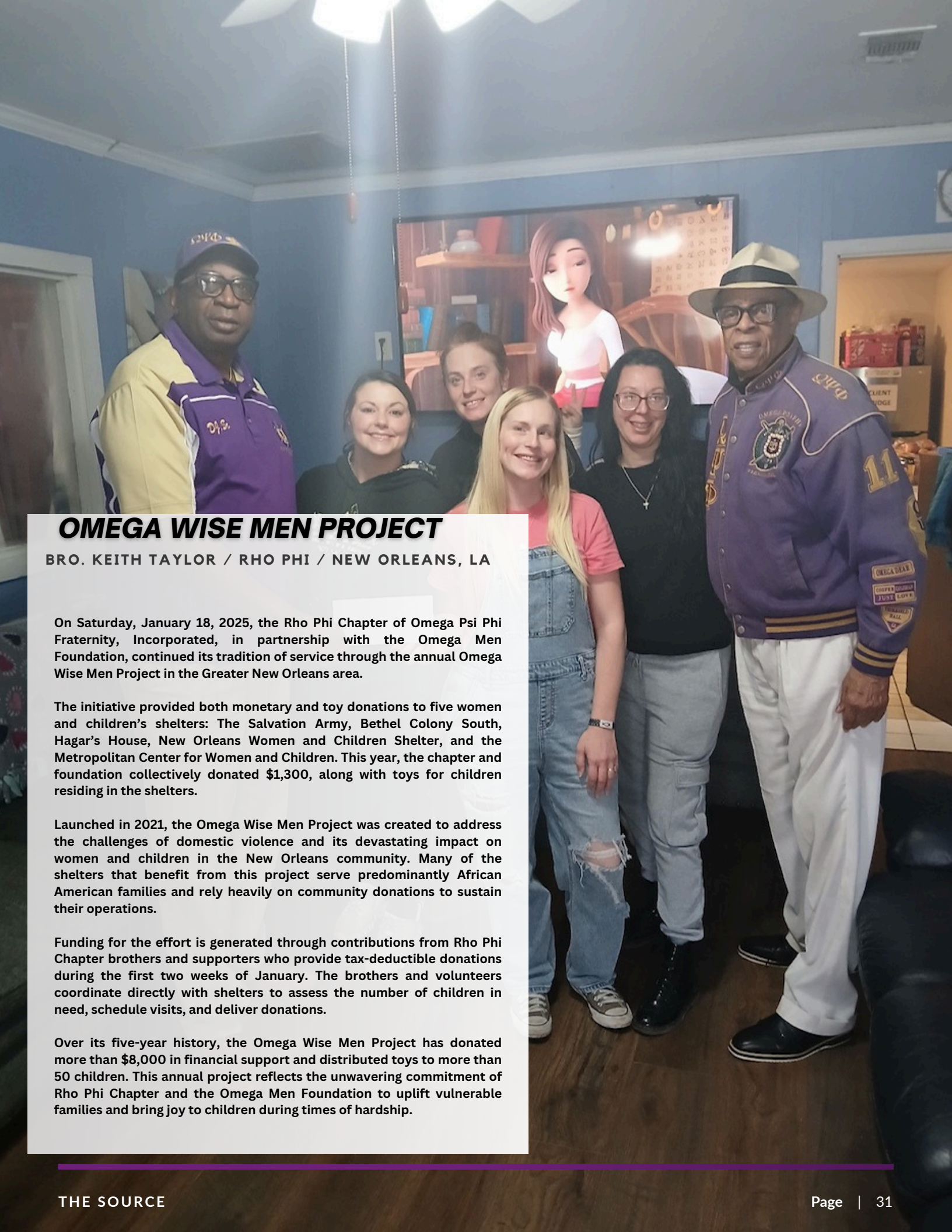
In terms of **academics**, the chapter members upheld the fraternity's cardinal principle of scholarship, with many brothers achieving GPAs above the campus average. Their commitment to education not only enhanced their personal growth but also set a benchmark for other organizations on campus.

- Brotherhood** was at the core of the chapter's success. The Rho Beta brothers cultivated a strong internal bond based on friendship, mutual respect, and unity. Their ability to maintain close fraternal ties translated into a well-organized and effective presence both on and off campus. Their **campus involvement** was equally impressive. Members of Rho Beta held leadership positions in various student organizations, collaborated with university departments, and played key roles in organizing events focused on cultural awareness, mental health, and student engagement.

Perhaps most importantly, their commitment to **community service** embodied Omega Psi Phi's fundamental principles. Whether hosting food drives, volunteering with youth organizations, or participating in city beautification projects, the brothers showcased a profound dedication to uplifting the Lake Charles community.

The Fraternity of the Year award not only celebrates the achievements of the Rho Beta Chapter but also highlights the enduring impact of fraternity life when rooted in service, scholarship, and brotherhood. McNeese State University's recognition underscores the positive legacy these young men continue to cultivate on campus and beyond.





OMEGA WISE MEN PROJECT

BRO. KEITH TAYLOR / RHO PHI / NEW ORLEANS, LA

On Saturday, January 18, 2025, the Rho Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, in partnership with the Omega Men Foundation, continued its tradition of service through the annual Omega Wise Men Project in the Greater New Orleans area.

The initiative provided both monetary and toy donations to five women and children's shelters: The Salvation Army, Bethel Colony South, Hagar's House, New Orleans Women and Children Shelter, and the Metropolitan Center for Women and Children. This year, the chapter and foundation collectively donated \$1,300, along with toys for children residing in the shelters.

Launched in 2021, the Omega Wise Men Project was created to address the challenges of domestic violence and its devastating impact on women and children in the New Orleans community. Many of the shelters that benefit from this project serve predominantly African American families and rely heavily on community donations to sustain their operations.

Funding for the effort is generated through contributions from Rho Phi Chapter brothers and supporters who provide tax-deductible donations during the first two weeks of January. The brothers and volunteers coordinate directly with shelters to assess the number of children in need, schedule visits, and deliver donations.

Over its five-year history, the Omega Wise Men Project has donated more than \$8,000 in financial support and distributed toys to more than 50 children. This annual project reflects the unwavering commitment of Rho Phi Chapter and the Omega Men Foundation to uplift vulnerable families and bring joy to children during times of hardship.



EASTER BASKETS / CHILDREN'S STORYBOOK BIBLES GIVEAWAY

BRO. KEITH TAYLOR / RHO PHI / NEW ORLEANS, LA

On Wednesday, April 16, 2025, the Rho Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, continued its long-standing tradition of service with its Annual Easter Baskets and Children's Storybook Bibles Giveaway in the Greater New Orleans area.

What began 29 years ago as the vision of Brother Charles Brown—to provide children in local hospital wards with Easter baskets and storybook Bibles—has grown into a community-wide effort that now reaches both hospitals and women's and children's shelters across the city.

Despite the unique challenge of this year's event coinciding with preparations for the 88th Ninth District Meeting in New Orleans, the chapter's Easter Basket/Storybook Bible Committee, along with dedicated volunteers, pressed forward with determination. Brothers gathered at the Crescent City Ques clubhouse, organized the baskets and Bibles, and personally delivered them to recipient sites throughout the city.

This year's distribution brought Easter joy to children at the following facilities:

- New Orleans Women & Children's Shelter – 27 baskets and Bibles
- New Orleans Salvation Army – 20 baskets and Bibles
- Ochsner Foundation Hospital – 22 baskets and Bibles
- Bethel Colony House Battered Women's Shelter – 29 baskets and Bibles
- Hagar's House Transitional Shelter – 2 baskets and Bibles
- Baptist Friendship House for Women & Children – 7 baskets and Bibles
- Metropolitan Transitional Housing Shelter – 23 baskets and Bibles

In total, 130 Easter baskets and storybook Bibles were distributed.

For nearly three decades, this initiative has stood as a testament to Rho Phi Chapter's commitment to uplifting families, spreading hope, and making sure children in difficult circumstances experience the joy of Easter.



OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY INC. JOINS FORCES TO HELP CLEAN UP SWLA COMMUNITY

BRO. SCHUYLER OLIVIER / RHO CHI / LAKE CHARLES, LA

On Saturday, June 28, 2025, at 10:00 AM, the Brothers of the Rho Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. collaborated with the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury (CPPJ) and several visiting fraternity chapters to participate in the CPPJ's "Pick It Up" SWLA Litter Campaign. Despite the intense summer heat, fraternity members united with a strong sense of purpose to clean a one-mile stretch of roadway, successfully collecting hundreds of pounds of litter and debris.

This community service project was part of the Rho Chi Chapter's annual Scholarship Golf Tournament weekend, which includes events focused on scholarship, fellowship, and giving back to the community. The cleanup effort exemplified Omega Psi Phi's founding principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift.

Brothers from visiting chapters—including Rho Beta, Beta Alpha, Upsilon Epsilon, and Delta Omicron—traveled to Lake Charles, Louisiana, to show their support. Their collective efforts highlighted the strength of unity and shared purpose in making a significant impact on the local area.

Although the temperatures rose, the men of Omega Psi Phi remained undeterred in their mission. Armed with trash bags and a sense of pride, they served with intention and left the community in better condition than they found it.

The Rho Chi Chapter expresses gratitude to the CPPJ and all participating chapters for their collaboration in this impactful service initiative. The event's success serves as a reminder of what a dedicated group of men with a passion for service can accomplish together. Omega Psi Phi continues to set a shining example, demonstrating that true brotherhood is illuminated when it actively serves the community.



BROTHER DEMETRIUS GATEWOOD OATH OF OFFICE CEREMONY AS VICE PRESIDENT ELECT OF LAKE CHARLES N.P.H.C

BRO. SCHUYLER OLIVIER / RHO CHI / LAKE CHARLES, LA

Lake Charles NPHC Oath of Office Ceremony

On June 24, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., the Lake Charles chapter of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) proudly hosted its Oath of Office Ceremony in the newly renovated 3rd District Court of Appeals Courtroom. This momentous occasion marked the installation of the council's new executive board, with Bro. Demetrius Gatewood from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was appointed as Vice President of the esteemed "Divine Nine" council.

The Honorable Judge Sharon Wilson, a distinguished member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., presided over the formal installation. The courtroom was filled with supporters, including many fraternity brothers from Omega Psi Phi, city dignitaries, and community leaders. Notable attendees included the newly elected Mayor Marshal Simien of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and Craig Marks, President of the Lake Charles City Council.

During the ceremony, Bro. Gatewood also facilitated the presentation of the N.P.H.C.'s prestigious scholarships to two deserving high school recipients, further underscoring the council's dedication to youth and education.

The evening served as a powerful celebration of unity, leadership, and service, reflecting the enduring mission and legacy of the N.P.H.C. and the Divine Nine.





EPSILON CHI PERSEVERES TO HOST ANNUAL CRAWFISH BOIL AND GAS CARD RAFFLE

BRO. DONALD PRICE / EPSILON CHI / ALEXANDRIA, LA

Each year, the Epsilon Chi chapter of The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. hosts a highly anticipated community event at Frank O'Hunter Park in Alexandria, Louisiana. This beloved tradition features a raffle for a \$1,000 gas card and the distribution of hundreds of pounds of crawfish, bringing joy and practical support to local families.

This year, the event faced a significant challenge when a storm swept through Alexandria. Despite the adverse weather conditions, the Bruhz of Epsilon Chi showcased remarkable persistence and perseverance. Their dedication to the community shone through as they worked tirelessly to ensure the event could proceed, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to their annual outreach.

The highlight of the day was the exciting raffle drawing. This year, Ms. Perry was the lucky winner of the \$1,000 gas card, a prize that will undoubtedly provide significant relief to her household. She was pictured celebrating her win alongside the dedicated brothers of Epsilon Chi.

This event once again underscored the chapter's deep roots in the Alexandria community and its commitment to giving back, proving that even in the face of natural challenges, the spirit of service and brotherhood prevails.

BROTHERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

EPSILON CHI'S COMMITMENT TO THE CHARLES DREW BLOOD DRIVE

BRO. DONALD PRICE / EPSILON CHI / ALEXANDRIA, LA

One of the cornerstone mandated programs for The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. is the annual Charles Drew Blood Drive, a vital initiative held every June to honor the legacy of Brother Dr. Charles R. Drew. Dr. Drew, a pioneering African-American surgeon and medical researcher, revolutionized blood storage and transfusion techniques, profoundly impacting modern medicine.

This year, the Epsilon Chi chapter of The Omega Psi Phi proudly participated in this crucial event, embodying the spirit of "brothers making a change." Recognizing the constant need for blood donations, especially for those with conditions like sickle cell disease that disproportionately affect the Black community, the chapter partnered with Lifeshare Blood Center of Alexandria, LA, as a dedicated effort to contribute to the national blood supply.

While not every brother was able to donate, the Epsilon Chi chapter demonstrated sufficient participation, reflecting their unwavering commitment to community uplift and public health. Each donation represented a tangible act of service, potentially saving lives and offering hope to patients in critical need. The collective effort underscored the fraternity's dedication to its founding principles and its ongoing mission to serve humanity, carrying forward Dr. Drew's profound legacy of medical innovation and social justice. This annual drive stands as a powerful testament to Omega Psi Phi's enduring impact beyond brotherhood, reaching into the very heart of community well-being.





GAMMA OMICRON'S OMEGA MENTORING GROUP **BRO. BRANDON THEUS / GAMMA OMICRON / (MINDEN, LA)**

Over the past years, the Gamma Omicron Chapter of Minden, LA, has been building on a continuous scholarship program that was started over 50 years ago. As part of that initiative, Bro. Grady Smith spearheaded the task of starting the Omega Mentoring Program (OMG) in the Summer of 2023. OMG aims to provide mentorship, violence prevention, career planning, credit awareness, financial literacy, college tours, motivational speakers, and more to young men in the Minden community and surrounding areas. The program has excelled in its infancy, making a positive impact on the lives of the young men who have joined and on the surrounding area.

In September 2023, OMG was piloted with 15 young men from the Webster and Bossier Parish areas, with one graduating senior who now attends Grambling State University. In September 2024, the program accepted 13 more young men from the Webster and Bossier Parish areas. We currently have 23 young men in the program, with 5 former members enrolled in college. Each graduating senior is presented with a \$750 scholarship from the brothers of Gamma Omicron.

OMG has participated in numerous youth development workshops and community service activities. Some highlights are as follows. In November 2024, members of the group served as ushers at our Achievement Week Program and visited the Meadowview Nursing Home to assist with their Fall Carnival and Bingo Night. Later that month, they traveled to Grambling State University to attend the GSU vs LSU basketball game. In December 2024, the group accompanied several chapter brothers to the Meadowview Nursing Center to give gift bags and Christmas cards to its residents. They also participated in a Community Uplift Project led by Bro. Tyrone Grider and his Love Our Neighbors Foundation. They helped set up, fixed plates for delivery, and worked as food servers providing a hot, delicious meal on Christmas morning for members of the Minden community. In January 2025, OMG participated in a workshop where the brothers taught them how to tie a necktie and stressed the importance of wearing proper attire. In February 2025, the group participated in Minden's 38th Annual MLK/ Black History Parade, where they were awarded the title of Most Spirited Group. Last but not least, in April 2025, Bro. Grady Smith and a few brothers took 16 members of OMG on a college tour, visiting the campus of Alcorn State University. They were given a tour of the campus, spoke with Administrators, and ate in the Student Union. Last but not least, every May, the chapter holds an Award Ceremony, recognizing these young men for their hard work and dedication to the Uplift of their community. The brothers of the Gamma Omicron Chapter and these young men are looking forward to continuing to build this program and serving the community.



Lambda Kappa Kappa Chapter “Lawrence E. Collins” Memorial Scholarship

The Lambda Kappa Kappa Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. continues to invest in our community’s youth by awarding \$10,000 in college scholarships in 2025. Ten (10) students from the East Baton Rouge, Ascension, and Zachary school districts received a \$1,000 scholarship based on their scholastic achievements, extracurricular participation, and community service involvement. The LKK chapter thanks the citizens of Baton Rouge (and abroad) for helping us make a significant push to foster academic & social excellence in the next generation of leaders!





LAMBDA KAPPA KAPPA CHAPTER “MARCH OF PERSEVERANCE” IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF BATON ROUGE

BRO. BRICE BATES / LAMBDA KAPPA KAPPA / (BATON ROUGE, LA)

On June 6, 2025, the Lambda Kappa Kappa Chapter of ΩΨΦ Fraternity, Inc. held its inaugural “March of Perseverance,” which was supported by all of the local chapters that make up the Capital Area Ques: Theta Kappa Chapter, Lambda Alpha Chapter, and Delta Tau Chapter.

Purpose: To honor the legacy of our beloved Fraternity Brother, Brigadier General Charles Young, and to tie into the chapter’s current fitness/step challenge, which is associated with the mandated program of Health Initiatives. This Endeavor also incorporated the two Cardinal Principles of SCHOLARSHIP and PERSEVERANCE. The symbolic march replicated the journey from Wilberforce, OH, to Washington. DC.

-June 6th was selected as this was the anniversary date of the day that Brig. Gen. Bro. Charles Young started his journey from Wilberforce to D.C.

-The Brothers wore gold boots and a fraternity shirt.

-They marched a total of 4.97 to 5 miles (a scaled version of Brigadier General Charles Young’s distance travelled).

-The brothers marched for 3/4 of a mile and stopped.

-Where Bro. Young would get off his horse and walk 15 minutes out of every hour; we elected to stop.

-During that stop, a brief history of facts regarding the General was presented. This represented the Cardinal Principle of Scholarship.

-Scholarship about Brigadier General Charles Young and Enthusiastic Marches Set OWT by the Brothers provided the motivation needed that helped all who started to complete the March of Perseverance!!!!



MU TAU CHAPTER RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR SOCIAL ACTION EXCELLENCE

BRO. KENTARIO AUBREY / MU TAU / MONROE, LA

In a proud and historic moment, the Mu Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was honored as the International Social Action Chapter of the Year (Small Graduate Chapter) during the prestigious Dr. Moses C. Norman Sr. International Leadership Conference held in Detroit, Michigan. This honor underscores the chapter's unwavering commitment to impactful service and its deep-rooted dedication to the UPLIFT of the Monroe, Louisiana, community and surrounding areas.

