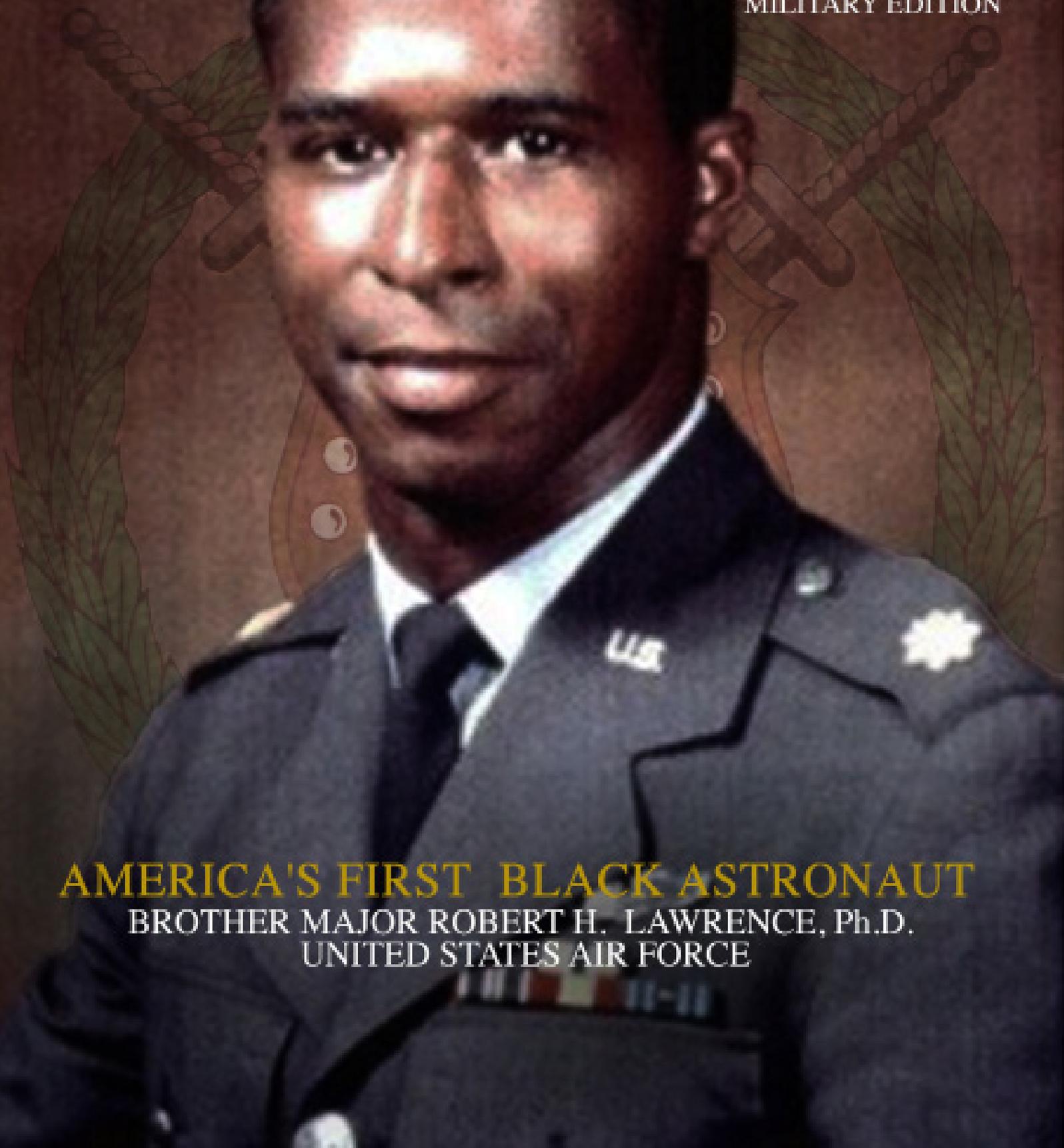


# ORACLE

FALL 2017  
MILITARY EDITION



**AMERICA'S FIRST BLACK ASTRONAUT**  
BROTHER MAJOR ROBERT H. LAWRENCE, Ph.D.  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



U.S. Army's Lt. General Brother William E. "Kip" Ward was the Commander, U.S. Africa Command. Bro. Ward is one of Omega's highest ranking officers in the Fraternity's history.

Grand Basileus Message <i>Bro. Antonio F. Knox, Sr.</i>	7
America's First Black Astronaut <i>Bro. Major Robert H. Lawrence</i>	10
Military Hall of Honor <i>Omega Psi Phi's Military Men</i>	12
Omega's War Chapter <i>By Bro. Jonathan A. Matthews</i>	14
Military Profiles <i>Brothers Jackson and Jones</i>	16
Military and Sports <i>Brothers Black and Simmons</i>	20
Leadership Conference 2017 <i>Cincinnati, Ohio</i>	24

## DEPARTMENTS

Congressional Black Caucus-30
Legal News-32
Omega's Office of Compliance-34
Lifetime Achievement Award-36
Undergraduate News-38
District News-39
Omega Chapter-56

## The Oracle

OMEGA PSI PHI  
FRATERNITY, INC.  
International  
Headquarters

3951 Snapfinger  
Parkway  
Decatur, GA 30035  
404-284-5533

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Attn: Grand KRS  
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Decatur, GA 30035

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comments, and information to  
**Bro. M. Brown, Editor of The Oracle**  
[editortotheoracle@oppf.org](mailto:editortotheoracle@oppf.org)

## ORACLE COVER DESIGN

By

*Bro. Haythem Lafhaj*  
*Kappa Psi Graduate Chapter*

*IHQ Website Editor*  
*Brother Quinest Bishop*

## THE ORACLE Editorial Board

### *International Editor of The Oracle*

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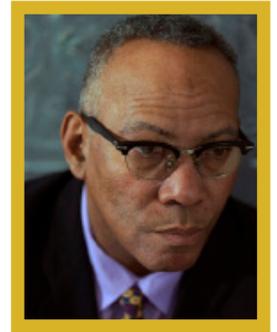
Brother Kenneth Barnes

**40th Grand Basileus**

**Brother Antonio F. Knox, Sr.**

## EDITOR'S NOTES

In this issue we pay tribute to the Brothers of Omega who have served and are still serving in the United States Armed Forces. The Military Edition also celebrates Veteran's Day.



Our cover highlights the historical importance of Omega's Brother Robert H. Lawrence, Ph.D., an Air Force Major who was selected as the first African American astronaut. Unfortunately, Brother Dr. Lawrence was killed in an airplane crash in 1967. In later years, Omega Psi Phi members would follow in the footsteps of Brother Lawrence and also become astronauts.

Other features include Vietnam veteran Brother Oliver S. Jackson, Captain, Army (Ret.) and Negro and Major League pitcher Brother Joe Black who served in the Army. Brother Jonathan A. Matthews, a member of the Fraternity's International History & Archives Committee provides the brotherhood with a detailed story about Omega's military roots in his article entitled "War Chapter."

In the District News sections there are also several stories about Brothers who served with honor from different branches of the service. Some of these stories include "Courage Under Fire," a profile about U.S. Navy Captain Brother Sidney Holmes (Ret); Vice Admiral Manson K. Brown, U.S. Coast Guard, (Ret.), Brother Charles W. Sears, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.) and a story entitled "An Omega Endures Major Injuries," featuring Army Chief Warrant Officer, Brother Tawan Williamson.

FIETTS,

Brother Milbert O. Brown, Jr.  
International Editor of The Oracle

Email: [editortotheoracle@opff.org](mailto:editortotheoracle@opff.org)

# FOUNDERS of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



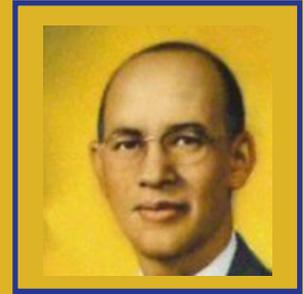
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1883-1941



**FOUNDER**  
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1888-1972



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1890-1967



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1891-1974

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Cody Charles  
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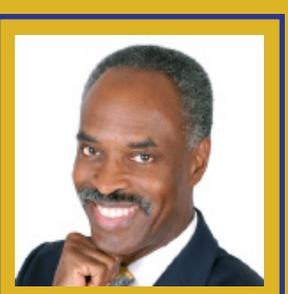
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Grand Counselor



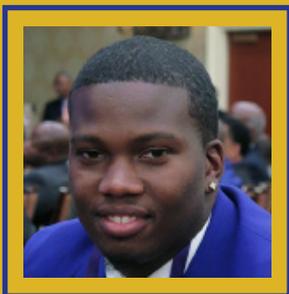
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Undergraduate Rep.