This award is a testament to the Mu Tau Chapter's continued legacy of excellence and proud representation of The Mighty 9th District. Also, Mu Tau secured the #9 spot on a national scale in the Fraternity's Top 10 St. Jude Power of Giving Initiative, which is a national effort that aligns with the fraternity's core values of service and compassion. In addition, Mu Tau was the Top Fundraising Small Graduate Chapter in the entire Fraternity for the St. Jude Power of Giving Initiative. Within the 9th District, Mu Tau led all small graduate chapters in funds raised for the St. Jude Power of Giving initiative.

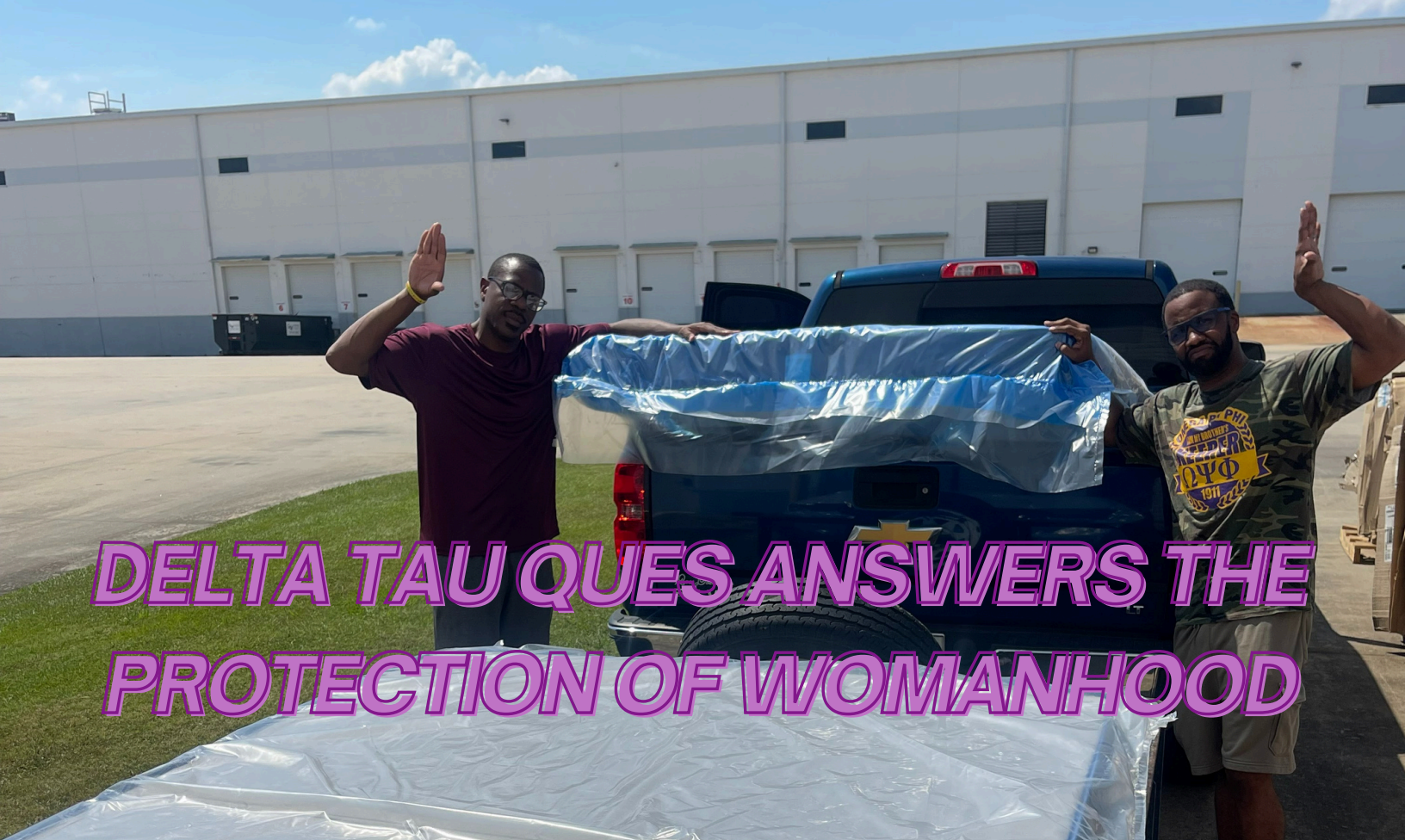
Since its founding in 1959, the Mu Tau Chapter has embodied the very essence of servant leadership. Rooted in the spirit of brotherhood, generations of dedicated members have brought together their talents and passion to address the needs of African American communities in Monroe and beyond. This commitment has remained steadfast, even as faces have changed and times have evolved.

The Mu Tau Chapter takes sincere pride and enthusiasm in providing service and uplifting the Monroe community. Mu Tau recognition is not simply about an award, but more importantly, it's a reflection of the lives touched, the youth mentored, and the community the chapter has helped. Community service is more than a mandate for the Mu Tau Chapter—it is a way of life. As the Fraternity moves forward, the Mu Tau Chapter stands as a shining example of what it means to live up to Omega's cardinal principles: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift.

In addition to their international recognition, the chapter swept district honors at the 88th 9th District Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, by being named:

- 9th District Small Graduate Chapter of the Year
- 9th District Small Graduate Social Action Chapter of the Year
- 9th District Small Graduate St. Jude & Omega Psi Phi Power of Giving Top Donor





BRO. HAKEEM RHODES / DELTA TAU / PLAQUEMINE, LA

The brothers of the Delta Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. continue to uphold the fraternity's cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift through meaningful community service. Recently, the chapter identified a single-mother family in the community facing significant challenges in providing adequate resources for their children. Understanding the importance of stability, comfort, and care in the home, the brothers organized and delivered a donation of brand-new mattresses and essential baby products to the family.

This effort not only met an immediate need but also demonstrated the fraternity's commitment to uplifting families and providing support where it is most impactful. The mattresses offered the children a safe and comfortable place to rest, while the baby products helped ease the financial burden of daily childcare needs. The chapter brothers personally delivered the items, ensuring the family felt both the tangible and emotional support of the community.

Through this initiative, the Delta Tau Chapter reaffirmed its dedication to serving as a beacon of hope and assistance. The act reflected the fraternity's broader mission to strengthen families, support youth development, and improve the overall well-being of those in need. By stepping in with compassion and resources, the brothers continue to make a lasting difference in the lives of the families they serve.

WESTWARD EXPANSION OF THE 9TH DISTRICT A CHARTER MEMBER'S REFLECTION ON THE BIRTH OF GAMMA RHO INTERVIEW WITH BROTHER CHARLES CLARK JR.



**BRO. JOHN BARTHELEMY & BRO. CARLOS BATES
/ GAMMA RHO / NEW ORLEANS, LA**

The Vision from Algiers

"In 1958, I pledged Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., at Southern University's Beta Sigma Chapter, proudly serving as the Number 1 (Ace) on the line." That decision marked the beginning of a lifetime of leadership, service, and a sense of purpose. After graduation, I returned to my hometown of Algiers, Louisiana, where a dream took root—one that would eventually reshape the presence of Omega Psi Phi on New Orleans' Westbank. What made this journey even more meaningful was discovering that Dr. Albert Dent, the 16th Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi, was the very doctor who delivered me into this world. Once I realized how special the organization was and understood this profound connection to its leadership, my passion for Omega became unstoppable. This personal tie to the fraternity's history fueled my determination to push hard for the establishment of Gamma Rho, knowing that destiny had already woven my story into the fabric of Omega's legacy.

Brotherhood in Search of a Home

The Rho Phi Chapter in New Orleans was well established, but for young brothers just entering their professional lives, the connection often felt distant. The Mississippi River divided more than geography—it divided engagement. We believed Algiers needed its own graduate chapter to cultivate leadership and unity. We were mostly young schoolteachers making just \$360 a month, but we had a vision. We met at Gene's Mandalay Room to strategize. We wrote letters, made follow-up calls from payphones, and checked the mailbox daily with anticipation and stress. Every step of the process—applications, approvals, funding—required deep perseverance.

The Charter That Changed the West Bank

Finally, the letter arrived. Gamma Rho was born, becoming the 661st chapter established since Omega's founding in 1911. Our first Basileus, Brother Robert Lewis, was a steady and principled leader. I served as the chapter's first treasurer and implemented a hard but fair policy: no dues, no debutante ball tickets. We weren't just forming a chapter. We were laying the foundation for a legacy.

A Legacy of Purpose

From the very beginning, Gamma Rho embodied the spirit of the Westbank—grit, unity, and uplift. We didn't have much, but we had each other. That bond of brotherhood remains the heartbeat of our chapter today. We chose brotherhood over comfort and perseverance over doubt. Gamma Rho stands because we stood together.

GAMMA RHO'S QUE-NOMTOC: A NEW ORLEANS MARDI GRAS TRADITION ROOTED IN SERVICE AND UNITY



**BRO. JOHN BARTHELEMY & BRO. CARLOS BATES
/ GAMMA RHO / NEW ORLEANS, LA**

Each Mardi Gras season, Gamma Rho Chapter brings energy, pride, and purpose to Algiers with Que-Nomtoc, a signature event hosted by the Westbank Ques Foundation. More than a celebration, Que-Nomtoc is a powerful cultural awareness event rooted in service and unity. This year, the event served over 1,800 people, providing more than 400 pounds of free Cajun cuisine, live entertainment, and a spirited parade through New Orleans' Westbank. As the only Black-owned and Black-operated Mardi Gras event on the Westbank, Que-Nomtoc highlights tradition while promoting youth engagement and community pride.

With vibrant floats, marching bands, dance teams, and social clubs, Que-Nomtoc showcases the best of New Orleans culture—all with a mission to give back. "Que-Nomtoc is more than a party—it's a movement," said Co-Chairman Brother Anthony Wilson (1-88-Gamma Gamma). "We honor our legacy, inspire the next generation, and strengthen our community through action."

From scholarships to ongoing service projects, Gamma Rho and the Westbank Ques Foundation ensure the impact of Que-Nomtoc extends beyond Mardi Gras weekend. Co-Chairman Brother Landon Williams (3-2000-Gamma Rho) adds, "This event brings people together—not just for fun, but for purpose. We feed our people, share our culture, and show what unity looks like." Que-Nomtoc continues to grow each year, proving that Mardi Gras can celebrate the past while building the future. Gamma Rho invites all to join in—celebrate, serve, and carry the legacy forward. *Laissez les bons temps rouler*—with purpose! ("Let the good times roll"—but with meaning, mission, and impact.)


PI TAU'S GOSPEL CONCERT

BRO. RICHARD BATES / PI TAU (GRAMBLING, LA)

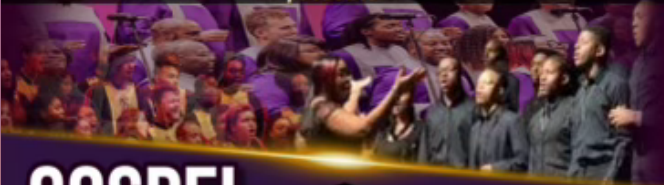
On June 8, 2025, Pi Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated culminated its 3rd Annual Gospel Concert.

The purpose of this project was to provide scholarships to the youth in the community. The members of Pi Tau Chapter, in collaboration with the Juneteenth Committee, hosted a Gospel Concert at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Grambling, La. In total, the event raised \$837.50. Without your concerted efforts, we would not be able to continue to uplift our brotherhood community with such noble acts.

Again, I thank each of you for your assistance and commitment to uplifting the community.



CITY OF GRAMBLING JUNETEENTH HERITAGE COMMITTEE
presents



GOSPEL SCHOLARSHIP CONCERT

SUNDAY 8TH JUNE 2025

Time: 5:30 PM

Hosted By:
Omega Psi Phi Inc. Pi TAU Chapter
City of Grambling Mayor Alvin Bradley
Grambling Juneteenth Committee
Facilities Provided by: Mt. Zion Baptist Church

Location:
Mt. Zion Baptist Church
2586 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.
Grambling, LA 71245

Wonderful Voices of Zion Area City Wide Choir

Jamirakle Calep Dexter Sapp
St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church (Saxophonist)

Pastor T.A. Knapp
Mt. Calm Baptist Church, Minden, LA

Tim Paige
Gulfport, LA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
RICHARD BATES 504-458-6366 OR LAUREN WASHINGTON 318-514-8786

*Food sponsored by Exodus Family Farm

Abundant Works Consulting
318-299-5262





COACH ELLIS BASEBALL CAMP

BRO. K. WILKERSON / PI TAU / GRAMBLING, LA

On July 26, 2025, Coach Wilbert Ellis hosted his annual Free Baseball Camp, featuring Ralph Garr, a former GSU and Major League player, as well as a Hall of Famer. The good brothers of Pi Tau were honored to assist with this event, which took place at Fraser Field, 1701 Martin L. King Drive, Ruston, LA 71270.

The camp was open to boys and girls ages 4–15 and ran from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The good brothers of Pi Tau played a key role in making the camp a success by setting up and breaking down tables, chairs, and tents, assisting with registration, and helping maintain the flow of activities throughout the day.

The event had an excellent turnout, with a large number of kids participating. Coach Ellis expressed his gratitude to all the volunteers, organizations, and instructors who dedicated their time to make this camp possible.

The good brothers of Pi Tau look forward to supporting this great event again next year.



RHO OMEGA HOSTS GOOD CITIZENSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM

BRO. DR. MARLON D. HENDERSON / RHO OMEGA (SHREVEPORT, LA)

The Rho Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, recently held its Annual Frank R. Rayson Good Citizenship Awards Program at Booker T. Washington High School. Over 150 students from Caddo and Bossier Parishes were recognized and presented with commemorative certificates (first year recipients), medallions (second year recipients), and paperweights (third year recipients).

Brother Frank R. Rayson, a former educator and Omega Man, started the Good Citizenship and Scholarship Awards Program in the 1950s at Booker T. Washington High School. Dr. Michael R. Hicks is the Chairman of the Frank R. Rayson Good Citizenship Awards Program. And, Darius Z. Kimble is Basileus of the Rho Omega Chapter.



RHO OMEGA GIVES BLOOD

BRO. DR. MARLON D. HENDERSON / RHO OMEGA (SHREVEPORT, LA)

Rho Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, and Rho Omega and Friends, Incorporated, recently held their annual Dr. Charles R. Drew Blood Drive at Walmart. (Westport and Pines Road). Under the guidance of LifeShare Blood Center, a total of 32 pints of blood were collected on-site. With a musical theme of “Play the Right Note.....Give Blood – Join the Band,” many lives will be saved and positively impacted by the efforts of the Rho Omega Chapter.

Rho Omega’s blood drive is aptly named for the “Father of the Blood Bank” and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity member, Brother Dr. Charles R. Drew (1904-1950). Dr. Drew developed a technique for long-term plasma storage and administered an early prototype program for blood storage and preservation. In 1941, Dr. Charles R. Drew served as the first blood bank director for the American Red Cross. Brother Dr. Marlon D. Henderson is Chairman of Rho Omega’s Dr. Charles R. Drew Blood Drive. Brother Darius Z. Kimble is Basileus of the Rho Omega Chapter. And, Brother Henri Wesley is Chairman of Rho Omega and Friends, Incorporated.

BROTHERS GET RECLAIMED TODAY!!!





HONORING OUR LEGACY: MILITARY AFFAIRS LAPEL PINS AND CHALLENGE COINS INITIATIVE

BRO. JOHN D. VEAL, JR., CHAIRMAN, MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Across generations, Omega men have proudly answered the call to serve—defending our nation with honor, discipline, and brotherhood. To recognize and celebrate this legacy, the 9th District Military and Veterans Affairs Committee launched a commemorative lapel pin and challenge coin initiative that continues to grow in meaning and impact.

These items are more than just memorabilia. The lapel pin is a visible symbol of pride—subtle, dignified, and steeped in fraternal meaning. The challenge coin, a longstanding military tradition, represents unity, excellence, and the bonds forged through shared service. Both items were designed with intention and carry the heritage of Omega's commitment to military excellence.

Throughout the 9th District, chapters have used the pins and coins to honor their veteran members, recognize active duty brothers, and welcome new initiates who serve or have served. These tokens have become powerful tools of recognition—offered during chapter meetings, Veterans Day observances, and District events. At recent District Meetings, they've also been presented during the Military Affairs Reception as a visible tribute to the Brotherhood's military heritage.

The lapel pin is available for \$15. The challenge coin is \$25. Brothers may purchase both together as a combo for \$35. There is an additional \$5 shipping fee for mailed orders.

To place an order or request more information, contact Brother John D. Veal, Jr. at que_veal@yahoo.com. Please include "Military Affairs Lapel Pins/Coin" in the subject line of your email.

These symbols remind us of who we are—and who we serve. Whether worn, gifted, or displayed, they reflect a deep and enduring truth: the military legacy of Omega Psi Phi is not just remembered—it is honored.

Mighty Ninth District



Military Affairs Committee

STRENGTHENING THE BOND: THE 9TH DISTRICT MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

BRO. JOHN D. VEAL, JR., CHAIRMAN, MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the 9th District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., stands at the intersection of service and brotherhood. Our purpose is clear—to honor Omega’s proud military legacy, support our brothers who serve and have served, and connect the wider fraternity to the unique needs and experiences of veterans and active duty members. We are a dedicated team of Omega men, including active duty personnel, military retirees, reservists, and National Guard members. We come from every branch of the Armed Forces and bring a wide range of experiences to the table. Together, we are committed to supporting our brothers through all stages of their military journey—from enlistment and commissioning to deployment, transition, and retirement.

The mission of the committee centers around three core pillars: support, honor, and education. We support brothers by helping them navigate the complexities of military service, VA benefits, and life after the uniform. We honor the contributions of Omega’s servicemen, past and present, through recognition efforts and special observances. And we educate by providing relevant information, resources, and programming—helping our brothers access the tools they need to thrive. Our quarterly webinar series has become a cornerstone of this outreach. These sessions focus on veteran-centric topics such as applying for VA disability benefits, accessing state-level resources, understanding mental health support for Black veterans, and preparing for life after military service. These webinars are open to all brothers and frequently feature expert panels, including Veterans Service Officers and Omega men with firsthand experience. Another highlight of our work is the Military Affairs Reception held annually during the 9th District Meeting. This well-attended event provides a meaningful space for Omega men with military backgrounds to connect, discuss shared experiences, and strengthen bonds of brotherhood. It’s a time to network, exchange resources, and enjoy fellowship with those who understand both the call to serve and the call to Omega.