Dr. Andrew A. Ray  
Immediate Past  
Grand Basileus

# District Representatives



**Francois Fils-Aime**  
1st District  
Representative  
1stDistrictDR@oppf.org



**Sherman Charles**  
2nd District  
Representative  
2ndDistrictDR@oppf.org



**Kevin Brown**  
3rd District  
Representative  
3rdDistrictDR@oppf.org



**Bobby Robinson**  
4th District  
Representative  
4thDistrictDR@oppf.org



**Bryan K. White,**  
5th District  
Representative  
5thDistrictDR@oppf.org



**Howard Jackson**  
6th District  
Representative  
6thDistrictDR@oppf.org



**James H. Cistrunk**  
7th District  
Representative  
7thDistrictDR@oppf.org



**James Ball**  
8th District  
Representative  
8thDistrictDR@oppf.org



**Kenneth Terrell**  
9th District  
Representative  
9thDistrictDR@oppf.org



**Darryl L. Jones**  
10th District  
Representative  
10thDistrictDR@oppf.org



**James Walker**  
12th District  
Representative  
12thDistrictDR@oppf.org



**Dr. Delon Brennen**  
13th District  
Representative  
13thDistrictDR@oppf.org

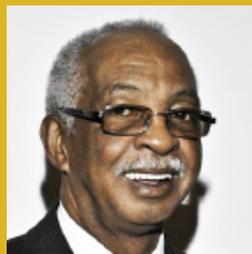
# Omega's Past Grand Basilei



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30th Grand Basileus



**Burnel E. Coulon**  
31th Grand Basileus



**Dr. C. Tyrone Gilmore**  
34th Grand Basileus



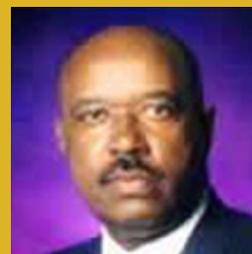
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**Lloyd J. Jordan, Esq.**  
36th Grand Basileus



**Dr. George H. Grace**  
37th Grand Basileus



**Warren G. Lee, Jr.**  
38th Grand Basileus

## Contact information for Grand Officers

Antonio F. Knox, Sr.  
Grand Basileus  
GrandBasileus@oppf.org

Dr. David Marion  
First Vice Grand Basileus  
1stViceGrandBasileus  
@oppf.org

Cody Charles  
2nd Vice Grand Basileus  
2ndViceGrandBaileus  
@oppf.org

Kenneth Rodgers,  
Grand Keeper of  
Records & Seal  
GrandKRS@oppf.org

Daniel B. Jones, Sr.  
Grand Keeper of Finance  
GrandKF@oppf.org

Carlton Randolph  
Undergraduate Rep.

D. Michael Lyles, Esq.  
Grand Counselor  
GrandCounselor  
@oppf.org

Rev. Dr. Staccato Powell  
Grand Chaplain  
GrandChaplain  
@oppf.org,

Dr. Terrence M. Augillard  
Grand Marshal  
grandmarshal@oppf.org

Dr. Andrew Ray  
Immediate Past (39th)  
Grand Basileus  
docray20@frontiernet.net

Davasia Jones  
Undergraduate Rep.

Timothy Taylor  
Undergraduate Rep.

Dr. Edward J. Braynon, Jr.  
30th Grand Basileus

Burnel E. Coulon,  
31st Grand Basileus  
2330@sbcglobal.net

Dr. C. Tyrone Gilmore, Sr.  
34th Grand Basileus  
tgilmore1@charter.net

Dr. Dorsey C. Miller  
35th Grand Basileus  
dcma@bellsouth.net

Lloyd J. Jordan, Esq.  
36th Grand Basileus  
lawque@msn.com

Dr. George H. Grace,  
37th Grand Basileus  
omegagrace@aol.com

Warren G. Lee, Jr. 38th  
Grand Basileus  
Omegawarrenlee  
@oppf.org.



Founders: Frank Coleman, Oscar J. Cooper, Ernest E. Just, Edgar A. Love

## Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

3951 Snapfinger Parkway Decatur, GA 30035

Telephone: (404) 284-5533 Fax: (404) 284-0333

[www.oppf.org](http://www.oppf.org)



Tony Knox, 40th Grand Basileus

I Give Honor to God, My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To the Men of Omega, I pray that you and your families are in the best of God's loving care. I personally invite you to join us on the Omega Corporate and Collective Prayer Call, Monday through Friday mornings at 6:30 a.m. EST, led by Rev. Dr. Staccato Powell, Grand Chaplain and Bishop of the Western Episcopal District of the AME Zion Church and the District Chaplains. Please dial 712-775-7031 and enter pin 674166340#. We look forward to your great participation.

Brothers I thank you for allowing me to serve as the 40<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus! Working "Together As One" has allowed us to have greater impact on our respective communities; it takes all of us. I am thankful for the tireless and significant leadership of our Grand Officers and the District Representatives that are working to manage their respective Districts. I am very proud of the hard work and the commitment to our mantra of always putting the communities first and leaving them better than we found them. We are facing some very challenging times with the appearance that time has been turned back to the days of Jim Crow, pre-civil rights and pre-voting rights days; however, we understand perseverance and we will continue to build bridges to a better way of life. We will work harder to mentor our young boys and to support our young girls to ensure that all of our children will have the chance to live to their full potential. We will continue our focus on programs that are making a difference including our Fatherhood Initiative, Big Brothers Big Sisters and other mentoring programs.

During these challenging times, it will require us to work together collectively and continue building partnerships with the Divine Nine, 100 Black Men, NAACP, Urban League and other organizations that share our common goals of strengthening, educating and Uplifting our communities progressively forward. The Divine Nine Legislative Day in North Carolina, a Battleground state, has been discussed and shared around the country as the model to use when seeking support on legislative issues.

Congratulations to Brother Dr. David Marion on leading us to another successful Leadership Conference and thanks to Brother Bobby Roberson, Fourth District Representative, Brother Stan Williams, Marshall, and Brothers of the Fourth District for being great hosts. Many thanks to Brother Judge Ron Adrian, Brother Bob Fairchild, Brother Thabiti Boone, Brother Quintest Bishop, Brother John Howard and members of the Stop the Violence Committee for the successful Twitter Chat, "Omegas Against Violence." Brothers there were many great events that all of Omega can be proud of and I thank you for those efforts.

As I close, I must say that I am both proud and thankful for the way that we have rallied and will continue to work to help those impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. There are Brothers in Houston that went beyond the call of duty in their great efforts to help others. There are some that turned down financial assistance, instead passing it to others that they felt needed it more. That is true Brotherhood and represents the strong tenets of Omega Men that we can all be proud of. They will be recognized later. There were great testimonies in Florida and Georgia and many testimonies on the Islands as Brothers in the 13<sup>th</sup> District continue to be resilient and work through some of the toughest situations that one can imagine. I am proud of Brother Kenneth Barnes, Executive Director and the IHQ team for the way they have worked tirelessly through the Hurricanes. I thank Brother Al Rozier and Omega Charities, and Brother Kenny Brown and Omega Life Membership for their help as well.

My Brothers, We Are One! May God Bless the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Fraternally,

40<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus

Since its humble beginnings on the Howard University campus, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity continues to be on the front line, leveraging its power, influence and more than 100 years of commitment to the uplift of our people and our communities.

*Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was founded on November 17, 1911, at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and is the first international fraternal organization to be founded on the campus of a historically black college.*

Founders: Frank Coleman, Oscar J. Cooper, Ernest E. Just,  
Edgar A. Love



**Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**  
INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
3951 Snapfinger Parkway Decatur, GA 30035  
Telephone: (404) 284-5533 Fax: (404) 284-0333  
[www.oppf.org](http://www.oppf.org)



Dr. David Marion,  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Grand Basileus  
[1stvicegrandbasileus@oppf.org](mailto:1stvicegrandbasileus@oppf.org)

Greetings Brothers,

It is indeed a pleasure to greet you in the mighty spirit of Omega!

As we enter a new fiscal year, Omega Men, I challenge you to live each day with purpose and commit to being better men and brothers for yourselves and one another. We must exercise leadership and continue to be the beacon of change to lead our communities to prosperity. We are living through difficult and uncertain times where we must walk in our truths and live every moment contributing to the betterment of ourselves and the world in which we live. Stand for what is right in time of turmoil while lending a helping hand. Today, there are a range of challenges that we are experiencing from social injustice to violence to uncertainty about healthcare that have affected each and every one of us. All of these problems are severe and disheartening but none of them are unsolvable. It is our responsibility to get into our communities that are in need and pour into them what we have learned and received from this brotherhood. As we take on each day with stride, let us be like our good brother, Colonel Charles Young, and be remembered as men of unique courage and inspiration.

This year we will honor our very own, Brother Major Robert H. Lawrence Jr., America's first black astronaut whose life and promising career were cut short in a flight accident in 1967. As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his untimely death, let us remember the legacy of a man who has often been forgotten. Like most Americans, I've always been awed by our men and women in uniform and inspired by the sacrifices they make for our country. To the many men and women who have made this commitment, I thank each of you. Thank you for your service and to everyone who strives to make the United States a better, more compassionate nation.

Brothers, thank you for your dedication and hard work in enhancing the lives of all through our Cardinal Principles: Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. Your contributions will help Omega to prosper and flourish as we lead and uplift our communities.

There is much work to be done and with your continual efforts toward fulfilling the vision of our beloved Founders, God will see us through!

May God continue to bless our worthy endeavors!

Fraternally,

David Marion, Ph.D.  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Grand Basileus  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

# So You Want to Start a Business

The US Census Bureau reports that the number of African-American owned-businesses rose more than 34 percent between 2007 and 2012, increasing from 1.9 million to 2.6 million. AARP works with the US Small Business Administration (SBA) to help new and aspiring entrepreneurs who are age 50+ get the information and resources they need to launch a business.

Our joint effort with SBA includes live workshops, webinars, and other events. Together with SBA, we help to connect aspiring small business owners to counselors, advisors, and mentors.

If you are considering starting a small business, here are some of the questions the SBA says are important to consider:

- Why are you starting a business?
- Who is your ideal customer?
- What products or services will you offer and how will that differ from others?
- Will you spend the needed time and money to get started?
- Do you understand how much money you will need and whether you will need a loan?
- How many employees and what kind of suppliers will you need?
- How long before your products or services are available?
- How long will it take to make a profit?
- Who is your competition?
- How should you price your product?
- How will you manage your business?
- How will you advertise?

•Do you know how to set up the proper legal structure, what taxes you will have to pay, and the kind of insurance you will need?

Lee Baker, President of AARP Georgia and the first African-American to serve on the National Board of Directors of the Financial Planning Association, points to another key element in starting and succeeding as an entrepreneur: making and keeping a clear distinction between your personal budget and your business budget. It is important to carve out reserves for both those pockets, he notes.

He also emphasizes the cyclical nature of cash flow in a small business and the consequent need to be judicious in spending. It is important to have the kind of cushion that will enable you to withstand a stretch in which little or nothing is coming in.

Mr. Baker makes another important point that needs to be taken into account from the beginning: start with the end in mind. In other words, as you are creating a business, consider how it fits into your financial and life goals, when you want to be in position where working is optional, and whether at some point you would want to sell your business or perhaps keep it in the family, if possible.

To learn more, go to: [aarp.org/startabusiness](http://aarp.org/startabusiness). For more information on AARP's commitment and outreach to the African-American community, go to [aarp.org/blackcommunity](http://aarp.org/blackcommunity).

Jim Taylor, Vice President,  
Multicultural Leadership, AARP



# America's First Black

# Astronaut

*Brother Major Robert H. Lawrence, Ph.D.*

In June 1967, an Omega man entered the history books as America's first Black astronaut. U.S. Air Force Major Robert H. Lawrence, Jr., was selected into the Manned Orbital Laboratory (MOL) program. Earlier that year, Brother Lawrence had completed the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards AFB, California.

According to USAF pilot Ed Dwight in a 1985 *Ebony Magazine* interview, he was originally to become the first Black astronaut, but that changed after the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Brother Lawrence was handpicked for the MOL program by the new U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Robert H. Lawrence rose from humble beginnings. He was born on October 2, 1935, in Chicago. At the age of 16, he graduated in the top 10 percent from Englewood High School in 1952. At the age of 20, he graduated from Bradley University with a B.S. degree in Chemistry. While at Bradley, he distinguished himself as Cadet Commander in the Air Force ROTC. During his time at Bradley University, he was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., through Xi Epsilon Chapter. Bro. Lawrence also received a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Ohio State University in 1965.

Over the next ten years, Major Lawrence accrued over 2,500 hours of flight time. He served as a pilot instructor for the German Air Force. Unfortunately, while conducting

pilot training in the Lockheed F-104 Starfighter, the trainee ejected, but Major Lawrence was killed in the crash. Brother Lawrence received the Purple Heart posthumously leaving a wife, Barbara and son Tracey.

The Florida Statewide Omega Organization of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., partnered with the Astronauts Memorial Foundation in hosting a 50th year Memorial Tribute to honor Brother Lawrence.

The December 8, 2017 ceremony was held at the Center for Space Education located at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. Brother Charles F. Bolden, Jr., Major General, USMC (Ret.) a former NASA Administrator, and NASA astronaut was the event's featured speaker.

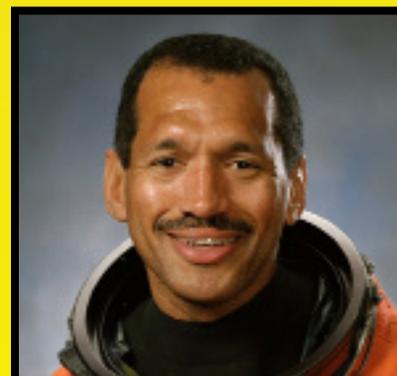
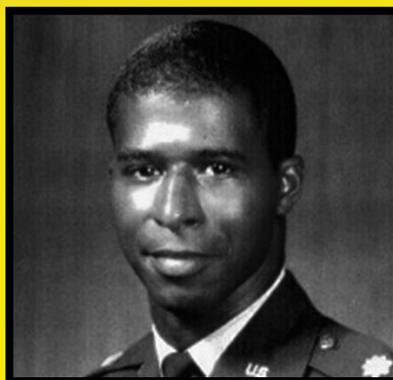
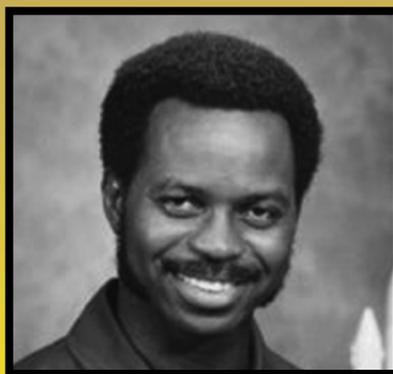
At the Kennedy Space Center, Major Lawrence's name was inscribed on the Space Mirror Memorial in 1997. The Memorial was dedicated to honor all fallen astronauts who lost their lives on space missions or in training.

On December 8, 1967, Brother Major Lawrence entered Omega Chapter. After the MOL program was cancelled the astronauts were transferred to the National Aeronautics Space Administrator (NASA) program. Later, other Omega men flew on the Space Shuttle. Some of the early 1978 NASA appointees were Omega men.



*Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Major Robert H. Lawrence, Ph.D., United States Air Force pilot. Photograph Life Magazine/USAF.*

They would be part of NASA's future Space Shuttle programs. The Omega members who became astronauts included **Bro. Ronald McNair, Ph.D.**, a civilian physicist who was killed in the 1986 Challenger explosion and **Bro. Frederick Gregory**, Colonel, USAF (Ret). Also included was **Bro. Charles F. Bolden, Jr.**, Major General, USMC (Ret). He was the pilot and commander in four missions in the 1980s and early 1990s. Bro. Bolden later also served as the Administrator of NASA.



### PHOTOGRAPHS

*TOP/Left: Bro. McNair  
TOP/Right: Bro. Gregory*

*BOTTOM/Left: Bro. Lawrence  
BOTTOM/Right: Bro. Bolden*

# Hall of Honor

## Omega Psi Phi's Military Men



Brothers (L to R): Army Lt. Frank Coleman, Founder; Lt. Colonel Bulter Redd, USAF (Ret.); Colonel Dan Fagan, USAF (Ret.), and Army Chaplain, Egdar Love, Founder. Below: Bro. Colonel George Roberts, USAF (Ret.)

O

mega Psi Phi Fraternity's George "Spanky" Roberts was part of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, the first fighter squadron of the Tuskegee Airmen to see combat in World War II. Bro. Roberts would become the Commander of the squadron after Colonel Benjamin

O. Davis, Jr., was promoted as the Commander of the 332th Fighter Group. Davis said that Roberts was a solid pilot and officer.

Brother Roberts was in the first class of aviation cadets to enter the Tuskegee Airmen program in 1941. By the end of WWII, he had flown more than 100 missions. He would later become the Commander of the 332th Fighter Group. In 1950, he would become the first African-American to command an integrated unit in the Air Force. Colonel Roberts retired from the United States Air Force in 1968. In the Tuskegee Airmen movie, *Red Tails*, actor Cuba Gooding, Jr.'s character played Brother Roberts.

George Roberts entered West Virginia State College in 1934 at age 15. The next year he was initiated into the Omega through Theta Psi Chapter. The Life Member entered Omega Chapter in 1984.



# From Gold Bars to Silver Stars

Several Omega men were commissioned through their Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)'s ROTC programs.

**Bro. Dr. Marvin C. Brown, Sr., Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.)** was

commissioned through Central State University's program in 1984. He was a member of the National Society of Pershing Rifles. Bro. Brown was initiated into Omega through "The Grand and the Glorious," Eta Gamma Chapter in 1982. Colonel Brown first served in the 1st Cavalry Division, Ft. Hood, TX. Brown earned the Army-Airborne Parachutist Badge, and the Army Commendation Medal. The Gary, IN native also served in South Carolina, Hawaii, and Maryland. After his retirement, he earned a doctorate degree in Pastoral Counseling. The Life Member is active with Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter.



Also, Central State's Marauder Battalion is the first and oldest Army ROTC battalion at a HBCU. Lt. Colonel Charles Young was the Professor Military Science for Wilberforce College as Central State shared the program as part of an integrated battalion in the late 1890s.

**Bro. Conrado B. Morgan, Colonel, U. S. Army (Ret.)** was commissioned through Norfolk State University's Army ROTC program. The Portsmouth, VA

native was also inducted into the program's Hall of Fame. Morgan was initiated into Omega through Norfolk State's Pi Gamma Chapter in 1982. Brother Morgan served in the first Iraq War as a Company Commander in Somalia's Black Hawk Down mission. The Bronze Star recipient also served in the 2nd Iraq War as a Battalion Commander.

The Life Member is the current Third District's First Vice District Representative. After retirement, Bro. Morgan became the President of Conrado's International, Inc.



**Brother Colonel Morgan**



**Bro. S. Earl Wilson, Lt. Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Ret.)** was initiated into Omega through Beta Epsilon Chapter, Knoxville College. He was commissioned through the University of Tennessee' AFROTC program which was a shared city-wide program. Wilson has had duties in several locations including Korea. The Tuscaloosa, AL native served in several leadership positions in the Air Force. After retirement in 2000, Bro. Wilson served as the Fraternity's Executive Director. He is a member with Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter and serves as the Co-Chairman for the International Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative Committee.

## *Ft. Des Moines Site of WWI's Black Officer Training*

# Omega's War Chapter

One Hundred Years ago, on April 2, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson went before a joint session of Congress requesting a declaration of war against Germany. Within the next few days, Congress approved Wilson's declaration entering the United States in its first major military engagement since the Civil War, World War I.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity would prove to be a catalyst for leadership and courage. At the time of this effort, Omega was in its infancy at five years old. At the end of 1916, the membership roll of the Fraternity was approximately 135 Brothers across its two Chapters and its third Chapter, Gamma, was just organized in Boston on December 13, 1916, by Brothers from Alpha and Beta Chapters.

Many African Americans saw the war as an opportunity to advance civil rights through contrasting their loyalty, service, and bravery in military service against the racism, segregation and unjust environment at home. Anticipating war in 1916 a movement began by several Black college Presidents and advanced by Dr. Joel Spingarn for the admission of African Americans to officer training camps (Chase, 1978).

Recognizing that an integrated officer training camp would never be approved, Spingarn, a white professor of literature at Columbia and one of the founders of the NAACP, asked President Wilson and the War Department in December 1916 for a Black officer training camp. A month later, Spingarn received a letter from General Leonard Wood, commander of the Eastern Department of the Army, assuring him that an officer training camp would be established if he could secure 200 African American collegiate men or those with degrees (Scott, 1919, p. 83).

On February 15, 1917, Spingarn wrote an open letter to all Black newspapers, colleges and universities announcing the segregated officer training camp, the qualifications required and

the number of applicants needed (200) for the establishment of the camp (Spingarn, 1919).

On May 1, 1917, Howard University's president, deans, and 32 students met to organize and contribute money for a centralized entity to advance the cause of a black officer training camp. So concerned with this effort, the president gave a leave of absence for those 32 students involved. This organization was known as the Central Committee of Negro College Men.

The committee issued position papers, press releases and met with members of Congress and the War Department. On May 19, 1917, the Secretary of War, Newton D. Baker, publicly announced that an officer training camp for 1,250 African American men would be established at Ft. Des Moines, Iowa, to commence on June 15 for three months (Scott, 1919, p. 90).

While location and time were set for the officer training camp, no commanding officer was set. The Committee made a strong recommendation that a black soldier should command this regiment. The choice advanced by the committee was Omega's Lt. Col. Charles Young. Colonel Young was elected as an honorary member on February 28, 1912. At the start of the War, Brother Young was the highest ranking African American in the military being promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in September 1916.

Before the start of camp, the War Department changed its age criteria for acceptance into Ft. Des Moines. Initially, the minimum age was 18. The vast majority of applications collected from Black college men fell between the age of 18 and 25. Now the War Department requested that black officer candidates be between the age of 25 and 40. The Committee had to hustle to recruit new applicants for the ones that were disqualified in less than 30 days.

According to Wilson (2015), the committee used black newspapers, friendships, and networking to fill the ranks and would easily have enough applicants for the 17th Provisional Training Regiment.

**Brothers Initiated through Omega's War Chapter**

- CPT George Ignatius Lythcott*
- CPT Charles Elliott Roberts*
- 1LT David Alphonso Lane Jr.*
- 1LT Oscar Godfrey Lawless*
- 1LT Osceola Enoch McKaine*
- 1LT James Carroll Wallace*
- 1LT Carter Walker Wesley*
- 2LT Russell Crowe Atkins*
- 2LT Nello Birpath Greenlee*
- 2LT Wade Hampton Powell*



**PHOTOGRAPH (above): Omega's Lt. Colonel Charles Young (center/arrow) addressing an African American company at Ft. Des Moines.**

However, the consequence of this action was that many capable Omega men on campus were disqualified in participating at Ft. Des Moines.

Fort Des Moines opened its doors on June 15, 1917, to 250 noncommissioned officers and 1,000 civilian candidates. College-educated black men from all over the U.S. were represented. According to the 1929 Oracle Magazine, Brother Walter Mazyck (Alpha Chapter, 1916) said that “there assembled at Fort Des Moines, Iowa was probably the largest number of college men grouped together in many years.”