As we look ahead, we are especially committed to expanding undergraduate involvement in our work. Many undergraduate brothers are currently enrolled in ROTC, serving in the Reserves, or come from military families. Their perspectives are invaluable, and their voices deserve a seat at the table. We encourage undergrads with an interest in military service, leadership, or veteran support to engage with the committee and help shape the next generation of Omega’s military presence. If you’re interested in learning more about the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee or want to get involved, please contact Brother John D. Veal, Jr. at que_veal@yahoo.com. Be sure to include “Military Affairs” in the subject line of your message. From the front lines to the home front, and from past to present, Omega’s military brothers continue to serve with distinction. Together, through this committee, we honor that service, support our future, and strengthen the bond.



PRESIDENT: BRO. ULYSSES ALLEN

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: BRO. MICHAEL FORREST

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: BRO. JAVONNTI WILKINSON

SECRETARY: BRO. KELLON EARL

TREASURER: BRO. CHRIS DICKERSON

CHAPLAIN: BRO. KEITH KROUSER



“SPRING 2025 PHI PSI INITIATES GRADUATE FROM LANGSTON UNIVERSITY”

BRO. GARRETT GREEN / PHI PSI / LANGSTON, OK

The Spring 2025 initiates of Phi Psi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, recently celebrated a major milestone as three of its newest brothers proudly graduated from Langston University. Maleek Maye, Courdale Lewis, and Jamar Donaldson, joined by their Chapter Brother, Jalen Martin, received their bachelor’s degrees, marking the successful completion of an important chapter in their academic and fraternal journeys.

The Spring 2025 initiates exemplify the fraternity’s core principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift. Balancing the demands of higher education with the responsibilities of fraternity life, these young men demonstrated the discipline and commitment required to excel both in and outside the classroom. Their achievements not only reflect personal dedication but also reinforce the fraternity’s long-standing commitment to academic excellence.

Chapter Brother Jalen Martin expressed pride in their accomplishments and underscored the importance of mentorship, brotherhood, and support in guiding young men through their college experience. As these graduates transition into the next phase of their lives, they carry with them the values instilled at Langston University and through Omega Psi Phi. Their success stands as an inspiration for future generations of Langston students and members of the Phi Psi Chapter.



DADDY AND DAUGHTER SNEAKER BALL

BRO. RAYMOND PAYTON / UPSILON IOTA / LANGSTON, OK

The Daddy and Daughter Sneaker Ball has been an event that Upsilon Iota and Project Manhood LLC have put on for two years now. It started as an event to celebrate our fathers who are present, active, and hold themselves to a certain standard within fatherhood. The event grows each year in participation, productivity, and the overall impact we have on the lives of people. Through this event, we display our first and fourth cardinal principles, as fatherhood coincides with manhood, and the fathers who take the time out of their day to dedicate a moment with their daughters are encouraging to see. The dance happens every year on the weekend of Father's Day, and in a short amount of time, we're able to uplift a father and his daughter and provide a space where they both can be celebrated and have a great time. We provide food, games, a face painting station, and a DJ, of course, as you quickly find that little girls know how to keep a party going. In 2025, we held the dance at Nexus Crexus, an event space that greatly appreciated what we were doing and had wonderful ideas like adding a photo booth, which was a huge hit, and others to continue to please our guests. As a chapter, we want to continuously exhibit our cardinal principles through all the things we do and put in the work that speaks for itself. As a chapter, we're committed to having this event every year and to doing the work that must be done. In our minds, if one dad and daughter or a hundred dads and daughters show up, it is a success. We know that it is not about the number, it's about making dads feel appreciated and acknowledged for the sacrifices they make, and see to it that the daughters are celebrated. As a chapter, we look forward to our dance every year and anticipate the possibility of growing this endeavor and making a footprint in our community.



DR. M. L. JEMISON HONORED WITH E.K. BAILEY PREACHING AWARD AND FEATURED PREACHER FOR CONCORD CHURCH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

BRO. RAYMOND PAYTON / UPSILON IOTA / LANGSTON, OK

A defining moment in the ministry of Brother Dr. M. L. Jemison, esteemed pastor at St. John Missionary Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was when he was honored with the E.K. Bailey Preaching Award in January 2025 and selected as the featured preacher for the 50th Church Anniversary of the Concord Church in Dallas, Texas, in June 2025. In addition, Brother Jemison, a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, Upsilon Iota Chapter, is the immediate past Chaplain.

The E.K. Bailey Preaching Award, named after the late legendary pastor of Concord Church and founder of the E.K. Bailey Expository Preaching Conference, recognizes pastors who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to Biblical integrity, excellence in expository preaching, and a legacy of mentorship to the next generation of pastors. Dr. Jemison, widely known for his theological depth, clarity of thought, and Spirit-filled delivery, was praised not only for his preaching prowess and for his dedication to developing emerging leaders in the pulpit.

According to Tyshawn Gardner, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Preaching and Assistant Director of the Kyle Lake Center for Effective Preaching, he celebrated Dr. Jemison as "a bridge between generations," "a preacher's preacher," and a "faithful witness" to the Gospel across decades of service. The E.K. Bailey Preaching Award, which originated from Baylor University's Truett Seminary, drew national attention and affirmed Dr. Jemison's lasting impact on the "Black Preaching Tradition."

In addition to historical moments in his lifetime, he was invited to deliver the keynote sermon for Concord's 50th Church Anniversary Celebration. This was a milestone commemorating half a century of "ministry," "mission," and "community transformation." Dr. Jemison's sermon highlighted prophetic insight and infused pastoral care. He challenged the congregation to remain rooted in Biblical conviction while boldly advancing into the future.

Reflecting on the honor, Dr. Jemison stated that "To stand in the pulpit of the Concord Church during such a pivotal moment was both humbling and affirming. I thank God for His faithfulness and for allowing me to share in the great legacy of preaching that continues to shape lives for Christ."

The twin honors symbolize a culmination of decades of faithfulness, vision, and vocal proclamation of God's Word—hallmarks of Dr. Jemison's lifelong ministry. From Birmingham, Alabama, to Dallas, Texas, to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the various accolades and celebrations present an enduring truth that those who preach the Gospel with power and integrity leave a legacy that reaches far beyond the walls of the church.



On August 2, 2025, the brothers of the Upsilon Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., participated in the Oklahoma City 2nd Annual River Bowl Classic. This river sport event was well-received by the chapter, and it is new to the Oklahoma City community.

The River Bowl Classic was founded by Shawntay Alexander, a social worker, advocate, and proud Star Spencer alumna, as a bold and visionary response to the times. The event is held to celebrate Black excellence, community, and legacy. It received national recognition in Rolling Out Magazine for its transformative impact. Set on the waters of the Oklahoma River, this groundbreaking event redefines tradition and uses rowing – a sport where Black representation is historically less than 2% – as a powerful catalyst for community, culture, and change. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the national reckoning sparked by the murder of George Floyd, communities across the country were searching for healing, connection, and hope. Alexander asked a powerful question: What if we created a Reunion around the river? Out of that question, the River Bowl Classic – and OKC Black Alumni Collation's (OBAC) flagship event – was born. The event takes place each year on the first Saturday in August at RIVERSPORT, an outdoor adventure park and Olympic training facility located in the northeast quadrant of Oklahoma City.

Mayor David Holt proclaimed August 2nd as River Bowl Classic Day in Oklahoma City, anchoring the event as an annual sport. The River Bowl Classic (RBC) is more than a race – it's a movement. Founded and led by Black community leadership in Oklahoma City, RBC is the first and only Black-led, Black-centered rowing event in the nation.

The brothers of the Upsilon Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. enjoyed their time on the water and will be back next year.



The Bottom Line

FACE IT. Nobody owes you a living,
What you achieve or fail to achieve in your lifetime is
directly related to what you do.
No one chooses his parents or childhood, but you can
choose your own direction.
Everyone has problems and obstacles
that is relative to each individual.
NOTHING IS CARVED IN STONE,
You can change anything in your life
if you want it bad enough.

PSI UPSILON CHAPTER SUPPORTS LITERACY AND LEARNING AT COMMUNITY EVENT

BRO. GREGG HINTON / PSI UPSILON / LAWTON, OK

On August 2nd, the Psi Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. proudly supported the *LEAP Into Literacy and Building Brilliance: One Bookcase at a Time* event held at the Owens Multipurpose Center in Lawton, Oklahoma. This impactful community initiative was designed to promote early childhood literacy and school readiness by offering free reading assessments, book giveaways, educational resources, food, and backpacks to local families.

Brothers Gregg Hinton and Christopher Dickerson presented the backpacks on behalf of the Psi Upsilon Chapter, reinforcing the fraternity's longstanding commitment to youth empowerment and academic excellence. Their presence underscored the chapter's role as a visible and active partner in educational advancement efforts within the Lawton-Fort Sill community.

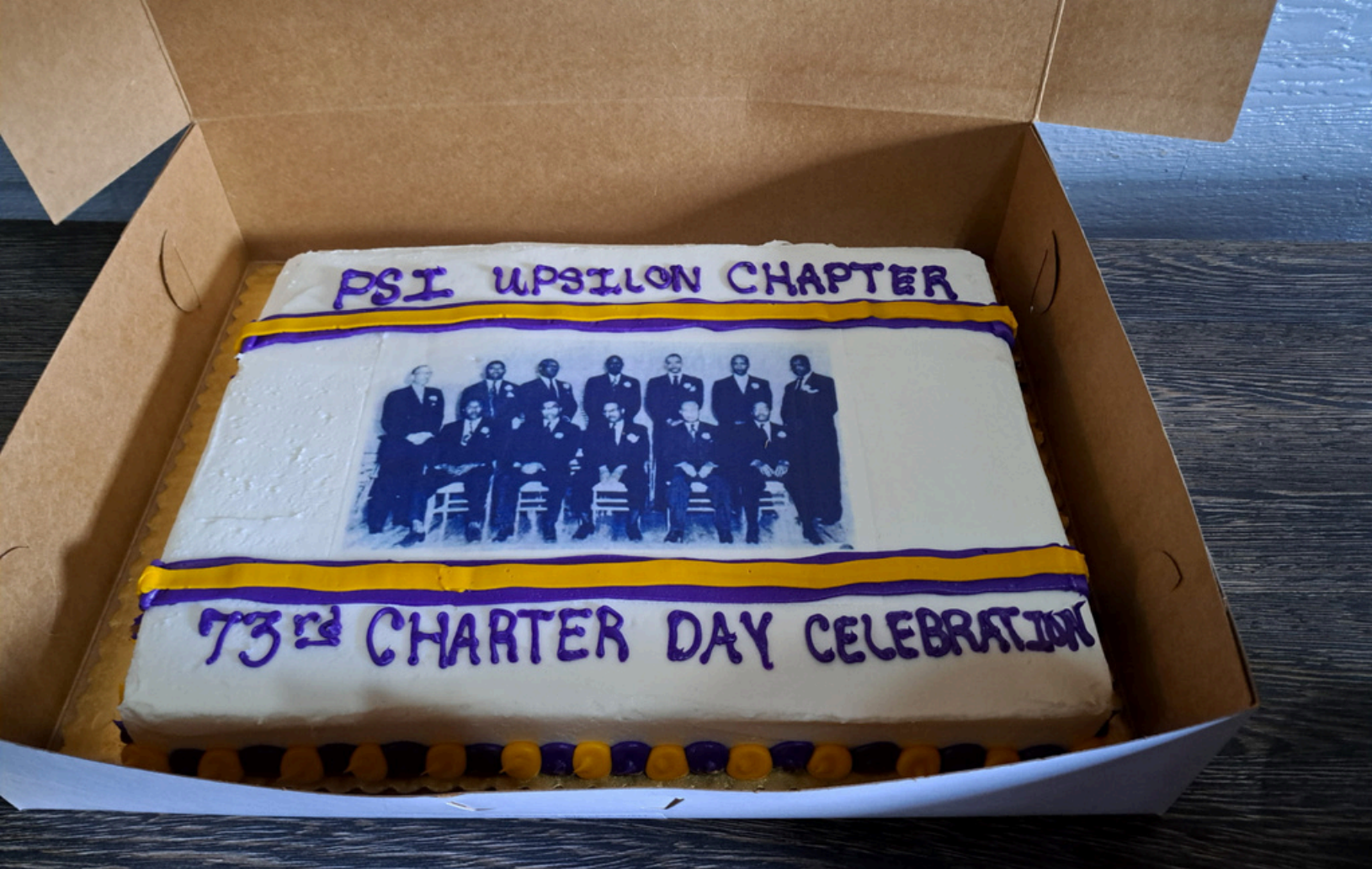
"We believe that investing in our youth is one of the most powerful ways to uplift our community," said Brother Gregg Hinton. "It was an honor for Psi Upsilon Chapter to support this effort and help our children take another step toward academic success."

Hosted in collaboration with the City of Lawton and several community-based organizations, the event offered the first ten children in attendance free literacy assessments and gave the first fifteen children the opportunity to build and take home their own personal bookcases. Parents received information on literacy support strategies and advocacy tips to help foster a strong learning environment at home.

The initiative also provided nutritious food and distributed school supplies to help children begin the academic year better prepared. By combining practical support with educational outreach, the event exemplified a holistic approach to community development.

Psi Upsilon Chapter's involvement reflects Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's unwavering dedication to Scholarship and Uplift, two of the cardinal principles that guide its mission. Through active engagement and strategic partnerships, the chapter continues to demonstrate that meaningful service begins with meeting real community needs.





PSI UPSILON CHAPTER CHARTER DAY CELEBRATION

BRO. GREGG HINTON / PSI UPSILON / LAWTON, OK

The Psi Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. celebrated 73 years of continuous service and brotherhood with a special Charter Day program on Saturday, July 5, 2025, at the Backporch Draft House in Lawton, Oklahoma. Chartered on July 5, 1952, Psi Upsilon has stood as a beacon of uplift, community leadership, and fraternal excellence in the Lawton-Fort Sill area for over seven decades.

The event brought together brothers from multiple generations, families, and community supporters to honor the chapter's founding and its sustained impact on the community. The program opened with welcome remarks from Brother Gregg Hinton, Committee Chair, who reflected on the chapter's roots and its continued growth. "This chapter has weathered many seasons, and yet we remain committed to the same four cardinal principles that our founders established," said Hinton.

A moving Chapter History Presentation followed, delivered by members of the "25" Line, whose presence symbolized the living bridge between the chapter's historic past and its dynamic future. Their presentation highlighted key moments in Psi Upsilon's journey, from its early community service in the 1950s to its modern outreach through mentorship, scholarship, and military engagement. Guests then enjoyed a full hour of meal and socialization, sharing memories and reconnecting with brothers and families.

Brother John D. Veal, Jr., Basileus-Elect, delivered keynote remarks that resonated deeply with those in attendance. "Charter Day is not just about looking back—it's about honoring the spirit of the men who paved the way and committing ourselves to carry the torch forward with purpose," Veal said. "We stand on the shoulders of giants, and our responsibility is to continue building and serving with excellence. This day reaffirms our mission."

A symbolic cake-cutting ceremony was conducted by Brother Veal (Psi Upsilon 2000) and Brother Marcus Hunter (Psi Upsilon 2025), visually representing the intergenerational strength and continuity of the chapter. Both men spoke briefly on the importance of mentoring and building up younger brothers to lead with vision and integrity.

The celebration concluded with open fellowship and a call to action for all brothers to remain involved, uplift the community, and honor the chapter's legacy through service. As the fraternity prepares to enter its 74th year, Psi Upsilon remains firmly rooted in the values of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift—ever committed to being "Omega Men" in action and in truth.

XI OMEGA'S 25TH ANNUAL DWAYNE ETIENNE FISH FRY: A MILESTONE CELEBRATION

BRO. DR. ELTON SYKES / XI OMEGA / TULSA, OK

The Xi Omega Chapter celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Dwayne Etienne Fish Fry with record-breaking success, bringing together community members, local leaders, and supporters for an unforgettable evening of fellowship in Tulsa, OK.

From the beginning, guests were greeted with lively music, the smell of perfectly fried fish, and the warmth of a family gathering. The addition of a DJ brought more energy to the scene, while city officials and community leaders emphasized the Fish Fry's role as a key community tradition.

Attendees widely praised this year's event, calling it the best Fish Fry yet. Many highlighted the quality of the food, the excitement of the vendors, and the sense of community the event fostered. More than just a fundraiser, the Fish Fry once again strengthened community ties.

The milestone year also set new records:

- **Tickets Sold:** Sales soared from 700 last year to more than 1,300.
- **Fundraising:** The event surpassed its goal, raising over \$20,000 for college scholarships.
- **Key Contributions:** Special thanks to Bro. Donnie Johnson, who chaired the event, and Bro. Ulysses Allen, Bro. Donnell Hawkins and Bro. Dr. Elton Sykes, for their outstanding ticket sales and dedication.

The success of the 25th Anniversary Fish Fry was powered by the unwavering dedication of the brothers of Xi Omega, along with support from nearby chapters. Their effort and presence ensured the event's success. Building on this strong momentum, Xi Omega looks forward to continuing this legacy for many years, as we have awarded over \$200,000 in college scholarships to students in Tulsa.





On Saturday, July 12, 2025, the Xi Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. stood shoulder to shoulder with the Terrence Crutcher Foundation and Tulsa residents for the “Stop the Violence Community March.”

The march was organized in response to the tragic shooting at Tulsa’s Juneteenth celebration, where one life was lost and seven community members were injured. In addition to marching, Xi Omega brothers walked door-to-door in Tulsa’s Northside neighborhood, asking residents, “What can we do to improve our community?” The conversations sparked by these visits reflected the pain of recent events and the community’s hope for a safer, stronger future.

For Xi Omega, this work continues a legacy of service stretching back over a century. The chapter has always been committed to standing with Tulsa during times of need.

The “Stop the Violence” march demonstrates that Xi Omega remains committed to collaborating with the community to create a better Tulsa.



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Lone Star State Ques Executive Council

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1ST VICE-PRESIDENT: BRO. TAWAN WILLIAMSON SR.

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SECRETARY: BRO. SHERWIN JOHNSON

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CHAPLAIN: BRO. DWIGHT BURROUGHS

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: BRO. BERTRAND SIMMONS



THETA CHAPTER CELEBRATES GRADUATES

The Theta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, proudly recognizes the academic accomplishments of its brothers who graduated from Wiley University in Marshall, Texas, on Saturday, May 3, 2025. This milestone reflects not only their commitment to higher education but also their dedication to embodying the fraternity's cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift.

Among the celebrated graduates is Brother Joseph Levier III, who earned his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration Management. His focus and determination highlight the strong leadership qualities instilled in him both academically and fraternally.

Brother Emmanuel Scales Jr. also achieved a major milestone by completing his Bachelor's degree in Biology. His success demonstrates a passion for the sciences and a perseverance that will serve as inspiration for future brothers to continue striving for excellence in diverse fields of study.

Rounding out this distinguished group is Brother Colyn Potier, who likewise received his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration Management. His accomplishment reinforces the chapter's legacy of producing graduates who are well-prepared to lead in business and beyond.

Theta Chapter extends heartfelt congratulations to these brothers as they embark on the next chapter of their journeys, carrying forward the spirit and values of Omega.



OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC. SHOWCASES PERFORMING ARTS TALENT AT THE 88TH NINTH DISTRICT MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS

BRO. LARRY JOHNSON II / ALPHA IOTA IOTA / NORTH DALLAS, TX

The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. proudly hosted its 88th Ninth District Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, from April 16 to April 20, 2025. Among the many highlights of this impactful event was the James L. Doss Talent Hunt program, held on Friday, April 18, in the afternoon, which celebrated young artistic talent in categories such as instrumental music, voice, dance, and dramatic interpretation. Eleven (11) contestants from four states—Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas— participated in this prestigious program. The audience was treated to captivating performances that showcased the exceptional talents of these young individuals. After thoughtful deliberation by a panel of four judges, including Grammy award-winning artist PJ Morton, the top performers were announced:

- 1st Place: Zora McCall, Saxophone (Sophomore, Sachse High School, Sachse, TX)
- 2nd Place: Vir Gandhi, Piano (Sophomore, Liberty High School, Frisco, TX)
- 3rd Place: Jaylen Scott, Flute (Sophomore, Memorial High School, Port Arthur, TX)

First-place winner Zora McCall will now advance to the Omega Psi Phi Leadership Conference, set to take place from July 23-27 in Detroit, Michigan. There, she will perform alongside contestants from across the nation in a celebration of artistic excellence. All participants of the program will be awarded scholarships, further empowering their educational and artistic journeys. The Alpha Iota Iota chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., chartered in 1989 in North Dallas, TX, is dedicated to community uplift, leadership development, and the promotion of academic excellence. The chapter and fraternity as a whole are committed to empowering communities and creating opportunities for growth through its initiatives and programs.



Each year, the North Dallas Ques award scholarships to deserving college-bound high school seniors (male or female) who exemplify the ideals and cardinal principles of the beloved fraternity. Scholarship winners will be judged on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, community involvement, and financial need.

The Alpha Iota Iota chapter continues its legacy of uplifting youth and promoting education by awarding scholarships to 13 exceptional high school seniors, each receiving just over \$1,000.

This year's group of recipients included 5 male and 8 female students who will be attending a range of prestigious institutions, including Prairie View A&M University, Louisiana State University, Texas State University, the University of Oklahoma, Texas Tech, Hampton University, and the University of Houston.

As part of the application process, students were asked to write essays detailing their personal story, perspective on current events, and vision for leadership, including how they plan to give back to their communities once they achieve success in their chosen careers.

The young leaders showed tremendous character, insight, and commitment to service during this process. The scholarship committee expressed a proud discernment to support this year's recipients as they take the next step in their educational journey this fall.

The scholarship program reflects the fraternity's core principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift, and represents the fraternity's ongoing dedication to empowering the next generation of leaders.



DELTA XI CHAPTER SERVES GESTURE OF KINDNESS ORGANIZATION

BRO. STEVEN SINGLETON, SR. / DELTA XI / ROWLETT, TX

On May 3, 2025, the Delta Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi brothers concluded their campaign to collect men's underwear and socks for the nonprofit organization, Gesture of Kindness. This charity, led by Ms. Gladys Burns, operates in the DFW area with a mission to unite the community in performing "GESTURES OF KINDNESS" for neighbors in need. The motto "GIVING BECAUSE WE CARE" underlines their commitment to servanthood, reminding us that we are also blessed as we extend compassion to others. The importance of giving is echoed in Proverbs 21:13, which reminds us that those who ignore the calls for help may face a similar fate.

Gesture of Kindness is a non-profit organization that promotes and facilitates gestures of kindness. These include random acts that aim to inspire and empower people to perform small, unexpected acts of kindness. The Gesture of Kindness campaign also encourages kindness through various initiatives and events. One of its primary objectives is to create more love and compassion worldwide.

The collection efforts commenced on April 14, 2025, and concluded at a fellowship event on May 3, 2025. During this period, the brothers of Delta Xi engaged community partners, encouraging volunteerism in various capacities. Some participants contributed countless hours each month, while others volunteered three hours quarterly. Despite health challenges preventing some from assisting on-site, many offered support through monetary donations and helped gather items for packing and distribution.

The brothers of Delta Xi Chapter express profound gratitude for the overwhelming support from the fraternity and the community. Through these collective efforts, we gathered enough underwear and socks to clothe over 100 men in need. Brother Willie Reed, who spearheaded this social action project, emphasized our commitment to the cause by stating, "Our goal is to help those in need by any means necessary."

Looking ahead, the Delta Xi Chapter is dedicated to establishing a long-term partnership with Gesture of Kindness, as we continue to support the men and families served by this invaluable organization. The harvest is plentiful, and we are determined to remain active partners in this crucial mission of kindness.



DELTA XI CHAPTER SUPPORTS LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

BRO. STEVEN SINGLETON, SR. / DELTA XI / ROWLETT, TX

On August 27, 2025, the brothers of the Delta Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. proudly delivered over 600 lbs. of non-perishable food to the Buckner Food Pantry, continuing a tradition of service that has flourished for over six years. This partnership is instrumental in alleviating hunger in three zip codes within the local communities of Dallas and Mesquite, demonstrating a profound commitment to those in need.

The mission of the Buckner Center for Humanitarian Aid is to provide humanitarian aid and crisis relief to vulnerable children and families by processing, sorting, and distributing donated items, including shoes, hygiene kits, food, school supplies, and medical supplies, to those in need in Texas and beyond. It supports Buckner International's broader mission to "serve vulnerable children, strengthen families, and inspire happiness in seniors" by fulfilling basic needs and providing essential resources.

Upon arrival, the brothers eagerly unloaded a vibrant array of donations, including hearty canned goods, nourishing boxed meals, rice, beans, canned fruit, peanut butter, and cereal. They were met at the warehouse door by Michael Julian, the Logistics Manager for the Buckner Humanitarian Aid Center. Mr. Julian welcomed the brothers with a warm smile, stating, "It's always a pleasure to welcome these brothers. Each year when they arrive, it brightens our day. With prices rising and more families needing assistance, we truly rely on this food delivery every year."

The impact of the Delta Xi Food Drive grows more significant with each passing year, highlighting the pressing need for food assistance within the community. After another successful delivery, the brothers departed with a deep sense of fulfillment, knowing they had played a vital role in uplifting those who serve the community. Their actions resonate strongly with Delta Xi's mantra of "Excellence in Service," illustrating their unwavering dedication to making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.



DELTA XI CHAPTER CO-HOST GOLF CLASSIC

BRO. STEVEN SINGLETON, SR. / DELTA XI / ROWLETT, TX

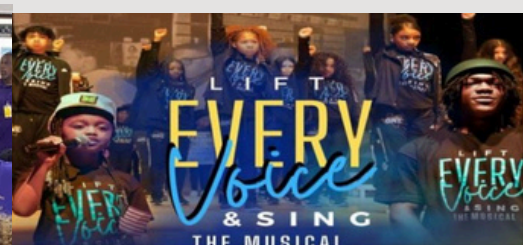
On July 25, 2025, the brothers of the Delta Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in partnership with the brothers of the Theta Theta Alumni Association, held their annual Dr. D.A. Talbot Golf Classic at the Dallas Golf Club in Dallas, Texas. This event was strategically organized to raise funds that will support the remaining service projects for 2025, notably Women Called Moses, a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting women affected by domestic abuse. Golf has a strong tradition of charitable giving, with various events and initiatives supporting a wide range of nonprofit organizations.

The event commenced on a very hot morning, with approximately 70 golfers participating in teams, all eager to tackle the course and compete for prizes. Each team was loaded into golf carts, and the atmosphere was filled with anticipation for a fun and challenging day ahead.

The tournament was capped off with a casual luncheon, during which several awards were presented. In the female competition, a team of four members from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., showcased an exceptional performance, ultimately securing first place and claiming the prestigious D.A. Talbot trophy. On the men's side, the championship trophy was awarded to the team comprised of Omega men who were paired together on that day. This event was a popular way for individuals and organizations to raise money for various community service projects. The tournament enabled Delta Xi to generate funds through player registrations, sponsorships (corporate and individual), and raffles.

Several other awards were presented throughout the tournament, recognizing various achievements and contributions made by participants. Our sincere thanks go out to all the sponsors who played a critical role in making the Annual Dr. D.A. Talbot Tournament a resounding success. Additionally, we extend our gratitude to the staff of Dallas Golf Club, who provided outstanding support throughout the event day, ensuring everything went smoothly.

As we assess the outcomes of this event, we are optimistic about the impact these funds will have on our community service initiatives and the individuals we aim to assist through our ongoing programs.



Garland NAACP
in collaboration with the
Garland ISD
Presents

**22nd Annual Health Fair
and Back to School Rally**

August 9, 2025
South Garland High School
600 Colonel Dr. Garland, TX 75043
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

- School Supplies
- Free Health Screenings
- GISD Information for families
- Community Resource Vendors
- Fun, Games, and Entertainment

Registration
Registration opens
July

Click Here
to Register





NAACP
Garland Unit

Proof of residency required for non-GISD students

DELTA XI CHAPTER STEPS UP AT LOCAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR & BACKPACK RALLY

BRO. STEVEN SINGLETON, SR. / DELTA XI / ROWLETT, TX

On August 9, 2025, the Delta Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., participated in the NAACP & Garland Independent School District's 22nd Annual Health Fair and Back to School Rally. The event aimed to support families in the community by providing essential school supplies for students preparing for the upcoming academic year.

The brothers arrived at the event site at 7:30 AM, ready to engage in setup activities. They promptly began opening pallets of school supplies, organizing them on tables, and breaking down cardboard boxes in preparation for distribution. In addition to their primary responsibility of distributing school supplies, the brothers proactively assisted in several other areas to meet the event's diverse needs.

During the event, Mr. Ricky McNeal, the President of the NAACP in Garland, Texas, expressed his gratitude to the brothers for their unwavering commitment to service. With years of collaboration under their belts, Mr. McNeal recognized the reliability of the Delta Xi Chapter to support various tasks critical to ensuring the success of the rally.

Given the current economic challenges affecting many families, the NAACP and Garland ISD initiative served as a crucial resource, helping over a thousand students access the supplies necessary for a successful start to the school year. The scale of the turnout prompted the Garland Police Department to request additional assistance for traffic control. In response, the brothers quickly adapted their roles, dispatching six members to aid the police with traffic management.

From 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM, the Delta Xi brothers were fully engaged in various activities. Their roles included traffic control, distributing school supplies, serving as hall monitors, and managing bulk trash removal from vendors who set up throughout the high school hallways.

The day proved to be highly successful, a feat made possible by the proactive involvement and readiness of the Delta Xi brothers to assist in numerous areas beyond supply distribution. At the conclusion of the event, the brothers gathered at a local café for fellowship to reflect on the day and acknowledge the chapter's flexibility and commitment to service.

The brothers embodied their mantra, "Excellence in Service," ensuring that families left the Rally with smiles and joy. This event not only fulfilled the immediate needs of the community but also reinforced the strong partnership between the Delta Xi Chapter and local organizations focused on uplifting and supporting the community.

CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP

BRO. BRANDON KITCHIN / EPSILON ALPHA / FORT WORTH, TX

On Saturday, May 25, 2025, the Epsilon Alpha Chapter (Fort Worth, TX) of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in collaboration with the Friendship Twenty Foundation, hosted its annual Teachers Recess Event (TRE) at the historic Ridglea Theater in Fort Worth. This year's theme was Brims and Sundresses.

The purpose of the TRE is to celebrate the culmination of another successful academic year for educators in Fort Worth and the surrounding area. During the event, teachers of the year from Crowley ISD and Fort Worth ISD were recognized, including Bro. Frank Bryant (EA-19), from Van Zandt-Guinn Elementary School in Fort Worth ISD. Epsilon Alpha's 2024 Achievement Week and 2025 Mighty Ninth District Citizen of the Year, Ms. Nancy High, was also recognized.

The other significant purpose of the TRE is funding scholarships that are awarded to graduating high school seniors attending college in the immediate fall following the event. For 2025, eight graduating students received a collective \$15,500 in scholarships. The recipients represented Fort Worth ISD, Arlington ISD, Mansfield ISD, and Mesquite ISD.

The TRE also collected \$1,500 in sponsorships, \$12,000 in ticket sales, and a "Split the Pot" raffle totaling \$3,700, where the winner received \$1,850 in cash.

We extend gratitude to Bro. First Vice District Representative, David "Petro" Washington, for his attendance on behalf of the Mighty Night District Council, as well as the support from brothers in other chapters, to support our signature event.

Epsilon Alpha would like to thank the TRE Committee Co-Chairs, Louis Simmons (EA-94) and Lacey Sims (EA-21), the members of the planning committee, and the Ridglea Theater staff for their hospitality in hosting such a meaningful event. Lastly, the Epsilon Alpha Chapter would like to thank the passionate educators who pour into the next generation each and every day. Because of your efforts, we are happy to join the community each year to celebrate the importance of scholarship and service.



OMEGA STARS CONTINUE TO SHINE BRIGHT

BRO. BRANDON KITCHIN / EPSILON ALPHA / FORT WORTH, TX

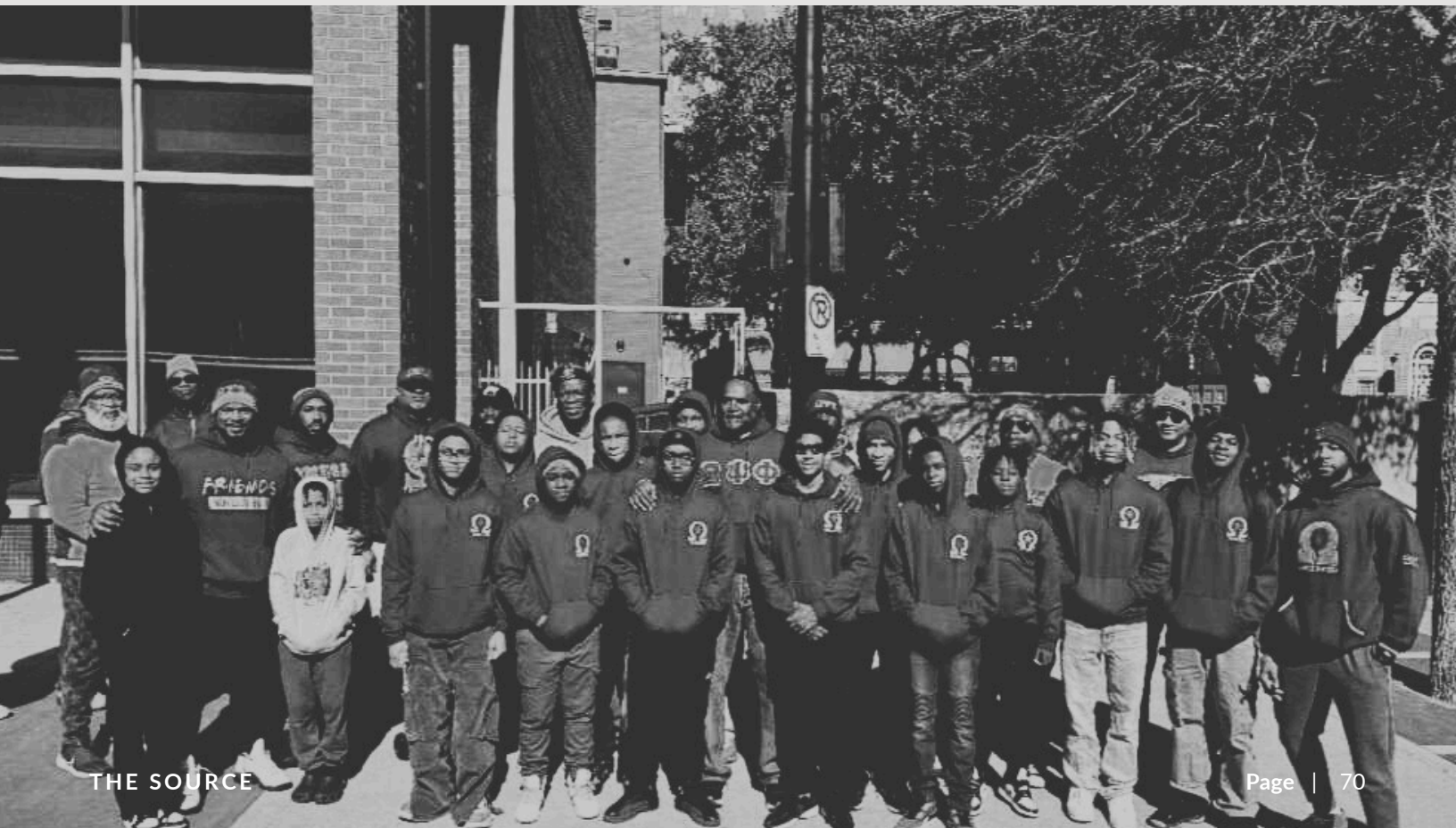
The Omega Stars Mentorship Program, hosted by the Epsilon Alpha Chapter (Fort Worth, TX) of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., has continued to positively impact and sow seeds into the youth in its second year of existence. Omega Stars is in concordance with the Fraternity's Mandated Program and exists to support the development of young men ranging from 5th to 12th grade in Tarrant County.

The program curriculum is structured to follow concepts related to the Tests in the Fall and the Cardinal Principles in the Spring semesters.