Recognizing the number of potential members, Omega men immediately petitioned Grand Basileus McMorris to establish a Chapter at Ft. Des Moines. Permission was granted, and the War Chapter was officially chartered in late June 1917. Jesse Heslip served as its Basileus.

Fraternally, 16 Omega men were accepted as candidates at Ft. Des Moines. They included:

- Frank Coleman, Founder*
- Edgar Amos Love, Founder*
- William Isaiah Barnes, Alpha 1916*
- Francis Morse Dent, Gamma, 1917*
- Thomas Dent, Jr., Alpha, 1916*
- Warmoth T. Gibbs, Gamma, 1917*
- Charles Young Harris, Alpha*
- Jesse Solomon Heslip, Alpha 1914*
- Campbell C. Johnson, Alpha, 1916*
- Linwood G. Koger, Alpha 1915*
- John Wesley Love, Alpha 1914*
- Walter H. Mazyck, Alpha 1916*
- Mosby B. McAden, Alpha 1914*
- William S. Nelson, Alpha 1916*
- John Henry Purnell, Alpha 1913*
- Levi Edgar Rasbury, Beta 1916*

At the close of Camp on October 15, 1917, 14 of the 16 Brothers finished Camp and received their commission as officers. All ten of the men initiated through the Omega's War Chapter also received their commission. They were:

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**Article by**

**Bro. Jonathan A. Matthews, Life Member and member of the International History & Archives Committee. He was initiated at Alpha Chapter. Currently with Delta Mu Mu Chapter.**

## U.S. ARMY RANGER CAPTAIN (RET.)

# BRO. OLIVER JACKSON

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

**A**rmy Lieutenant Oliver S. Jackson's first tour during the Vietnam War was a mixture of a triumphal march and agonizing torment. The young Jackson had just been commissioned as an infantry officer and placed in the 1st Cavalry Division after completing Morgan State University's ROTC program in 1962.

A few months after graduating from the Army's Airborne and Ranger Schools, the Lieutenant headed to Vietnam's treacherous jungles and rice fields, a landscape much different from his native Brooklyn, NY. While training as an Army Ranger, an elite special operations combat unit, Jackson became exposed to the Army's new air assault concept, Airmobile. Omega's Jackson mentioned that during the Vietnam conflict, soldiers had begun going into combat with helicopters. Brother Jackson also said that "as a Ranger, we use to set up ambushes, and we would then search for the Viet Cong."

"I wanted to go to Vietnam. I was a reconnaissance battalion leader when I got over there in 1965," said Lt. Jackson. "As the leader of the first brigade's advance party, I and nine enlisted men were assigned to bring over all of the 1st Cavalry Division's equipment overseas. During his tour in Vietnam, Lt. Jackson was awarded the Bronze Star for combat.

Sadly, he reflected on his worst experience while serving in Nam. "It was a hot day, and I saw a lady and her two little kids were wounded. When the medevac helicopter landed, I had to get on the aircraft. There was news that my wife had been in a serious car accident, and I had orders to return home. I was broken up when we left those people injured on that hot day. That day has haunted me my whole life."

A little over one hundred years before, during the Crimean War, a British cavalry unit met the Russians in the Battle of Balaclava in 1854. Words from the conflict were pinned by Alfred Lord Tennyson in his narrative poem entitled *The Charge of the Light Brigade*. Tennyson wrote "Theirs not to make reply/ Theirs not to reason why/ Theirs but to do and die. Into the valley of Death [the Calvary] rode." Similar to the words from the famous poem, orders for Jackson to leave that wounded family still rings in his heart today, but it was not for him to reason why.

After his return to Baltimore, and closer to the family, Brother Jackson served as an induction officer at Fort Holabird, a Baltimore Army post. After a year, the

**PHOTOGRAPH:** Bro. Oliver S. Jackson wears the Cavalry Stetson hat wore during the late 18th century and by the Army's Buffalo Soldiers. The head wear is still worn as a Cavalry ceremonial hat. Oracle photograph by Bro. Milbert O. Brown, Jr.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 19



# The Making of A Grand

One day God rose and decided to create a leader. He reached up on the shelf and selected a perfect piece of clay. The Lord chose a smaller framed African-American male body. This young man would be equipped with an acumen for numbers. In college he would major in business. Long years before we even knew, the Lord said this fellow would lead men as a Grand officer for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. First, he would become an Army Field Grade Officer.

Today, Brother Daniel B. Jones, Sr., is the 22nd Grand Keeper of Finance for the Fraternity. He is also a highly respected Senior Auditor in the Inspector General Office of the Department of Justice. Bro. Jones served in the United States Army for nearly 27 years retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 2011.

The Lord must have also known that Jones would be one of the first Black Eagle Scouts from the state of West Virginia before receiving his Army commission from West Virginia State College.

The New Orleans native relocated at a young age to West Virginia when his father moved the family due to his new Army duty station. Jones came into the arms of Omega in 1989 through Xi Alpha Chapter.

The Fourth District chapter was located in Charleston, WV. At the District level, Brother Jones served two-terms as the Fourth District Keeper of Finance and

the Fourth District Chief of Staff to Bro. William M. Comeaux, the then 4th District Representative.

Jones is a Certified Fraud Examiner. The Grand Keeper of Finance (GKF) also serves the Fraternity as the International Budget Chairman. To date, budgets enacted by the Supreme Council for the International Undergraduate Summit and the International Leadership Conference have yielded profits for the fraternity as a result of the controls recommended and implemented by Jones.

Omega's Jones comes from a rich tradition of Omega leaders and military men. His father, Bro. Richard E. Jones, Jr, U.S. Army is a retired Director of Human Resources for Union Carbide Corporation.

His uncle, Bro. Warren Jones, MD is a U.S. Navy, Captain (Ret.) His uncle, Bro. Charles Jones served in the Army and is a retired Chief Judge for the Louisiana 4th District Court of Appeals. Bro. Jones' cousin, Bro. Michael Wilson, is a Captain with the Los Angeles, CA Fire Department.



**PHOTO:**  
Bro. Daniel B. Jones, Sr., in his ROTC cadet uniform before receiving his commission into the Army.

Story by Bro. Milbert O. Brown, Jr., Oracle Editor

# Vivians Family Joins Hall of Fame

In October 2016, Bro. Nathaniel Vivians, Colonel, Air Force (Ret.) with his wife, Dorothy Willis Vivians, Colonel, Army (Ret.) and their son, Bro. Mark Vivians, Colonel, Air Force (Ret.) were all inducted into the Tuskegee University Military Hall of Fame.

Inductees included graduates who had attained the rank of Colonel and above during their military careers. The Vivians family along with other 2016 Charter Class of the Hall of Fame members were included in the General "Chappie" James Museum at Tuskegee University.

This honor exemplifies the pursuit of leadership and excellence in the various corps of the U.S. Military which the inductees possessed. The Vivians were the only family with three members inducted.

Brother Colonel Nathaniel Vivians was an electrical engineer, serving 32 years in the Air Force. Retired Army Colonel Dorothy Willis Vivians was a registered nurse with 20 years of service. Brother Colonel Mark Vivians, an architect served 26 years in the Air Force. All members of the Vivians family earned master degrees and received numerous military decorations including the Legion of Merit.

Colonels Dorothy and Bro. Nathaniel Vivians reside in Ohio while Bro. Mark Vivians resides in Texas with his wife (USAF's Lt. Colonel Jileene Johnson Vivians).



Army sent Jackson to Special Warfare School at Ft. Bragg, NC. "When I went back to Vietnam on my second tour in 1968, I served as psychological warfare officer. During the Tet Offensive, we were teamed up with Vietnamese and America units. His other overseas assignments included serving in Germany and Korea.

After serving on active duty Captain Jackson again returned to Baltimore in search of an Army reserve unit. "They wouldn't take me in the reserves because all those rich white guys were getting those assignments. I met a Black General, and he found me a spot as a transportation officer at Curtis Bay, an Army Reserve Center," said the Captain. While serving his reserve commitment, Jackson worked as a civilian equal employment specialist.