In August, the Omega Stars engaged in a presentation and candid discussion about mental health from Epsilon Alpha's 2024 Achievement Week and 2025 Mighty Ninth District Citizen of the Year, Ms. Nancy High. September was a visit to the Fort Worth Police Department, where they received training from Fort Worth Police Officer Bro. Willie Nash (EA-16). In October, they received guidance from Bro. Dr. Howard Dunlop (KΣ-73). In November, in observance of Veterans Day and a large concentration of veterans within the chapter, the brothers hosted a Military Appreciation session to promote awareness of the branches of the Armed Forces, career pathways, and a day in the life of a service member. In December, the session was hosted by Bro. LaDainian Tomlinson (EA-21), where he shared his testimony on navigating challenges and successes on his way to a Hall of Fame career in the National Football League. Additionally, mentees wrote their parents a holiday card complete with a \$25 gift card. In the new year, the Omega Stars walked in the Fort Worth MLK Parade alongside the chapter and dozens of other organizations and engaged in the chapter's service event at the Fort Worth YMCA. In February, the Omega Stars were treated to a joint session representing Manhood and Scholarship at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, where they learned about applying for college scholarships and received an etiquette class on the importance of physical presentation and professionalism. During the etiquette portion, each mentee received their body measurements to assist in tailoring a suit.

In March, for Perseverance, the Omega Stars visited the Athletic Performance (AP) Ranch, a facility where Olympic and professional athletes train. During their visit, the Stars saw eventual 2025 NFL #1 draft pick Cam Ward in training. Following a gap in April due to the 88th Ninth District Meeting, the Omega Stars assembled in May at the Tarrant County College South Campus for their second annual graduation ceremony, recognizing 35 mentees who attended at least 60% of meetings. During the ceremony, which was open to families, individual mentee awards were presented, a high school senior received a scholarship from Children on the Mend, and prayers were extended over the graduating seniors. The keynote address, centered around Friendship and Uplift, was delivered by Bro. Dr. Howard Robinson (H-89). Also, in May, a select cohort of mentees interested in STEM fields visited Lockheed Martin for an Aeronautical Tour, where they learned about the assembly process and technological evolution that goes into building fighter aircrafts. The graduating students were taken by the Omega Stars Committee Co-Chairs, Bro. James Reed (EA-09) and Bro. Lacey Sims (EA-21), and Chapter Basileus, Bro. Kevin Randolph (EA-18) is to visit the suit shop to receive a tailored suit before departing for college.

Thank you to the Committee Co-Chairs for your dedication to the success of this program, as well as the members of the Omega Stars Mentorship Program and Fatherhood Committee. The program will take a summer recess and resume in the fall, once the 2025-2026 academic year begins.



AUSTIN QUES AND NFP JOIN FORCES WITH TEXAS EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY FOR ANNUAL BACKPACK DRIVE

BRO. GREG WARREN / EPSILON IOTA / AUSTIN, TX

On Wednesday, August 14, the Brothers of the Epsilon Iota and NFP partnered with the Texas Empowerment Academy for its annual Backpack Drive, an initiative executed by the AustinQues for over 15 years. The event ensures local students are prepared for a strong start to the year and are positioned to succeed in a rapidly changing educational world.

Through this community outreach, the Austin Ques donated over 100 fully equipped backpacks to deserving students. These contributions help ensure students walk into the classroom prepared, confident, and ready to succeed.

“The Backpack Drive is about more than just school supplies—it’s about showing our youth that their community is behind them,” said Brother Avriel Houston, event lead. “When we remove barriers to learning, we open the door to opportunity.”

The event underscores a long-standing commitment to youth empowerment and educational equity in Austin. By providing backpacks filled with supplies, organizers aim to ease the financial strain many families face during back-to-school season and reinforce the importance of investing in the next generation.

AUSTINQUES DELIVER 260 FANS TO SENIORS AND FAMILIES IN NEED THROUGH ANNUAL FAN DRIVE

BRO. GREG WARREN / EPSILON IOTA / AUSTIN, TX

The AustinQues, in partnership with HEB and Family Eldercare, proudly completed their 16th Annual Fan Drive, delivering 260 fans to seniors and families across the Austin area. This impactful initiative continues the chapter's long-standing tradition of service, ensuring vulnerable members of the community stay cool and safe during the intense Texas summer heat.

For nearly 20 years, the AustinQues have worked with city officials and Family Eldercare to collect and distribute fans to households in need. Through this annual initiative, the AustinQues have helped thousands of residents beat the extreme summer temperatures and, in many instances, provide lifesaving heat reduction. This year, the addition of a new partnership with HEB provided critical support, allowing for the donation of over 260 fans. A community-wide drop-off center was set up at Round Rock Roger Beasley Mazda, making it a true communal effort.

Epsilon Iota Chapter Basileus, Brother Robert Rowan, represented the AustinQues in a live KXAN interview highlighting the importance of this annual initiative.

“The Fan Drive is more than just about staying cool — it’s about protecting lives and showing our community that we care,” said Brother Rowan. “We are grateful for the continued support from Family Eldercare, the generosity of HEB, and the engagement of our community partners.”

The AustinQues remain committed to uplifting the Austin community through service initiatives that address immediate needs while building long-term impact.

AUSTIN QUES

1941



Epsilon Omicron was initially chartered on February 16, 1947. There were several brothers initiated in the 1990s who identified an Omega and community service need in the Katy, Texas, Metropolitan Area. One of the most significant achievements was the reclamation of the chapter on January 21, 2025, which began the birth of the “Katy and West Houston Ques,” where the chapter is affectionally known as “EO.” This chapter immediately got to work as it both welcomed and reclaimed brothers back into the fold of Omega. “EO” established alliances with other D9 and community-based organizations. In lightning fashion, “EO” has shown a dedication to community service, leadership, social justice, reclamation, and advocacy.

Epsilon Omicron’s commitment to service was quickly demonstrated through its participation in the following: Houston Coalition Talent Hunt (participants placing in 2nd and 3rd place), Ninth District Council Meeting, Memorial Service, Katy, Texas Packathon, and other community events. Epsilon Omicron is a chapter that strongly believes in friendship and will continue to be “A Chapter Where We Value Your Friendship, First!”

ETA MU MU CHAPTER HONORED FOR SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

BRO. CARL LEVY

The Eta Mu Mu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.—the “Denton County Ques”—was recently recognized at both the local and district levels for outstanding service and program leadership.

Local Recognition: Community Service

The chapter was honored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Denton County Alumnae Chapter during “May Week Honors” for being “TrailBlazers in service, CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE.” At the 9th Annual 5K Fun Run & Health Fair, Eta Mu Mu Brothers managed setup, hydration, and participated with energy and humility—embodying the chapter motto: “Enthusiastic Eta Mu Mu – Christ-based and Merciful Omega-Minded Brothas humbly motivating and making a change in the community.”

Monthly volunteer work continues through the Heart of the City Food Bank, Hope House Ministries, and Our Daily Bread Shelter.

District Recognition: Reclamation, Retention, and Mentoring

Eta Mu Mu received Ninth District awards for Reclamation & Retention and Fatherhood & Mentoring. Monthly “Quesday” fellowships and quarterly Game Nights have revitalized brotherhood and fostered an inclusive atmosphere. The “Each One Bring One” initiative drives sustained outreach.

Brothers also serve in local schools, mentoring and assisting as campus safety officers. Their efforts were honored by Lewisville ISD at its Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast.

The “Omega Seeds” program builds leadership and academic success in young men. The chapter also supports youth through the “I SEE ME Affirmation Workshop,” Big Brothers-Big Sisters, and HBCU outreach.

Continued Excellence

At the 88th Ninth District Meeting, Eta Mu Mu reaffirmed its commitment to Omega’s vision. These recognitions reflect the chapter’s enduring mission: to uplift communities, strengthen bonds, and honor the legacy of Omega Psi Phi.



ETA XI NU DONATES WATER TO SUPPORT HISTORICAL MEXICAN TOWN

BRO. HAROLD HUFF III / ETA XI NU / NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

On June 4, the brothers of the Eta Xi Nu chapter delivered 75 cases of water to support a historic town in Mexico. The donation was given to Ms. Corina Torralba Harrington, who has a special connection to the community of Nacimiento de los Negros.

Nacimiento de los Negros, which means "Birth of the Blacks" in English, has a fascinating history that connects to American slavery. The town was established by Black Seminoles who escaped from the United States before slavery was abolished. These brave individuals sought freedom and built their own community in Mexico.

Ms. Harrington is a descendant of these original Black Seminole settlers. In the near term, this water donation provided by the chapter will help the town improve its access to clean drinking water, which is essential for daily life, cooking, and maintaining good health.

The water donation will help support the community as they work to improve their water system. This display of service demonstrates how people can collaborate across borders to support communities in need. It also highlights an important piece of history about how some Black Americans found freedom in Mexico during a difficult time in U.S. history.

The Eta Xi Nu brothers' generous donation reminds us that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference in people's lives.



ETA XI NU WORKS WITH THE CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS TO RECOGNIZE JUNETEENTH

BRO. HAROLD HUFF III / ETA XI NU / NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

Brothers with the Eta Xi Nu chapter recently participated in the City of New Braunfels' Juneteenth Jubilee celebration, bringing both history and community spirit to this important event. The chapter volunteers joined residents in commemorating this significant day in American history.

Juneteenth commemorates the historic day when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, bringing news of freedom to enslaved African Americans - two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed. This celebration holds special significance as it marks the end of slavery.

This year's celebration drew an impressive crowd of approximately 200 community members, including more than 15 Brothers from Eta Xi Nu. Attendees enjoyed live performances by the Dirty River Jazz Band, engaging storytimes, creative crafts, and free snow cones from local vendors. The event featured special appearances by the Tuskegee Airmen Inc., San Antonio Chapter, and the New Braunfels MLK Association, who shared their organizations' histories and the significance of Juneteenth.

"I expect through continued partnerships with community leaders, local vendors, and the Tri-County Pan-Hellenic Council, that each year the Juneteenth Celebration will double in size and participation," says Bro. Derek Morton, chapter Vice-Basileus and one of the event's organizers. "The community has shown they want to take part in the celebration, which is significant to freedom in the U.S. and around the world."

The New Braunfels Juneteenth celebration brought together people from all backgrounds, showing how community celebrations can help us learn from our history while building a better future together. The participation of organizations like the Eta Xi Nu chapter helps make these events more meaningful and educational for everyone involved.



Brothers with the Eta Xi Nu chapter conducted a community service event at Mercy House assisted living facility in New Braunfels, Texas, on the morning of April 5.

Mercy House is a small, assisted living and memory care facility providing a family-oriented model of care. The chapter connected with Mercy House through Bro. Rodricus Harvey, the chapter's community service chairman, reached out to several assisted living facilities. Mercy House was chosen because of the opportunity to establish new ways to entertain its residents, as well as its location within the three counties the chapter covers for community involvement.

The facility's program director seized on the opportunity to have the chapter volunteer and allowed brothers to determine the most effective means to interact with the residents. Brothers decided the best way to entertain the residents was to play music and provide board games to stimulate their minds and help exercise their cognitive abilities. Brothers were split between two residences on the same property to provide interaction and entertainment for the greatest number of people.

This community service event provided insight into what it's like for those who may not have family and friends to connect with consistently. It allows the elderly and those who are physically challenged to know that people still care about their well-being. This outing helped brothers reflect that one day any of us could be in a similar situation and the importance of brothers to continue working on the bond of friendship.

According to Bro. Harvey, "This activity felt personal and was a humbling experience. We all realized how fragile life can be as we all get older." He would go on to reflect on what brothers could gain from this experience. "There was a lesson taught through this experience, and that is the importance of friendship and the obligation of brothers checking on one another consistently."

The staff and residents were grateful for the time the chapter spent socializing with them. This opportunity gave residents a chance to laugh and communicate on various topics while enjoying playing music and games. The facility immediately requested the chapter to return and visit monthly to provide entertainment for its residents in the future.



ETA XI NU HONORS THE PAST AT HISTORICAL LANDMARK FOR MEMORIAL DAY

BRO. HAROLD HUFF III / ETA XI NU / NEW BRAUNFELS, TX

Memorial Day serves as a day to remember and honor those who bravely gave their lives in service to our nation. On Saturday, May 24, more than a dozen brothers with the Eta Xi Nu chapter from New Braunfels, Texas, placed U.S. flags at the graves of deceased veterans at Ridley Cemetery on the Wilcox Ranch property in Seguin, TX, to coincide with this solemn holiday.

This cemetery, formerly known as Jake's Colony Cemetery, is a final resting place for the families of the Freedmen's Settlement there. In addition to generations of Jake's Colony descendants buried there, African American veterans from World Wars I and II, as well as the Korean War, are interred there.

According to the Texas State Historical Association, Freedmen's Settlements, also known as Black settlements, freedom colonies, or freedmen's towns, are historically significant communities founded across the South, including Texas, from 1865 to 1930. Formerly enslaved Texans obtained land for these settlements out of a desire for autonomy and security from the prevalent climate of racial violence during this era.

The Wilcox Ranch is the oldest and last African American working ranch in Jakes Colony, a Freedmen's Colony established in 1870 by Henry Wilcox, an emancipated slave who settled in the area. That year, 240 freedmen resided in the colony.

The Wilcox descendants applied for an official historical cemetery marker from the Texas Historical Commission in 2020, and the cemetery was recorded as a historical landmark in 2021. Three descendants of the Jakes Colony settlers were on site to provide the brothers a historical background and tour of the area, also assisting in the flag laying.

Rodricus Harvey, the Eta Xi Nu chapter Social Action Chairman, spoke about taking the time to honor deceased veterans during Memorial Day weekend: "It was important for brothers to honor deceased veterans at this cemetery since there is a direct connection to so many brothers in this chapter who have served and still do serve in uniform." Upon reflecting on the significance of the Ridley Cemetery in particular, Harvey went on to state, "It was an honor to recognize the historical presence of those who paved the way and show us what can be achieved in the face of adversity."



HOUSTON OMEGA LAMPLIGHTERS HOST 2025 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE AT PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

ILLUMINATING THE FUTURE TOGETHER — A POWERFUL GATHERING OF TOMORROW'S LEADERS

The Houston Omega Lamplighters proudly served as the host chapter for the 2025 Leadership Conference, held in Houston, Texas, at the historic Prairie View A&M University. With over 200 Lamplighters, advisors, and Omega men in attendance, the conference brought together representatives from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas for a transformational weekend of brotherhood, leadership development, and celebration.

The weekend began on Thursday, June 19, aligning with the spirit of Juneteenth. The Houston Omega Lamplighters made their presence known at the Katy Juneteenth Festival, proudly participating in the parade and honoring our history with purpose and pride. From there, attendees checked into the dormitories at PVAMU, setting the stage for a weekend of learning and connection. That evening's Welcome Reception and Brotherhood Mixer created an immediate sense of unity and anticipation for the journey ahead.

Friday was dedicated to building bonds, celebrating achievements, and casting vision for the future under the powerful theme: "Building Bridges, Creating Leaders." The day began with an inspirational Opening Ceremony, followed by a Career Fair where Lamplighters engaged with professionals across multiple industries. The afternoon highlighted excellence with a formal Awards Ceremony, recognizing the outstanding work of Lamplighters from across the region.

The night concluded with "Friday Night Lights," a dynamic team-building experience featuring Lamplighter Games. Whether it was basketball 3-on-3, football 7-on-7, the Game Truck, the cup stacking game, 3-legged races, Black History Trivia, or the ever-competitive Stroll-Off, the energy was high and the brotherhood was stronger than ever.

Saturday's theme, "Illuminating the Future Together," embodied perseverance and forward thinking. The day's excursion to Texas Southern University was both educational and inspiring, providing a glimpse of collegiate excellence. At the ONPEC Center Tailgate, Lamplighters experienced community, culture, and celebration before closing the day at Cidercade Houston, where they were greeted by the distinguished Men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. from the Houston Area Coalition of Omegas. These chapters included Nu Phi, Theta Chi, Rho Nu, Rho Xi, Rho Beta Beta, Alpha Mu Mu, Mu Mu Nu, Tau Epsilon, Rho Theta, Omega Theta, Eta Mu, and Nu Delta Delta—each contributing to the success and presence of the weekend.

As the sun set on a weekend of purpose and progress, the message was clear: the next generation of leaders has arrived—and they are Lamplighters. The Houston Omega Lamplighters extend heartfelt thanks to all who traveled, participated, and supported this unforgettable event. Together, we are illuminating the path ahead.



MU MU NU GRADUATE CHAPTER'S SPOTLIGHT OF AN OMEGA MAN

The Mu Mu Nu Graduate Chapter, also known as the North Houston Ques, proudly presents its Omega Spotlight, a quarterly feature recognizing an exceptional Omega Man from our chapter. This initiative is designed to honor brothers who demonstrate outstanding service in the community, significant achievements in their professional careers, and steadfast commitment to their families.

By highlighting these men, the Omega Spotlight not only celebrates individual excellence, but it also showcases the core values of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., four Cardinal Principles—Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. This recognition will be shared through the chapter's official communications to inspire and uplift both members and the broader community.

THIS QUARTER WE ARE HIGHLIGHTING OUR BROTHER, BRO. MARCUS DAWSON.

Brother Marcus Garvey Dawson is a dynamic enterprise technology sales leader with 30 years of experience. He is widely regarded as an authentic storyteller, business athlete, and trusted advisor who excels at connecting technology solutions to real business outcomes. A native of Charlotte, NC, his latest role is as a VP of Strategic Accounts for Aviso AI. He has served as Regional Vice President for Salesforce, a National Sales Manager for APP, and Chief Information Officer (CIO) for ITS Engineering.

Bro. Dawson has been in Houston since 2010 after a corporate relocation from Atlanta, GA. He was initiated through the ETA Omega Chapter in Atlanta (Spring 1997), where he dutifully served as Super Bowl Committee Chair, Member At Large, MSP Intake Vice Chair, Assistant KRS, and KRS. He joined Mu Mu Nu Chapter in 2017 and is a Life Member of our beloved fraternity.

He and his wife make their home in the Town Lake area of Cypress, along with their daughter, Lailah. When not traveling extensively for work, Bro. Dawson enjoys Peloton, financial literacy, and being a "gym dad". He is a 1995 graduate of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with continuing executive education from Rice University, Seton Hall University, and the Wharton School of Business.



From 1926 to the present, Nu Phi's long road is a history movie in itself, scene after scene of grit, grace, and growth. Through the Great Depression, wartime sacrifice, the Civil Rights Movement, and the digital age, our reel kept rolling, frame by frame, advancing scholarship, service, and civic voice. Each decade introduced new challenges, new champions, and new triumphs, proving our script is written by service, directed by purpose, and produced by tireless community love.

Nu Phi Chapter, we celebrate Nu Phi's Founders Day today (founded August 26, 1926). Nearly a century of purpose-driven leadership, scholarship, and uplifting community impact brings us to this remarkable milestone. We honor the visionary founders, the sweat equity brothers, and the devoted supporters whose dedication has carried our mission forward year after year. From mentoring youth and championing education to advancing health initiatives and civic engagement, our legacy lives in the countless lives touched and futures brightened.

This Charter Day is more than a date on the calendar; it is a living reminder of our origin story and the values that memorialize our work. We were built to serve, to lead, and to build sustainable pathways to opportunity in our community. That spirit has guided us through triumphs and trials alike, and it continues to propel us toward a future worthy of our history.

Anchored in Nu Phi's enduring standard and intense focus on political support that impacts community change. We invest in civic literacy, voter registration, education, and nonpartisan mobilization because policy shapes everyday life. We host and support candidate conversations and community forums that invite accountability and transparency. We partner with the Houston Area Coalition of Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. to expand access to the ballot, protect rights, and promote reforms that strengthen public safety, housing stability, economic mobility, and educational equity. We encourage service on boards and commissions, amplify community voices at city halls and state capitols, and mentor the next generation of advocates and public servants. Our aim is not politics as usual, but principled engagement that translates shared values into measurable improvements for our people in the community.

As we reflect, we also renew our promise: to serve with integrity, to lead with compassion, and to strive relentlessly for excellence in all we do. Our 99th Founder's Day is a testament to PERSEVERANCE, unity, and the power of collective action. It calls us to deepen our scholarship, sharpen our strategies, and widen our embrace so that every program, partnership, and policy effort moves us closer to enhanced opportunities for all.

To every Nu Phi member, supporter, and FRIEND, thank you. Your energy, TIME, and belief fuel our progress. To our seasoned brothers who laid the groundwork; to our community partners who stand shoulder to shoulder with us, your trust is our mandate to do more and to do it better.

Forward together, we continue building a legacy worthy of the next generation. With gratitude, Nu Phi pride, and purpose, we step confidently into tomorrow, mentoring minds, uplifting families, strengthening institutions, and advancing policies that turn hope into results. On this Founder's Day, we honor our past, embrace our present, and prepare for the road ahead with boldness and uplift. Nu Phi Chapter, 365 to the dream.

THE JOURNEY OF SERGEANT KYLE MOORE

BRO. WINZOR LENEUS / OMICRON PI / KILLEEN, TX

Earlier this month, Brother Kyle Moore (3-21-OP), a dedicated member of the Omicron Pi chapter of Omega Psi Phi, made headlines as the first-ever recipient of the Greater Killeen Chamber of Commerce's Community Service Hero Award. As the founder of Killeen's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), Moore has emerged as a pivotal figure in addressing homelessness in the city. In a recent interview at the KDH News studio, he reflected on his journey, the challenges he has faced, and the vital work his team is doing to uplift the unhoused population of Killeen. Kyle's life is a testament to the power of community values, resilience, and unwavering service. He embodies the principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. His journey from a young man with a strong foundation in community service to a leader in law enforcement is both inspiring and impactful.

Growing up, Bro. Kyle was instilled with the importance of giving back to his community. His early experiences, rooted in the ideals of compassion, supported his understanding of the challenges many face daily. This foundation would later inform his approach to leadership and service in his professional life as a law enforcement officer. As a member of Killeen's Homeless Outreach Team, SGT. Moore has taken on the critical role of advocating for the city's unhoused population. His work is not just a job; it's a calling that reflects his deep commitment to making a difference. Each day presents new challenges, but Moore approaches them with a blend of empathy and determination. He understands that behind every statistic is a person with a story, and he strives to honor those stories by providing meaningful support and solutions.

In a recent conversation, Bro. Kyle shared insights into his path in law enforcement. He recounted the obstacles he faced while rising through the ranks, including the need to navigate complex social dynamics and overcome biases. These challenges only fueled his commitment to creating a more equitable and inclusive environment within the police force. His experiences have taught him that leadership is not just about authority; it's about earning trust and being a voice for the voiceless. His reflections on leadership emphasize the importance of empathy. He believes that understanding the struggles of others is crucial for effective service. His approach encourages fellow officers to engage with the community actively, fostering relationships built on mutual respect and understanding. He highlights that real change often comes from listening and learning from those we serve. Kyle's take on leadership transcends traditional notions of authority. He emphasizes the importance of empathy and active listening, believing that understanding the needs of the community is essential for effective service. His philosophy encourages fellow officers to engage meaningfully with individuals on the streets, fostering trust and breaking down barriers. For Him, being a police officer means being a servant leader—someone who prioritizes the well-being of others above all.

Through powerful stories of individuals he has met during his outreach efforts, Kyle illustrates the human aspect of his work. The establishment of the Homeless Outreach Team marked a significant milestone in his career. Recognizing the urgent need for a dedicated approach to homelessness, he took the initiative to create a team focused on outreach and support. The HOT Program has become a lifeline for many in Killeen, providing crucial resources such as food, shelter, and access to social services. His leadership has fostered a culture of collaboration, bringing together law enforcement, social workers, and community organizations to address the complex issue of homelessness holistically.

In his mission to serve and protect, SGT Kyle Moore exemplifies the ideals of Omega Psi Phi. His dedication to the community and commitment to social justice serve as an inspiration to many. As he continues to navigate the complexities of his role, he remains steadfast in his belief that compassion and resilience can lead to transformative change. As he continues his mission to serve, Kyle stands as a beacon of light and inspiration in the community. His journey illustrates the profound impact one individual can have in creating a more compassionate and equitable society. With his focus on resilience, service, and empathy, He is paving the way for a brighter future for Killeen's unhoused population, reminding us of all the power of community and the importance of being there for one another.

Bro. Kyle Moore's journey is a powerful reminder of the impact one individual can have on a community. His story is not just about law enforcement; it's about the relentless pursuit of a better world for all. Through his work with Killeen's homeless population and his leadership within the Omicron Pi chapter, he continues to be a champion of hope and a model for others to follow. As he continues to serve, there's no doubt that his legacy will inspire future generations to embrace the values of empathy, resilience, and community service.





BRO. ORLANDO RICHARDS / PSI ALPHA / SAN ANTONIO, TX

The Lone Star State Ques (LSSQ) held its Annual Family Day event, organized by Psi Alpha Chapter Chairman Brother Paul Booker, and it was a resounding success! Concerns existed due to the date occurring immediately after the 9th District Meeting (New Orleans, LA). With numerous activities taking place, the chapter hosted this event on Saturday morning, 28 April 2025, with a total of 250 persons in attendance, made up of Omegas (125), family, and friends.

The event provided food, fun, and fellowship with brothers, family, friends, and other supporters from Houston, Austin, Dallas, and San Antonio. Family Day featured a diverse range of activities from a children's zone to adult games (i.e., cards, dominoes, golfing, and cornhole), as well as dancing for all. The activities provided participants with opportunities to win prizes totaling \$1500 in value.

Brothers and guests engaged in feasting on a wide selection of food items like vegetables (i.e., beans and green beans), meat (i.e., hot dogs, hamburgers, brisket, chicken), and sides (i.e., pickles, onions, and potato salad), as well as beverages (i.e., tea, soda, and water). Brothers and guests appreciated the well-prepared feast, not to mention the blessing of being able to provide go meals (if requested).

In addition to the impressive and successful event, Chairman Booker took advantage of providing an opportunity for a community service project of giving back. The project of collecting women's products (i.e., sundry, health care, and other feminine items) was to be given to the many community shelters and organizations supporting battered women by chapter and members of the Panhellenic Council – San Antonio. Thanks to Chairman Booker's leadership, President Brother Antonio Brown's guidance, and Psi Alpha Chapter's support in making the event a success in fellowship and community service.



Psi Alpha Chapter appreciates all the support it continues to receive from the community, San Antonio Panhellenic members, visiting Omegas (Houston, Austin, Dallas, etc.), and many other persons who attended its Annual Fiesta Masquerade event. This event is an official and recognized event by the Fiesta Commission. The Fiesta Masquerade, originally started as the Fiesta Jamboree held at Sunset Station, has assisted the Psi Alpha Chapter in getting recognition as a premier event of the city's celebration, where portions of the proceeds are given in scholarships or supporting community activity.

Fiesta Masquerade, led by Chairman Brother Michael Cherry, was very successful with more than 350 of 500 tickets being sold. Not known as a fundraiser, the event was impactful in providing many of our supporters with fun, food, and fellowship while dressing up in Mardi Gras type fashion. All attendees enjoyed various Hors d'oeuvres from chicken drumettes and empanadas to veggie sticks, cheese skewers, and chips. Selected attendees received raffle prizes (i.e., Annual White Party tickets (2), large flat screen TV, gift cards, etc.) totaling more than \$1200. The chapter hosted a best-dressed contest, for which gift cards were provided as a consolation prize. The event was well attended, with lots of food, dancing, and a step show/scroll by a few Greek organization members.

With continued backing from the Fiesta Commission (allowing another five-year extension of the event) and future strategic marketing, the chapter hopes the Fiesta Masquerade event becomes one of the top three fundraisers in Psi Alpha Scholarship efforts. The chairman and team have already begun planning and creating partnerships for 2026 to ensure the event is more profitable and provide more scholarships or increase the amounts being awarded for post-secondary education.



STANDING IN THE GAP: A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP – BROTHER JAMES L. HOWARD

BRO. ORLANDO RICHARDS / PSI ALPHA / SAN ANTONIO, TX

“Standing in the Gap” is more than a phrase—it’s a calling. Rooted in Ezekiel 22:30, it paints the image of someone placing themselves in harm’s way for the sake of others, interceding in moments of need, and shielding the vulnerable from further harm. Few have embodied this principle more fully than Brother James L. Howard of Psi Alpha Chapter.

Initiated in March 1971 while attending St. Philip’s College, Brother Howard continued his academic journey at Prairie View A&M University, earning a B.A. in Music Education. Upon his return to San Antonio in 1973, he began what would become a lifetime of selfless service and tireless advocacy.

His professional journey started at Fort Sam Houston Music Center, with fellow Brother Gordon Benjamin nearby at the Hacienda. But it was in the San Antonio Independent School District where Brother Howard’s impact would truly take root. Starting at Japhet Elementary and later joining the school board, he became a fierce advocate for education, equity, and the community.

Brother Howard stood firmly in the gap for paraprofessionals—those often overlooked but essential staff like custodians and cafeteria workers. As president of the Paraprofessional Employees and later with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), he championed fair pay, improved labor standards, and dignity for all employees. In 1985, he broke barriers by becoming the first Black president of AFT Texas, a role he held with honor and results.

In 1988, he expanded his influence by winning a seat on the SAISD Board of Trustees (District #2), serving for over 21 years. He fearlessly addressed the challenges facing African American students and became a voice for the underserved. His leadership earned him accolades like the Education Excellence Award, but more importantly, it earned him the respect of a generation.

Brother Howard’s life was a living testament to the ideals of our fraternity. His work—from organizing for labor rights to shaping education policy—was always grounded in service, justice, and unwavering integrity. He lived our Creed with passion and purpose.

Though Brother Howard may no longer walk among us, his legacy lives on in the lives he touched, the policies he shaped, and the values he upheld. He stood in the gap—and because of him, others now stand taller.



LAYING THE FOUNDATION: PSI ALPHA CHAPTER IN ACTION

BRO. ORLANDO RICHARDS / PSI ALPHA / SAN ANTONIO, TX

“Laying the foundation” is more than an idiom—it’s a powerful metaphor for building something meaningful from the ground up. Whether it’s a physical structure or a community initiative, the phrase speaks to establishing solid groundwork for future growth. As 1 Corinthians 3:11 reminds us, “For no one can lay any other foundation than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.” On Saturday, June 21, 2025, members of Psi Alpha Chapter lived out this principle through hands-on service with Habitat for Humanity, alongside the National Pan-Hellenic Council – San Antonio (NPHC-SA).

Ten Psi Alpha Brothers were among thirty NPHC-SA volunteers helping lay sod – the literal foundation of a new home – for a family in need. Psi Alpha members arrived early, ensuring strong representation and preparedness. The team was split into task-focused groups to maximize efficiency: leveling the ground, clearing debris, landscaping trees, laying sod, and rolling it out for watering, all under the strain of scorching heat and tight coordination in a crowded workspace.

Despite the physical demands, the brothers stayed upbeat, working in sync with fellow Divine Nine members while bonding through shared laughs, conversation, and music. The teamwork, dedication, and unity on display reflected Omega’s enduring spirit.

Psi Alpha Chapter’s contribution alone accounted for \$1,391.60 in donated labor (10 volunteers × 4 hours × \$34.67/hr.), helping Habitat for Humanity achieve over \$4,160.40 in total project savings through volunteer efforts.

As our Illustrious Founders did 114 years ago, we too continue to lay foundations—not just for homes, but for futures, families, and community legacy. The home we helped shape will house not just people, but memories, love, and hope. Just as Omega laid the blueprint for our lives, Psi Alpha proudly passes that gift forward, one act of service at a time.

RHO XI CHAPTER OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

Presents

FLORALS & FEDORAS WHERE RHYTHM, FASHION & FLAVORS MEET

AN ELEGANT EVENING OF STYLE AND CULTURE: RHO XI CHAPTER HOSTS INAUGURAL FLORALS & FEDORAS

BRO. DR. ANEIL SMOTHERS / RHO XI / FREEPORT, TX

On the evening of May 17, 2025, the Rho Xi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. hosted a landmark occasion that artfully blended elegance, culture, and community. Held at the breathtaking Maison De Veaux in Pearland, Texas, the inaugural *Florals & Fedoras* event welcomed over 400 distinguished guests to a night that redefined sophistication and set a new precedent for high-style social gatherings in the region.

Florals & Fedoras was not merely an event—it was an experience that reflected the chapter's commitment to culture, connection, and purpose. From the moment guests arrived, they were immersed in an atmosphere of class and creativity. The evening began with *The Purple Carpet Experience* by JTV One, where attendees flaunted their finest floral ensembles and iconic fedoras, capturing the timeless spirit of the evening in dazzling photo moments.

Guests were welcomed with a stylish reception and treated to a lavish VIP buffet brimming with gourmet delights. Tray-passed hors d'oeuvres and premium wine selections by *Wineing About* encouraged mingling and conversation. Tastings of Martingale Cognac and Texas Black Gold Whiskey added a sophisticated edge, catering to both aficionados and curious newcomers.

Entertainment was central to the evening's charm. *The City Band* delivered electrifying live music, keeping the crowd on their feet well into the night. A captivating fashion showcase by *Indigo Blue* and *Hattitude* brought the theme to life, with bold floral prints and classic fedora styling taking center stage.

For those seeking a moment of relaxation, the *Smoke & Chill Lounge*, sponsored by Cheroots, offered an elegant retreat, ideal for intimate conversations and unwinding in style.

The success of *Florals & Fedoras* was a true testament to the Rho Xi Chapter's dedication to excellence and community engagement. With its perfect fusion of fashion, flavor, and fellowship, the chapter has laid the foundation for what promises to be a cherished annual tradition—one that celebrates heritage while embracing innovation and elegance.



AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH & WALK

BRO. ANTHONY EDWARDS / RHO XI / FREEPORT, TX

In recognition of Autism Awareness Month, the Brothers of Rho Xi Chapter in Freeport, Texas, participated in the Autism Speaks Walk on August 19 to promote awareness, inclusion, and critical support for families affected by autism.

Over 20 Brothers and their family members joined the Autism Walk. The chapter raised over \$1,700, exceeding expectations and earning a Top 10 fundraising spot in the Houston Area. As a result of its commitment and consistency, Rho Xi was invited to serve on the Autism Walk Committee — a testament to its ongoing impact and leadership.

This was not Rho Xi's first time participating, but it marked the chapter's most successful year to date in both engagement and funds raised. Beyond the numbers, the event held deep personal meaning: several Rho Xi Brothers are fathers of children on the autism spectrum, and this collective effort became a powerful act of brotherhood, unity, and support.

The efforts of Rho Xi demonstrate Omega's enduring commitment to service, advocacy, brotherhood, and community uplift.

"Every step we take together can ignite hope and make a tangible difference."

SIGMA TAU RETURNS TO THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

BRO. DR. GARRY KENNEBREW, JR / SIGMA TAU / EL PASO, TX

“Youth (in the fraternity) should not deter brothers from pursuing roles of leadership and responsibility,”

Bro. Marcus McCoy ΣΤ'20, a proud son of Sigma Tau, was recently elected as the Ninth District's Director of Public Relations at the 88th Ninth District Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. He also serves as Director of Public Relations for the Lone Star State Ques. His election marks a significant milestone, as he is only the second Sigma Tau brother to hold a Ninth District office. The first, Bro. Jethro Hills ΣΤ '64 (Omega Chapter) served as the 11th elected Ninth District Representative from 1983 to 1986.

Bro. Hills was a trailblazer for Sigma Tau and the broader El Paso community. He was the first African American to serve on the El Paso City Council, representing Northeast El Paso from 1987 to 1989. The city honored his legacy by naming a municipal complex after him, one of only two public complexes in El Paso named for Omega men. The other complex commemorates Bro. James "Jim" Crouch ΣΤ '74 (Omega Chapter), another distinguished Sigma Tau brother.

Bro. McCoy embodies a new generation of Sigma Tau members making an impact at the district and international levels. He follows in the footsteps of previous state representatives and MSP chairmen, continuing Sigma Tau's tradition of leadership and service beyond the border. Bro. McCoy recognizes the importance of his achievement and approaches his new role with duty and enthusiasm. He intends to leverage his professional experience and advanced education in public relations to advance Omega's mission, ensure its relevance in the digital age, and spotlight the fraternity's positive influence in our collective communities.

“Youth (in the fraternity) should not deter brothers from pursuing roles of leadership and responsibility,” states Bro. McCoy. He encourages members to immerse themselves in Omega's ideals, as envisioned by the founders, and to seek mentorship from like-minded brothers. His goal is to build upon the strong foundation laid by those before him and to bring to light the many untold stories of Omega's impact and legacy.