Omega's Captain Jackson retired from the Army in 1980, after serving first as an Air Force enlisted man for four years before enrolling at Morgan State University. He graduated from Morgan with a B.S. in History, and he also served ten years on active duty (Army), and eight years in the Army Reserves.

"I loved being in the Army. I loved the comradery. It's like being an Omega. Being an Omega made it easy for me to be in the Army. It was the closeness of the men," said Brother Jackson. Originally, Jackson began pledging

Omega at Morgan State in 1960. As he recalls, "Zeta Psi Chapter was in Brooklyn, and I didn't live that far from their frat house. I got word that they were taking on a line, so me and two other guys from Morgan, Herbie Frazier, and Bill Goins jumped on the line.

So when I came back to Morgan in the Fall of 1960, I was Que," smiled Brother Jackson. During his military career, Bro. Jackson joined several chapters. After ending his active duty service, he joined Pi Omega Graduate Chapter. He later became a founding member of Tau Pi Graduate Chapter.

"I was a proud soldier. When you are a leader, people look up to you. I never was disrespected when I use to walk around with my uniform on at airports. People would only say nice things to me." Jackson added, "I was considered to be a crack soldier. I had a bunch of metals, a Ranger insignia, and a strong 6'3 frame."

Brother Jackson said that his Army episodes had their challenges. He noted that he is a 100 percent Disabled Veteran. He now suffers from post-traumatic stress caused by his battlefield experiences in Vietnam. "I finally went back to Vietnam in 2015. I went in Hanoi where we operated in the south years ago. Since that visit, I have been sleeping better ever since. I have been going to therapy for the last 15 years at the Vet Center escorted by my wife, Amelia. I have an acupuncture treatment in my ears every week, but that trip back to Vietnam helped me the most," calmly expressed Bro. Oliver Jackson, U. S. Army, Captain (Ret.)

The 81-year retired soldier said "My joy has been my children. I didn't have boys--I had three girls. God knew what he was doing"

## Omega's Black Played Baseball in the U.S. Army

# GENTLEMAN JOE

W

hen his large frame entered the small hot room, his welcoming smile instantly cooled the sultry summer air. He was a giant man

who stood 6 feet 3 inches tall. He endured the pains of discrimination while gracefully navigating the perilous avenues of Jim Crow to take his place in history. Joe Black was a history maker.

Often called “Gentleman Joe,” he was the first African-American pitcher to win a major league baseball World Series game. He pitched three games for the Brooklyn Dodgers in the 1952 classic against the New York Yankees.

“I never felt like a celebrity. God put me in the right place—at the right time,” said Black. The patrons at Mrs. White’s Rule Café made Black a celebrity during his visits to the soul food restaurant in Phoenix. The tiny eatery, slightly larger than a two-car garage, was as noisy as a ballpark on a Sunday afternoon.

Brother Black ordered lunch amidst the hurried rustling of hot plates landing on the tables in front of customers. The clang of dirty dishes submerged into water echoed from the kitchen. However, Black’s powerful voice soared above the din, commanding attention. As he spoke, one could imagine how quickly his fastball moved across the plate. He was born poor in 1924, in Plainfield, N.J. Joe Black was an excellent student who dreamed of playing professional baseball.

“I was batting a .400 when I was a senior in high school. The scouts were talking to other people, but they didn’t speak to me. I said, “Hey, I am the captain of the team. I out-hit them all—why don’t you sign me?” A scout said,



‘Because you are colored, and they don’t play baseball in the big leagues.’

Black paused, staring deeply into the past. He began again, recalling his first brush with the disappointment of discrimination. “I got mad and hateful. I had a scrapbook of ballplayers, and I tore up all of their pictures—they were all white. The one picture that I didn’t tear was Hank Greenburg, my idol. He was big and hit home runs, and that’s what I wanted to do,” said Black. “Because of the hurt, I just stopped playing.” My mother said, ‘Son you can’t be mad.’ I said, “but mama, white people won’t let me play!”

In 1943, Black was drafted into the Army to serve in WWII. His military duties allowed him to play pitch for the Negro Leagues’ Baltimore Elite Giants. After two years of military service, he accepted a scholarship to play baseball at Morgan State College in the spring while continuing to play for the Elite Giants in the summer.

Even in Baltimore, far from the deep south, Black felt the sting of Jim Crow.

Story continues on next page

“When I got off the train and arrived on the campus, I walked one block that first Sunday to a Presbyterian church. The man said, ‘You can’t come in here—this is for white people.’ I replied, ‘Why? I’m a Presbyterian.’”

The tentacles of racism touched every facet of his life.

“You would go into a store to try on a pair of shoes, and you couldn’t try them on. You couldn’t try a coat on. You bought stuff, but you couldn’t bring it back—whether it fits or not.”

“It was frustrating, he said. Your life turns all around.” Your parents knew-- they came from the south. They would say, ‘You’re learn to survive.’

“At Morgan, I learned what it was to be colored, but I also learned that I was somebody,” said Black. In 1946 at Morgan State, Black was initiated in Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Pi Chapter. “All of the guys from New York and New Jersey pledged Que. We didn’t like the initiation—we like putting on the show,” he said, laughing.

Before graduating from Morgan State in 1950, he helped the Baltimore Elite Giants win the 1949 Negro League National Championship.

At the restaurant, Black gleefully leaned back in his chair, like a fisherman just as his line enters the water in search of a catch.

“When Branch Rickey signed Jackie Robinson in ‘45—everybody became 17 again and started dreaming about playing in the big leagues,” Black said with a smile. He and other Negro League players hoped that one day they would play Major League baseball. In 1950, at age 26, Black was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers and made the Major Leagues roster in the spring of 1952. “I got into the Majors because Jackie needed a roommate.”

Black said Jim Gilliam, Robinson’s roommate had a problem adjusting to integration. “He grew up in the south, he never played with white guys, never went to school with them. He would get on the bus and go sit in the back by himself. In the dugout, he would go sit in a corner by himself. He didn’t know how to talk to white guys, so they sent him back to the Minors. That’s how I got here.” For Black, his lifelong fantasy had come to life. “Pitching the first game of the World Series was a dream come true. I looked at third base, and there were the Yankees: Casey Stengel, Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, but no dark faces. I found myself saying, thank God for

the United States because you do have a chance to make your dreams come true.”

During his first season in the Majors, Black had a 15-4 record with a 2.15 earned run average. The pitcher, who was armed with a lightning fastball and a fading curve, appeared in 56 games for the Dodgers. Because of his outstanding season, he was named the 1952 National League Rookie of the Year.

After his first season, Black lost some of his power due to a stress fracture in his pitching arm. He retired in 1957. Black went to graduate school at Seton Hall and Rutgers Universities, receiving a master’s degree in education. He taught health and physical education for a few years before joining the Greyhound Corporation as an executive. While at Greyhound, Black rose to vice president. He began writing a syndicated column, *By The Way*, that appeared in *Ebony* and *Jet* Magazines. His column also was featured in several African American newspapers and heard on African American radio programs throughout the nation.

“When my mother died, I leaned over into the coffin and kissed her. I became a different person--I could feel something. I guess it was my mother’s spirit coming to me. After that kiss, I thought more about other people, and I wanted to share. She was my biggest influence in my life,” said Black.

Because of that epiphany, Black became better known for his public service work after baseball than his 90-m.p.h. fastball. He helped start a pension plan for Negro League players who played before 1947. Active in baseball well into his 70s, Black was on the board directors of the Baseball Assistant Team, an organization that provided aid to needy former baseball players. In Phoenix, he served as a community relations consultant for the Arizona Diamondbacks’ Major League baseball team.

As the interview came to a close, Black limped away from the table. Like many former athletes, the combination of time and weight gain stressed his once-powerful limbs. Ever the gentleman, Black insisted on paying for lunch. “This check is not big enough to even buy a tire for your car—how do think I am living?”