BROTHERS OF SIGMA TAU HONORED AT ANNUAL BLACK EL PASO VOICE COMMUNITY AWARDS

BRO. DR. GARRY KENNEBREW, JR / SIGMA TAU / EL PASO, TX

On Saturday, August 16, 2025, the Black El Paso Voice Business and Community Awards spotlighted some of El Paso's most dedicated trailblazers, innovators, and community champions. This annual celebration, which benefits The Black Roundtable and Black El Paso Voice News, continues its long tradition of uplifting and honoring voices that have shaped the region since 1998. Monica Tucker, the founder of Black El Paso Voice, stated, "This event is a testament to the power of community and a chance to invest in El Paso's grand future. From our Juneteenth volunteers to our rising leaders, this celebration honors the people who are shaping our city." Among those recognized were two members of the Sigma Tau Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.: Bro. Curtis L. Smith and Bro. Garry Kennebrew, Jr., MD.

Bro. Kennebrew was honored as the medical professional of the year for his outstanding contributions to healthcare in El Paso. A board-certified emergency medicine physician, Dr. Kennebrew serves across multiple hospital emergency departments, providing critical and often life-saving care in high-pressure environments. With a commitment to promoting wellness and preventative medical care, he models a healthy lifestyle while educating others through teaching, mentorship, and personal practice. Bro. Kennebrew also currently serves as the Chair for the Father Auxiliary of Jack and Jill Inc., El Paso-Southern New Mexico Chapter.

Bro. Smith was awarded the distinguished Changemaker/Torchbearer/Trailblazer Award. Bro. Smith leads a life devoted to service, including but not limited to, currently serving as the Worshipful Master of Pride of the West Lodge No.53, Prince Hall Affiliated, and the Imperial Deputy for the Desert of Texas, comprised of 13 Shrine Temples and 9 Courts, Prince Hall Shriners. He is also the host and moderator of the El Paso Black Roundtable Podcast, amplifying Black voices and community dialogue across the region. In addition to multiple community awards, Bro. Smith was previously recognized by Black El Paso Voice with awards in 2023 as Man of the Year and in 2024 with the Champion of Diversity Award.

These brothers continue to embody our fraternity's cardinal principles and serve as a positive light for Omega in El Paso and the West Texas region.



SIGMA TAU AND VITALANT HOST COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

BRO. DR. GARRY KENNEBREW, JR / SIGMA TAU / EL PASO, TX

On January 11 and July 12, 2025, the brothers of Sigma Tau (ΣΤ), in partnership with Vitalant Blood Center, hosted community blood drives. These events were held at the Barnett Harley Davidson Motorcycle Dealership in El Paso, Texas, one of the largest Harley dealerships in the country. The blood drives brought together individuals from across the city to support local hospitals and blood banks with vital blood donations. The drives saw an impressive turnout. 80 donors in January and 300 donors in July participated and made a meaningful impact on the health and well-being of the El Paso community.

Blood drives like these are essential for ensuring a steady and reliable supply of blood and blood components for patients in need. Blood transfusions play a critical role in treating trauma, supporting surgical procedures, and managing chronic illnesses and cancer. Every donation has the potential to save lives, making community participation in these drives invaluable. Sigma Tau's commitment to organizing these events reflects a deep sense of responsibility and service to our community.

African Americans must donate blood. We are perpetually underrepresented as blood donors for a myriad of reasons, such as lack of access, stigma, and trust in the healthcare system. Certain blood types, such as types O and B, as well as minor antigens, are more common within our communities. These specific donations are essential for treating patients with conditions like sickle cell disease, which disproportionately affects people of African heritage. Donating blood helps ensure a better match for patients with rare blood disorders, improving the effectiveness and compatibility of transfusions.

Sigma Tau and Vitalant Blood Center are proud to continue this tradition of service. By donating blood, individuals not only save lives but also honor the legacy of pioneers like Dr. Charles Drew and contribute to a healthier, stronger community.



TURNING WORDS INTO MEMORIES: OMEGA MEN OFFSET PROM EXPENSES THROUGH WRITING CONTEST

BRO. DR. GARRY KENNEBREW, JR / SIGMA TAU / EL PASO, TX

The Once Upon a Prom Essay Contest, created by Bro. Norman Frasier, Jr. ΣΤ'23, aims to help high school juniors and seniors enhance their prom experience by providing financial support for prom-related expenses. Each year, the contest awards a \$350 prize to the winner. This initiative not only recognizes academic achievement and thoughtful planning for the future but also alleviates the financial burden often associated with this milestone event. The 2025 award was sponsored by Bro. Frasier and Bro. Jamaar Redd ΣΤ '20. Bro. Frasier shared, "I have sponsored this award yearly since at least 2019."

The contest offers more than just assistance with prom costs. By prompting students to reflect on their post-graduation plans and develop contingency strategies, the contest encourages critical thinking, goal setting, and self-expression. Bro. Frasier explained that he wanted to address the decline in literacy and writing skills he observed among high school students. The contest ensures that deserving students, regardless of financial background, can fully participate in the cherished tradition of prom. It fosters a sense of community, motivates students to strive for excellence, and emphasizes the importance of supporting one another.

This year's winner, Cassie Raya, is a junior at Andress High School in Northeast El Paso. She ranks first in her class with a 4.42 GPA and exemplifies academic excellence, leadership, and dedication to her future. Cassie plans to pursue a degree in communications with a minor in journalism, considering top universities such as UT Austin, New York University, and Vanderbilt University. Winning the contest not only recognized her writing talent but also provided her with an unforgettable prom experience that celebrated her achievements and bright future.

Bro. Redd remains committed to helping others in need. He believes that even a small gesture can have a lasting impact. He encourages those in a position to give back, whether financially or otherwise, to do so. As Bro. Redd states, "You can't take it (money) with you once you're gone."

The Once Upon a Prom Essay Contest, championed by these brothers of Sigma Tau, continues to uplift students, promote literacy, and ensure that the joy of prom is accessible to all.

9TH DISTRICT'S THETA ALPHA CHAPTER UPLIFTS SOUTH DALLAS WITH ANNUAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE

BRO. STEVEN D. HARRIS / THETA ALPHA / DALLAS, TX

The Theta Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, is home to residents of the 75215 area code, which represents the historic Fair Park sector of Dallas, Texas. Located at 2413 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., the chapter's education facility lies at the heart of a "goldmine" residential neighborhood with a profound history. With areas such as South Boulevard, Al Lipscomb Way, Malcolm X Boulevard, and many other historical landmarks, South Dallas is a community rich in potential yet overshadowed by poverty, gentrification, and high crime rates.

In the face of these challenges, the Theta Alpha Chapter remains steadfast on the frontlines, dedicated to uplifting and promoting academic achievement and civic growth. Serving Southern Dallas since 1935, through partnerships with local schools, businesses, and churches, the chapter continues to provide critical resources for underserved families and youth.

In 2024, Theta Alpha helped kick off the school year by hosting its Back-to-School Drive at Lincoln High School, serving over 500 families and ensuring students were prepared to succeed on the first day of school. That momentum contributed to Lincoln High earning a "B" rating from the Texas Education Agency—an achievement the chapter proudly celebrates as a shared success.

On Saturday, August 9, 2025, for the 4th consecutive year, the Brothers of Omega Psi Phi, Theta Alpha Chapter, put their "boots on the ground" in Sunny South Dallas to once again host their impactful Back-to-School Backpack and School Supplies Giveaway.

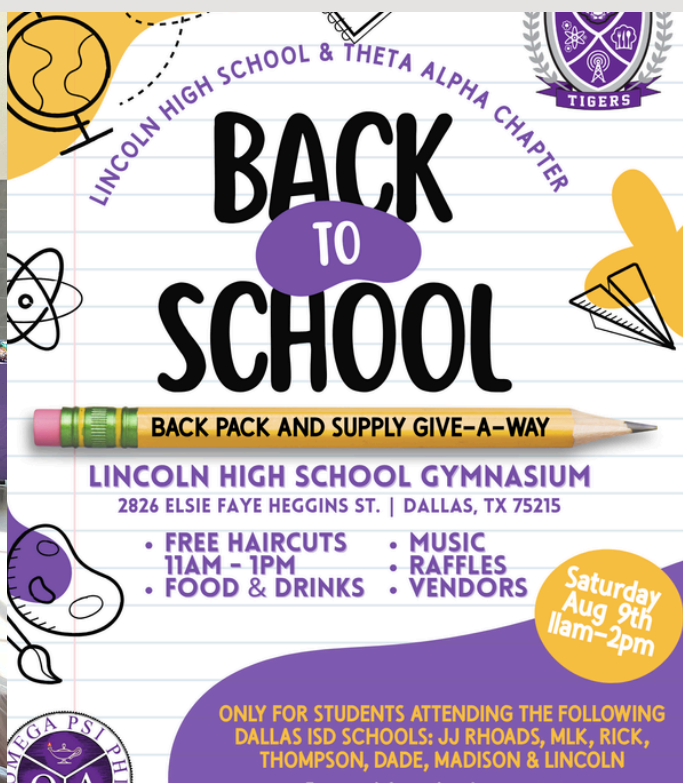
This year's event, held in collaboration with Lincoln High School and Dallas ISD, made an even greater impact:

- Over 1,000 community members and students from across the DFW metroplex participated
- Families received free backpacks, school supplies, laptops, and haircuts.
- Attendees were served hot meals fresh off the grill.
- The event featured voter registration, education, and mobilization efforts, a Carter BloodCare blood drive, and other essential services, generously supported by local vendors and sponsors.

This vibrant, community-centered effort was a true celebration of family, service, and preparation—setting a positive tone for the academic year ahead while closing gaps in educational equity and civic growth. The social action endeavor continues to expand each year, a testament to its lasting impact and strong community support.

Special thanks go to Principal Lance Williams of Lincoln High School and his administration for their continued partnership. Theta Alpha Chapter also recognizes Social Action Committee Chairman Brother Arthur Williams, 1st Vice Basileus Brother Timothy Fitten, II, and the enthusiastically dedicated leaders of the Social Action Committee, whose efforts spearheaded this outstanding initiative. Their group cooperation and unwavering leadership perfectly embody the fraternity's principles.

What a powerful way to begin the school year! Theta Alpha Chapter remains proud and ready to serve, standing as a beacon of hope, unity, and uplift in the South Dallas community.



BRO. CHRISTOPHER LEWIS / THETA ALPHA / DALLAS, TX

The Theta Alpha STEM Academy initiative builds upon the chapter's 90-year legacy in Dallas. The Academy is actively seeking partnerships with local schools and organizations to identify students who might benefit from additional STEM enrichment. Interested students or organizations can contact the Academy at ThetaAlphaSTEMAcademy@gmail.com. For information about upcoming sessions, visit TAFDallas.org or ThetaAlphaChapter.com.





THETA CHI CHAPTER LAUNCHES DYNAMIC FITNESS CHALLENGE TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND FRIENDSHIP

BRO. VIRGIL L. ELKINS / THETA CHI / PRAIRIE VIEW, TX

The Theta Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. has initiated a transformative health campaign focused on improving the physical and mental well-being of its members. Under the forward-thinking leadership of Bro. Virgil Elkins, Jr., Chairman of the Health Initiatives Committee, the chapter has launched a Fitness Challenge aimed at encouraging brothers to take greater responsibility for their personal health outcomes. In his first year at the helm of the committee, Bro. Elkins has not only inherited existing initiatives but has successfully enhanced the participant experience with a renewed energy and strategic focus.

This year's Fitness Challenge is tailored specifically for brothers interested in weight loss and BMI reduction. Participation is voluntary, and as of now, 23 brothers have committed to the program. Bro. Elkins sends biweekly motivational correspondence to all participants. These messages include a wide range of health-promoting content such as workout routines, recipe suggestions, nutrition education, juicing benefits, and guidance on protein smoothies and dieting techniques. The correspondence is designed not only to inform but to inspire consistent action and accountability.

Adding a unique and thoughtful dimension to the challenge, Bro. Elkins introduced an incentive-based scoring system, where participants earn additional points by attending routine medical checkups and monitoring their health through regular visits to their physicians. This creative approach has encouraged brothers to adopt a more holistic perspective on health, emphasizing preventive care alongside physical activity and dietary awareness.

A key aspect of the Health Initiatives Committee's agenda is the integration of mental and emotional health into its programming. In March, committee member Bro. Reginald Pruitt organized and led the highly successful "Bruhz on Bikes" event. During this initiative, brothers cycled an 11-mile route through Houston's historic Third Ward neighborhood. The event provided not only an opportunity for physical exercise but also featured pre- and post-ride health monitoring, including blood pressure screenings and weight assessments. This data-driven approach underscored the physiological benefits of cardiovascular exercise and illuminated the real-time impacts of movement on health markers.



27TH ANNUAL THETA CHI QUENIC: ADVANCING SCHOLARSHIP, BROTHERHOOD, AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

BRO. VIRGIL L. ELKINS / THETA CHI / PRAIRIE VIEW, TX

On Saturday, May 3, 2025, the Theta Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. hosted its highly anticipated 27th Annual Quenic in Houston, Texas. What began nearly three decades ago as a modest community gathering has evolved into a premier event that exemplifies the chapter's enduring commitment to academic excellence, intergenerational fellowship, and transformative community engagement.

The Quenic—an intentional fusion of “que” and “picnic”—has become more than a social tradition; it is a dynamic platform for celebrating student achievement, fostering new and existing friendships, and showcasing the vital role the fraternity plays in the educational and social development of youth across the region.

At the core of the Quenic lies Theta Chi's ever-expanding Scholarship Initiative, which continues to meet the growing financial challenges confronting today's college-bound students. As the cost of tuition and educational expenses continues to escalate nationwide, the chapter's investment in scholarship support has become increasingly critical. This year, Theta Chi awarded more than 15 competitive scholarships to high-achieving students matriculating to prestigious institutions such as Yale University, Vanderbilt University, the University of Texas, Xavier University, and several other renowned universities.

The scholarship selection process, led with precision and integrity by Bro. Marques Collins and Bro. Marion McCray is grounded in a rigorous, metric-based evaluation system. Every applicant undergoes a comprehensive review by the committee to ensure that awards are aligned with the established criteria, thereby reinforcing fairness and academic merit. Bro. Collins aptly noted, “Each application represents a dream in motion. Our responsibility is to ensure that our resources are directed where they will catalyze the greatest impact.”

In this way, the Theta Chi Chapter affirms its reputation not only as a benefactor of financial aid but as a visible and proactive force within the community, championing educational equity and uplifting future leaders. The Quenic offers the broader public a clear and tangible window into the chapter's strategic priorities, values, and long-standing legacy of service.

Beyond the formalities of recognition and scholarship distribution, the Quenic was marked by a vibrant and celebratory atmosphere. Attendees from across Houston and neighboring communities enjoyed an afternoon rich with flavorful food, music, spirited line dancing, and authentic fellowship. The presence of fraternity brothers from across the Houston Area Coalition of Omega Chapters added another layer of unity and fraternity to the occasion, further underscoring the strength of Omega's communal bonds.

As the chapter reflects on the growth and impact of the Quenic, one theme remains consistent: when we invest in our youth, we invest in the sustainability and vitality of our communities. The Theta Chi Chapter remains steadfast in its mission to advance scholarship, cultivate leadership, and build meaningful relationships that transcend generations.

In sum, the 27th Annual Quenic was more than an event—it was a powerful reminder of what is possible when tradition meets purpose, and when brotherhood is lived out in service to others.



PRESERVING SACRED GROUND: THE EVERGREEN NEGRO CEMETERY CLEAN-UP IN HOUSTON'S HISTORIC FIFTH WARD

BRO. VIRGIL L. ELKINS / THETA CHI / PRAIRIE VIEW, TX

In the heart of Houston's historic Fifth Ward lies a hallowed resting place, rich with legacy yet often overlooked by the passage of time—the Evergreen Negro Cemetery. This sacred burial ground, home to African American ancestors dating as far back as the mid-1800s, is more than just a cemetery; it is a living testament to the resilience, sacrifice, and contributions of generations who paved the way for future progress. For a few years, the Theta Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., has faithfully taken on the solemn responsibility of maintaining this site as an ongoing service initiative. Under the dedicated leadership of Social Action Chairs, Bro. Lance Guess and Bro. Danny Logan, the chapter has committed itself to ensuring that the final resting place of these individuals is dignified, respected, and preserved.

Each clean-up effort is a labor of reverence. Chapter members gather to mow the grass, weed-eat the landscape, and remove debris that has settled across the grounds, which span both sides of the street. These tasks, though physically demanding, are undertaken with heartfelt purpose. The site is not merely a cemetery—it is a monument to lives once lived, stories once told, and dreams realized or deferred. Many of those interred were educators, servicemen, doctors, lawyers, and civic leaders whose legacies continue to shape Houston's cultural and historical landscape.

In recent clean-up efforts, local historians were present, engaging in detailed reviews of grave markers and burial records. Their goal: to preserve and document the historical narratives of those buried within the cemetery. This partnership reflects a growing interest in protecting Black historical sites from the threat of erasure. One chapter brother noted, "In a world where our history is being erased, it was amazing to see the gravesite of people who may have made an impact in our lives. Our ancestors deserve to rest in dignity, and it's up to us to make sure their stories are never forgotten."

The significance of this project extends far beyond basic maintenance. It's a reflection of the chapter's deep respect for their heritage and their proactive approach to historical preservation. Many of the deceased may have been the last of their familial line, with no living descendants to advocate for their memory. Others may have played pivotal roles in the fight for freedom and equity—roles that deserve to be acknowledged, researched, and commemorated.

To further this mission, the chapter is exploring a partnership with the African American History Research Center at the Gregory School Campus. This collaboration aims to uncover deeper insights into the individuals buried at Evergreen and the impact they had on Houston's development. Plans are also underway to commission a flag for the cemetery—a symbol of honor and remembrance for those who came before.

Through this initiative, the Theta Chi Chapter continues to demonstrate that community service can be both an act of restoration and a declaration of cultural pride. As the chapter members say, the work may be daunting, but the legacy is worth every effort.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



“New Worship for Israel / A New Omega for the Omega Men”

Ezekiel, Chapter 44-48

Glory Returns/Building of the New Temple

“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was a husband unto them, saith the Lord:

33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (KJV)

Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it.

20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

21 But he spake of the temple of his body.

John 2:19-21(KJV)

BROTHERS, I OPENED WITH A SCRIPTURE FROM JEREMIAH AND JOHN THAT WITNESSES AND CONFIRMS TODAY’S MESSAGE THAT COMES FROM THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL, WITH HIS VISION IN CHAPTERS 44-48 OF A: NEW WORSHIP.

MATTHEW TELLS US, “NO ONE PUTS A PIECE OF UNSHRUNK CLOTH ON AN OLD GARMENT, FOR THE PATCH TEARS AWAY FROM THE GARMENT, AND A WORSE TEAR IS MADE. 17NEITHER IS NEW WINE PUT INTO OLD WINESKINS. IF IT IS, THE SKINS BURST, AND THE WINE IS SPILLED, AND THE SKINS ARE DESTROYED. BUT NEW WINE IS PUT INTO FRESH WINESKINS, AND SO BOTH ARE PRESERVED.” MATTHEW 9:16-17

BROTHERS, AS WE RIDE INTO A DIFFERENT DAY FROM THE PAST OMEGA, THE FINAL CHAPTERS OF THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL, CHAPTERS 44-48, FORM A POWERFUL AND VISIONARY CONCLUSION, FOCUSING ON HOLINESS, RESTORATION, DIVINE ORDER, AND THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE OF OUR HEARTS, MINDS, AND SOULS. CHAPTERS 44-48 SPELL OUT THE SPECIFIC DESIGN AND ORDER OF THE NEW WINESKIN FOR THE NEW WINE THAT CHRIST TEACHES US FROM THE RECORDED SCRIPTURES OF MATTHEW 9:16-17.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



THE OMEGA OF OLD, WHERE THE WOOD STAINS THE LOWER ENTRANCE TO THE BRAIN, AND THE WHIP OF SERVITUDE, AND THE FORCED SLAVERY FOR RESPECT THAT WRITES BLIND LOYALTY ON OUR PAPER BRAIN TO DEVELOP MANHOOD, SCHOLARSHIP, PERSEVERANCE, AND UPLIFT TO MOLD FRIENDSHIP, IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SOUL, IS A DILUTED BELIEF OF THE PAST. SOME MAY ARGUE IT HAS NO STAYING POWER TO FULFILL OUR SACRED CORE VALUES OF OUR CARDINAL PRINCIPLE THAT UPHOLD OUR MOTTO. I AM CONVINCED BY OUR CARDINAL PRINCIPLES AND OUR MOTTO TO BELIEVE THAT CREATING A NEW VESSEL TO POUR A NEW SPIRITUAL WINE INTO IT WOULD BE THE INTERNAL SPIRITUAL WELL IN THE OMEGA MAN THAT WOULD NEVER RUN DRY. I, AS YOUR NINTH DISTRICT CHAPLAIN, CHILD OF OUR LIVING SUPREME BASILEUS OF THE UNIVERSE, GOD THE FATHER AND HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON JESUS CHRIST, SET OUT ON THE PATH WITH A SINCERE HEART'S DESIRE TO INSTILL AND INVITE EVERY OMEGA MAN TO THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST, WHO IS THE LIVING WATER THAT NEVER RUN DRY AND WHERE NO MAN THAT THIRST WOULD NEVER THIRST NO MORE. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT TODAY'S ADVERSARIAL CHALLENGES THAT WORK SO HARD TO DRAW US DOWN WOULD BE OVERCOME BY THOSE PRINCIPLES THAT FLOW LIKE A SPRING WITHIN US, WHICH WILL LIFT US TO THE GREAT GLORY OF THE FATHER.

BOTH THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS SPEAK TO TRANSFORMATION, RENEWAL, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SPIRITUAL ORDER. EVEN THOUGH THEY DO SO IN A DIFFERENT CONTEXT, EZEKIEL'S VISION IS DEEPLY ROOTED IN THE OLD COVENANT AND EXTENDS FORWARD TO A NEW ORDER. AN ORDER OF A PURIFIED PRIESTHOOD, A PURIFIED OMEGA, A LIFE-GIVING TEMPLE, AND A RESTRUCTURED SOCIETY CENTERED ON GOD'S PRESENCE.

EZEKIEL'S VISION CAN BE SEEN AS THE PROPHETIC PRECURSOR TO THE NEW WINESKIN JESUS SPEAKS OF IN MATTHEW. THE RIVER FROM THE TEMPLE IN EZEKIEL CHAPTER 47 SYMBOLIZES THE SPIRIT FLOWING FROM GOD'S PRESENCE, WHICH JESUS FULFILLS IN JOHN 7:38-39 AND ACTS 2. THE NEW WINESKIN IS THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF BELIEVERS, FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT AND NO LONGER BOUND BY THE OLD SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM.

BROTHERS IN OUR FRATERNAL SOCIETY OF OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC., WE OFTEN SPEAK OF HONOR AND ACCESS. WHO MAY ENTER OUR SACRED FOLD OR GATE OF BROTHERHOOD AND FRIENDSHIP? WHO IS WORTHY TO LEAD WITH THE LIGHT, LIFE, AND LOVE OF OUR CARDINAL PRINCIPLES, MANHOOD, SCHOLARSHIP, PERSEVERANCE, AND UPLIFT, THAT REFLECTS OUR MOTTO OF FRIENDSHIP IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SOUL? THESE ARE THE MATERIALS USED FOR THE DIVINE STRUCTURE OF GOD'S NEW TEMPLE AND GOD'S NEW OMEGA.

EZEKIEL 44:1-3 REMINDS US THAT TRUE LEADERSHIP BEGINS WITH REVERENCE. CHRIST, OUR PRINCE, ENTERS FIRST. WE FOLLOW BY LEADING WITH HUMILITY, RECOGNIZING THAT ACCESS TO GREATNESS BEGINS WITH SUBMISSION TO GOD'S PRESENCE.

"THE GATE SHALL BE SHUT; IT SHALL NOT BE OPENED, AND NO ONE SHALL ENTER BY IT. FOR THE LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL, HAS ENTERED BY IT."

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



THE EAST GATE, ONCE CLOSED, BECOMES A SYMBOL OF REVERENCE. IT REMINDS US THAT GOD'S PRESENCE IS SACRED, NOT TO BE APPROACHED CASUALLY. THE PRINCE ALONE MAY SIT THERE POINTING TO CHRIST, OUR ETERNAL KING, WHO MAY ENTER INTO THE HOLY PLACE ON OUR BEHALF.

I WISH I HAD THE TIME FOR A BIBLE STUDY. BUT BEING SHORT ON TIME, LET ME HELP YOU RECALL ANOTHER GATE THAT WAS CLOSED ON US.

GENESIS 3:24 "SO HE DROVE OUT THE MAN; AND HE PLACED CHERUBIM AT THE EAST OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN, AND A FLAMING SWORD WHICH TURNED EVERY WAY, TO GUARD THE WAY TO THE TREE OF LIFE."

YOU MUST ADMIT THERE IS A COMPELLING SYMBOLIC PARALLEL BETWEEN THIS PASSAGE OF GENESIS AND EZEKIEL 44:1-3, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE VIEW IT THROUGH THE LENS OF SACRED SPACE, DIVINE PRESENCE, AND ACCESS TO GOD.

AGAIN, THIS SHOWS THE CONTEXT OF AFTER THE FALL OF HUMANITY, THAT IS BANISHED FROM EDEN, AND ACCESS TO THE TREE OF LIFE IS BLOCKED. THE CHERUBIM AND FLAMING SWORD REPRESENT DIVINE HOLINESS AND THE BARRIER BETWEEN SINFUL HUMANITY AND ETERNAL LIFE. COME, SOMEBODY, RIDE WITH ME FOR A SHORT WHILE.

THE EAST GATE IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT BECOMES A RECURRING MOTIF IN TEMPLE IMAGERY. EZEKIEL'S CONTEXTUAL VISION IS SHOWN AS THE RESTORED TEMPLE, AND THE EASTERN GATE IS CLOSED BECAUSE ONLY GOD HIMSELF ENTERS THROUGH IT. TO EXPOUND, THE CLOSED GATE SIGNIFIES GOD'S HOLINESS AND EXCLUSIVE ACCESS. THIS IS THE GATE OF GOD'S GLORY. WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, BROWN?

ALL I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU IS THAT IN GENESIS, WE WERE EXCLUDED FROM GOD'S PRESENCE. BUT EZEKIEL'S VISION REVEALS THE COMING OF THE GOOD NEWS THAT GOD RETURNS TO DWELL AMONG HIS PEOPLE, BUT ACCESS AT THAT TIME WAS STILL GUARDED, POINTING TO THE NEED FOR A MEDIATOR, AND THAT MEDIATOR, AS WE KNOW HIM, IS JESUS THE CHRIST, OUR LORD AND SAVIOR. THE ONE WHO SEVERED THE VEIL OF SEPARATION FROM THE WAY TO THE TREE OF LIFE BY HIS DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION. THE ONE WHO WAS ABLE TO REOPEN THE GATE BACK TO BEING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD. THE ONE WHO TOOK THE WIND OUT OF THE SALE OF EXCLUSION AND BREATHED INTO IT, INCLUSION. THINK ABOUT IT. I NEED NOT SAY MORE, OMEGA.

EZEKIEL CHAPTER 44:15-31 VISION SHOULD RESONATE WITH US, AS FRATERNAL BROTHERS IN FAITH, WE ARE CALLED TO PRIESTLY LIVING, NOT BY TITLE BUT BY CONDUCT. IF WE TALK THE TALK, WE MUST WALK THE WALK. OUR FRATERNITY IS NOT JUST A SOCIAL CLUB BUT A SACRED ORDER ORDAINED BY GOD THROUGH THE VISION OF OUR FOUNDING FATHERS, ERNEST E. JUST, BISHOP EDGAR A. LOVE, OSCAR J. COOPER, AND FRANK COLEMAN. WE LIVE A DISTINGUISHED AND SACRED LIFE. WE SHOULD BE MEN WHO ARE THE MODEL OF HOLINESS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHO CAN STAND IN THE GAP FOR OTHERS WHO ARE LACKING AND TEACH THEM BY THE EXAMPLE OF OUR WALK.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



EZEKIEL CHAPTER 45-46 FURTHER DEFINES IN EZEKIEL'S VISION GOD'S DIVINE STRUCTURE. THE LATE, RENOWNED, GREAT ARCHITECT, FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT, DESIGNED A PHILOSOPHY KNOWN AS ORGANIC ARCHITECTURE. HE CHALLENGED THE NOTION THAT FORM AND FUNCTION WERE SEPARATE ENTITIES BY HIS PHILOSOPHY THAT FORM AND FUNCTION ARE THE SAME, "FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION. HE BELIEVED THAT THE PURPOSE OF A BUILDING SHOULD NATURALLY DICTATE AND REFLECT ITS FORM, AND THAT THE TWO SHOULD BE INSEPARABLE. EZEKIEL'S VISION PARALLELS THAT SAME DOCTRINE WITH THE BUILDING OF THE NEW TEMPLE, WITH DIVINE ORDER OF FORM FOLLOWING FUNCTION, AND FUNCTION BEING JUSTICE, RIGHTEOUSNESS, HOLINESS, AND INTEGRITY. GOD ESTABLISHES JUSTICE AND EQUITY IN HIS RESTORED KINGDOM. HE PROVIDES FOR HIS PRINCE DIVINE PROVISION AND INTEGRITY IN LEADERSHIP. WE SHOULD BE LIVING WITH INTEGRITY IN ALL OF OUR DEALINGS, WITH TRUST IN GOD AND THE UNDERSTANDING THAT WE DO NOT NEED TO COMPROMISE OUR INTEGRITY IN LEADING. HE WILL PROVIDE FOR US SO WE CAN BE ABOVE REPROACH.

IN OUR BELOVED FRATERNITY, FAIRNESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MATTER. IT IS THE FUNCTION IN OUR LIVES THAT FORMS HIS HOLY TEMPLE WITHIN US. GOD'S VISION INCLUDES HONEST MEASURES AND A REMINDER THAT BROTHERHOOD THRIVES ON TRUST IN HIM AND NOT TAKING FROM OTHERS.

EZEKIEL 47 1-12 PROVIDES HERE IN THESE PASSAGES A MOST PROFOUND AND SYMBOLIC VISUAL PRESENTATION OF A RIVER FLOWING FROM THE TEMPLE, BRINGING LIFE, HEALING, AND ABUNDANCE WHEREVER IT GOES. THE RIVER ORIGINATES FROM THE SANCTUARY, SYMBOLIZING THAT LIFE AND HEALING FLOW FROM GOD'S PRESENCE. WE SHOULD HAVE THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD EMBEDDED IN US. AND IT ALSO ECHOES EDEN, GENESIS 2:8 AND 3:34, OUTLINING THE RETURN OF GOD'S GLORY AS SEEN IN EZEKIEL'S VISION IN CHAPTER 43:1-5. WE, AS OMEGA MEN, SHOULD BE REFLECTING GOD'S GLORY.

ALSO, TAKE NOTE, MY BROTHERS, THAT VS. 3 AND 4 OF CHAPTER 47 MEASURE THE DEPTH OF THE WATER, WHICH SUGGESTS A DEEPENING EXPERIENCE OF GOD'S SPIRIT FROM OUR INITIAL ENCOUNTER TO OUR FULL SURRENDER. WE WILL FIND IT WITH AN OVERWHELMING ABUNDANCE OF DIVINE LIFE. THIS REMINDS ME OF THE STORY OF JESUS AND THE WOMAN AT THE WELL, WHEN HE TELLS HER:

"WHOSOEVER DRINKETH OF THE WATER THAT I SHALL GIVE HIM SHALL NEVER THIRST; BUT THE WATER THAT I SHALL GIVE HIM SHALL BE IN HIM A WELL OF WATER SPRINGING UP INTO EVERLASTING LIFE." JOHN 4:14

BROTHERS, WE SHOULD BE AT LEAST ANKLE DEEP IF NOT FULLY IMMERSED IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD THAT FLOWS THROUGH US LIKE A WELL OR ENDLESS SPRING WATER THAT HEALS OTHERS AND BEARS FRUIT THAT NOURISHES AND STRENGTHENS. WE SHOULD BE LIFE GIVERS AND NOT LIFE TAKERS OF OUR BROTHERS AND OTHERS. IF WE ARE NOT BEING LIFE GIVERS, THEN WE ARE A DRY WELL.

EZEKIEL CHAPTER 48 GIVES THE FINAL VISION OF A CITY NAMED FOR GOD'S PRESENCE. LET OUR FRATERNITY OF OMEGA MEN BE KNOWN NOT JUST FOR EXCELLENCE OR TRADITION, BUT FOR THE "LORD IS THERE." MAY OUR GATHERING, OUR SERVICE, OUR BROTHERHOOD, OUR FELLOWSHIP, ONE WITH ANOTHER AND OTHERS, ALWAYS REFLECT HIS GLORY.

IN CONCLUSION, WE FIND EZEKIEL'S VISION IS NOT JUST ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE BUT A BLUEPRINT FOR A SPIRITUAL FRATERNITY. LET US KEEP THE GATES OF HONOR, PRIESTS OF INTEGRITY, MEN OF JUSTICE, RIVERS OF HEALING, AND CITIES OF PRESENCE. LET OUR NAME, OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC., REPRESENT "THE LORD IS THERE."

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU AND YOURS IS MY PRAYER; AND ALWAYS GO WITH GOD!

YOUR BROTHER IN CHRIST JESUS AND YOUR FRIEND IN SERVICE TO OMEGA,
BROTHER MINISTER ERNEST E. BROWN II, NINTH DISTRICT CHAPLAIN

GOD BLESS OUR BELOVED OMEGA!

OMEGA CHAPTER

FEBRUARY 2025

**BROTHER SEAN WALLACE
2023 LAMBDA ALPHA/LAMBDA ALPHA
OMEGA CHAPTER FEBRUARY 20, 2025**

MARCH 2025

**BROTHER EDWARD J. MOORE
1971 RHO OMICRON/GAMMA DELTA CHARTER MEMBER/PSI ALPHA
OMEGA CHAPTER MARCH 17, 2025**

APRIL 2025

**BROTHER MELVIN SANDERS
1978 LAMBDA ALPHA/LAMBDA ALPHA
OMEGA CHAPTER APRIL 20, 2025**

**BROTHER STEVEN MITCHELL SR.
1986 RHO THETA/THETA CHI
OMEGA CHAPTER APRIL 20, 2025**

MAY 2025

**BROTHER KENNETH WOODS
1978 SIGMA OMICRON/PSI ALPHA
OMEGA CHAPTER MAY 8, 2025**

**BROTHER GREGORY MCCRIMMON
2009 SIGMA GAMMA GAMMA/THETA CHI
OMEGA CHAPTER MAY 10, 2025**

**BROTHER BISHOP ALLEN DEYNARD RICHARDSON
2000 PI SIGMA/MU GAMMA
OMEGA CHAPTER MAY 12, 2025**

**BROTHER EDDIE KELLEY
1978 TAU EPSILON/ETA KAPPA KAPPA
OMEGA CHAPTER MAY 22, 2025**

OMEGA CHAPTER

BROTHER CHARLES J. FINCHER
1956 XI PSI/THETA ALPHA
OMEGA CHAPTER MAY 24, 2025

BROTHER BRIAN LAMAAR BRADSHAW
2015 BETA RHO/ETA LAMBDA LAMBDA
OMEGA CHAPTER MAY 25, 2025

JUNE 2025

BROTHER JAMES LAWSON HOWARD
1971 PSI ALPHA/PSI ALPHA
OMEGA CHAPTER JUNE 4, 2025

BROTHER JAKARTE EDWARDS
2009 RHO XI/RHO XI
OMEGA CHAPTER JUNE 7, 2025

JULY 2025

BROTHER TRUMAN HILDRETH
1959 TAU SIGMA/KAPPA CHI
OMEGA CHAPTER JULY 13, 2025

BROTHER CHIEF JUDGE (RETIRED) CHARLES JONES
1981 PSI ALPHA/RHO PHI
OMEGA CHAPTER JULY 14, 2025

BROTHER JAMES "SIP" GRIFFIN
1981 PSI ALPHA/PSI ALPHA
OMEGA CHAPTER JULY 17, 2025

BROTHER CHARLES COLEMAN
1972 ETA THETA/SIGMA OMICRON
OMEGA CHAPTER JULY 31, 2025

AUGUST 2025

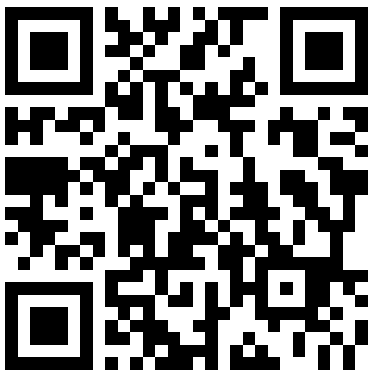
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1971 PSI ALPHA/PSI NU
OMEGA CHAPTER AUGUST 11, 2025

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