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

*Written from Bro. Brown’s 2000 interview notes with Brother Black. In 2002, Brother Joe Black joined Omega Chapter.*

# Negro League Museum Named in Honor of Army Veteran

**H**ubert Simmons affectionately called "Bert" returned home to North Carolina after serving in the Army during WWII. One of Simmons' major activities before joining and after his service duty was baseball.

He was good. He could play every position, but his most notable spot on the baseball diamond was as a knuckleball pitcher. In 1941, he played for the Raleigh Tigers, a semi-pro team. He doubled as a pitcher and outfielder.

Even during his time in the Army he played baseball. Shortly, after arriving back home from the Army, Simmons enrolled in North Carolina A & T State University (NC A&T). He would graduate from the institution with a B.S. degree in Business Administration. Of course, he played baseball for the school receiving All Conference Honors (1946-1949). He later was inducted in the North Carolina A& T State University's Sports Hall of Fame in 1978.

Shortly, after college he played baseball for a few Negro League teams. Simmons was a member of the Greensboro (NC) Redwings, a Negro Southern League team in 1946 to 1948. He was managed by baseball's Hall of Famer and Negro League great, John Henry "Pop" Lloyd as played for a season with the Farley Stars of Atlantic City, NJ. In 1949, he joined the Asheville Blues (NC), a Negro Southern League team.

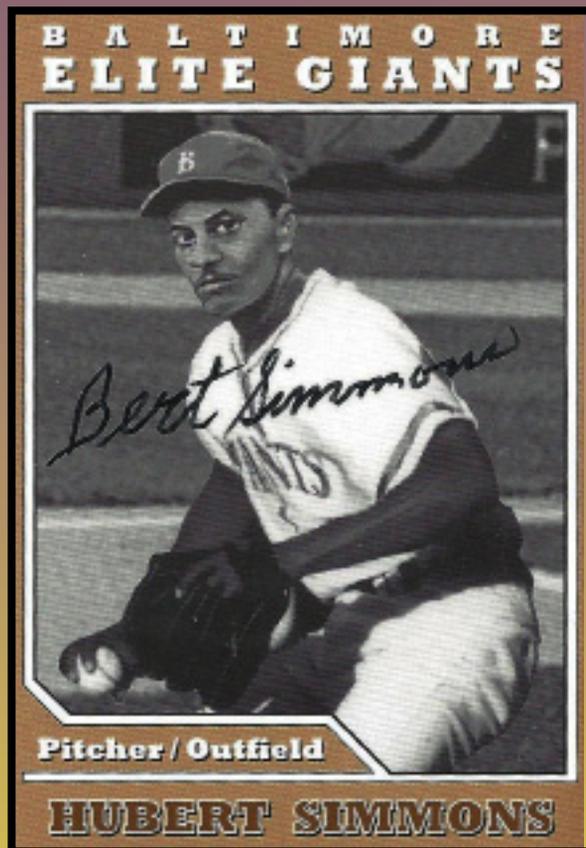
During the last year of the Baltimore Elite Giants existence in 1950, Simmons played for the Negro League team. He ended his baseball career in 1952 as a player for Baltimore's Yokely Stars. After baseball, Simmons

worked as a teacher for the Baltimore City School System for 30-years. He coached baseball for many years on the little league, high school and college levels. After his retirement as a teacher in 1984, he opened Simmons, Inc. The business sold customized team uniforms, and special clothing for churches, schools and fraternal organizations according to his Negro Leagues Baseball Museum profile.

Simmons began to collect several artifacts and memorabilia featuring Negro League players and teams. Often time, the items would land in the basement of his home.

It was not until four years after his death that Simmons' Negro League collection was permanently housed in the new Owings Mills Branch of Baltimore County Public Library. In November 2013, three exhibit areas in the library became part of the *Hubert V. Simmons Museum of Negro Leagues Baseball*. The museum is located near Baltimore in Owings Mills, MD. In 2008, Major League Baseball (MLB) wanted to highlight former Negro League player who were denied an opportunity to play in major leagues. At 84-years old, Simmons was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles.

Hubert "Bert" Simmons was initiated into Omega through Baltimore's Pi Omega Graduate Chapter in 1986. He was part of the chapter's "Stressful Nine" line. Brother Simmons joined Omega Chapter in 2009.





An exhibit in the Hubert V. Simmons Museum of Negro Leagues Baseball. The museum is located in the Owings Mills Library in Owings Mills, MD.

## Kendall Played Football in College and the Army

Six days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Ulysses Kendall was born on December 13, 1941, in Chicago. Growing up, Ulysses had to learn sign language to communicate with his hearing-impaired parents.

Often times, he would interpret Joe Louis' fights for his parents as he listened from the radio. Although he possessed the ability to communicate through sign language since grade school, he had difficulty in writing the English language.

By the time he finished high school, Ulysses took a keen interest in sports. He was so good that he was awarded scholarships to play football, basketball and track. In order to strengthen his life skills, he decided to first attend junior college. He was



Kendall later transferred to Texas Western College becoming the first Black captain of the football team. Kendall eventually went on to finish his football career by playing for the Philadelphia Eagles, Canton Pro Bulldogs, Hamilton Tiger-Cats in the Canadian League, and Philadelphia Bulldogs. His career with the Canton Pro Bulldogs ended in 1965 after he sustained an injury to the leg.

The United States Army drafted him and quickly sent him to Germany. While in Germany, he reluctantly received orders to play football for the Army. He was selected to play on the All-Army until he received order to Vietnam. In Vietnam, he took part in five major operations as a radio telephone operator. One time, he called two fire missions simultaneously.

*Ebony Magazine* featured Kendall's Vietnam story in their August 1967 issue. After witnessing the carnages of war and being blown into trees by explosives, Kendall decided to end his military career when his tour in Vietnam was complete. He finished as a Specialist Fourth Class.

When he return to the United States, Kendall worked at the Timken Company as a human resources specialist. He was the first African American to become a general supervisor in the Steel Division. After 31 years of service, he retired. He later became a juvenile probation officer, and Canton (OH) City Schools' Director of Safety and Security.

Brother Kendall was initiated into the Kappa Tau Chapter on March 28, 2015. The Life Member credits joining Omega Psi Phi Fraternity as one of the best decisions he has ever made.

Today, he enjoys spending time with his family, listening to classical and soul music. Bro. Kendall is also a member of the National Association of the Advancement for Colored People (NAACP) and he continues to work in Ohio's Canton community.

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Story by  
Bro. Casey Smith,  
Kappa Tau Chapter's  
Keeper of Records & Seal

# Brother Dr. Moses C. Norman

## LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



The Fourth District's Beta Iota and Tau Xi Chapters hosted the 2017 Leadership Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. The summer conference held on August 2th through August 6th was officially renamed as the Moses C. Norman Leadership Conference. The late Brother Dr. Norman recently joined Omega Chapter in July 2017, and was Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's 33rd Grand Basileus.

Brother Stanford Williams, the Fourth District's 25th District Representative served as the Fraternity's Grand Leader to the 2017 Leadership Conference. Also, Brother Bobby Robinson, the Fourth District Representative welcomed several hundred Omega men to a memorable conference which featured workshops on fraternal leadership.

Some of the sessions included workshops on Basileus, Compliance, Fatherhood Initiatives and other Omega leadership training. Other workshops featured chapter operations, brand marketing, domestic violence, and a health and wellness fair. Brother Dr. Melvin Pinn, Chairman of the International Medical and Health Initiatives & National Institutes of Health Partners led the



**PHOTO/TOP:** Bro. Cody Charles, 2nd Vice Grand Basileus; Bro. Dr. David Marion, 1st Vice Grand Basileus and Bro. Antonio F. Knox, Sr., 40th Grand Basileus share ideas during the Norman Leadership Conference. **BOTTOM:** Bro. Steve Harvey speaking at the conference.

"Brother You're On My Mind," session. One of the more popular sessions was "The Principles of Success in Business and Life," which featured Talk Show Host and Radio Personality, Brother Steve Harvey as the guest speaker.



"My life has been covered with grace and favor because of God. I also show up. You have to have a work ethic if you want to be successful, but you have to have faith," said Brother Harvey. He also noted that "your real life is in your imagination. I still rely on my imagination. I do not live my life by the confines of what people say. Your imagination is what God is showing you as a preview to what he has for you."

Another well attended session was the 70th International Talent Hunt Demonstration. The first Talent Hunt was held in 1946. The need for the Talent Hunt was born out the unequal opportunity afforded to some African American youth. Brother Larry Pough serves as the International Talent Hunt Chairman. Brother Michael Bowie, Chairman of the International Chapter Advisors served as the moderator for "The State of Fraternities and Sororities."

Brother Benjamin Crump, Esq., the Fraternity's International Grand Tribunal Committee Chairman moderated the Friday evening public event, "The Importance of Jury Duty" The panelist featured Judge Faith Jenkins, an American TV Judge and Wall Street Attorney, and Brother James Stewart, Esq., a former Judge and current District Attorney for Shreveport, LA.

Also on the panel was Marilyn Mosby, Esq., the Baltimore District Attorney who prosecuted police in the Freddy Gray case. Bro. Crump wrote an Oracle article related to District Attorney Mosby's ordeal entitled "Justice system problems" that appears on page 32.



**PHOTO/TOP:** Grand Basileus; Brother Antonio F. Knox, Sr., meeting with International Committee Chairmen and Brother D. Michael Lyles, Esq, the Fraternity's Grand Counselor. **BOTTOM:** Rushion McDonald, moderator of "The Branding of Omega."

Other panelist for "The Importance of Jury Duty" included Dr. Tiffany Crutcher, the sister of Terence Crutcher who was killed on video in Oklahoma while walking back to his vehicle with his hands up. Omega's Bro. Anthony Scott spoke of his family's tragic lost when his brother Walter Scott was killed by Charleston, SC police.

On Saturday morning, Bishop Brother Staccato Powell, the Grand Chaplain led a Leadership Prayer Breakfast. The focus of the event discussed spiritual development. Bishop Powell presented a message on how Christian men must lead others with spiritual integrity.

# Leadership Conference



2017 Bro. Moses Norman Leadership Conference



# Bro. Moses C. Norman Leadership Conference

# AWARDS

**F**ifty years ago Brother Maurice Crump, Sr., became a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity through Lambda Epsilon Chapter, Tuskegee Institute. Brother Crump, an All-American football player at Tuskegee name rests in the school's Sports Hall of Fame for both football and baseball. The Pittsburgh Steelers drafted Crump as a safety because of his 4.4 speed in the 40 yard dash.

Tuskegee Institute is still an honored place where the Mississippi native became an Omega man. One of his teammates at Tuskegee was George H. Grace, who would become the Fraternity's 37th Grand Basileus.

While on campus, Bro. Crump pledged another future and famous Que, Bro. Tom Joyner. On campus he met his wife, Janice, a member of Delta Sigma Theta. Their union birthed two Omega men, and one Delta. Both his brothers and his cousin, Milan Williams, a member of the original Commodores also attended Tuskegee. Currently, Bro. Crump is a member of Zeta Alpha Graduate Chapter where he once served as the chapter's Basileus.

**PHOTO/ABOVE:** Bro. Maurice Crump, Sr. (center) receiving his Omega 50 Year of Service Award. On left is the 40th Grand Basileus Antonio F. Knox, Sr., and Bro. James H. Cistrunk, the 7th District Representative.

**ON RIGHT:** Bro. Bulter Dowery (center) escorted through the crowd after receiving his 65 Year of Service Award at the Brother Dr. Moses C. Norman Leadership Conference.

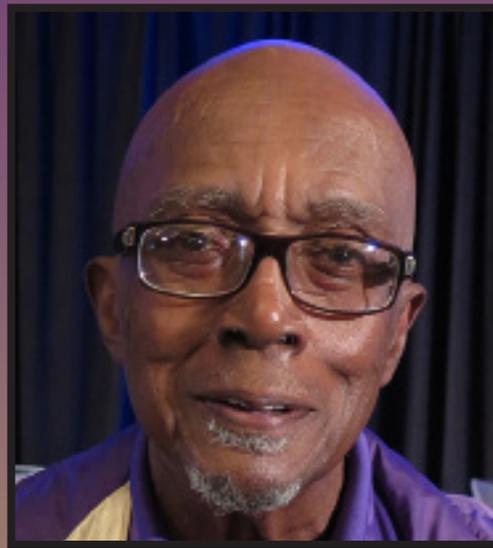
When Brother Carl G. Parker, Sr., of Psi Lambda Lambda was presented with his 60 Year Service Award he said "this was the greatest experience of his life. Bro. Parker

was initiated through Omicrom Sigma, Harris Teachers College in 1957. He added, "I have been looking forward to get my 60 year award."

After receiving his 65 Years of Service Award Brother Bulter Dowery currently with Alpha Omega Graduate Chapter said it was an honor. Brother Dowery also mentioned that "the reason why he joined the Fraternity was because of the motto

"Friendship is essential to the soul." Bro. Dowery also mentioned that he went over through Psi Psi Chapter at Kentucky State College. With a smile he added the chapter was "so nice we had to name it twice-Psi Psi."





PHOTOGRAPHS: Bro. Charles A. Bruce, IAWC Chairman (left) and Bro. Carl H. Parker, Sr., recipient of the 60 Year of Service Award.

**B**rother Charles A. Bruce serves as the International Achievement Week Committee Chairman. Bro. Bruce is a former Grand Keeper of Records and Seal. The Committee includes: 1st District Chairman, Bro. Sharrieff Christmas; 2nd District Chairman, Bro. Jeffrey Diggs; 3rd District Chairman, Bro. Jay Allen; 4th District Chairman, Bro. Chris Welch; 5th District Chairman, Bro. John C. Howard; 6th District Chairman, Bro. Dr. Lathan E. Turner; 7th District Chairman, Bro. Terrance A. Platt; 8th District Chairman, Bro. Aaron R. Robinson; 9th District Chairman, Bro. Rahsaan R. Cook; 10th District Chairman, Bro. Dejuan Lockhart; 12th District Chairman, Bro. Marc Sutton; 13th District Chairman, Bro. Stan Phillips, Jr.; IAWC Committee Co-Chairman, Bro. Christopher Norman; Immediate Past Committee Chairman, Bro. Greg Burnett, Sr., and Undergraduate Member-At-Large, Bro. Esau White. Below are the recipients of 2015-2016 International Awards selected by the International Achievement Week Committee.

**INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST**

- \*Brittany A. Valieant, 1st Place Winner
- \*Stefani K. Tripoulas, 2nd Place Winner
- \*Curtis C. Brady, 3rd Place Winner
- \*Melissa G. Wages, 4th Place Winner
- \*Justin A. Hodrick, 5th Place Winner

**UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTER OF THE YEAR**

Eta Delta Delta Chapter, George Mason University  
Nominated by the 3rd District

**GRADUATE CHAPTER OF THE YEAR**

Kappa Phi Chapter, Milwaukee, WI  
Nominated by the 10th District

**LARGE GRADUATE CHAPTER OF THE YEAR**

Omicron Chi Chapter, Plainfield, NJ  
Nominated by the 2nd District

**CITIZEN OF THE YEAR WINNER**

Dr. Gloria J. Ladson-Billings, Madison, WI  
Nominated by Gamma Gamma Gamma Chapter  
10th District

**UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTER ADVISOR AWARD**

Bro. Richard G. Morris (Psi Alpha Alpha)  
Eta Delta Delta Chapter Advisor,  
George Mason University  
Nominated by the 3rd District

**COL. CHARLES D. YOUNG MILITARY LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNER**

Bro. Paul A. Prosper, Xi Pi Chapter  
Nominated by the 8th District

**SUPERIOR SERVICE AWARD WINNER**

Bro. Orlando M. Richards, Psi Alpha Chapter  
Nominated by the 9th District

**UNDERGRADUATE OMEGA MAN OF THE YEAR**

Bro. Raymond D. Smith-Byrd, Phi Chapter  
University of Michigan  
Nominated by the 10th District

**GRADUATE OMEGA MAN OF THE YEAR**

Bro. Derrick L. Ivory, Nu Chi Chapter  
Nominated by the 10th District

**FOUNDERS AWARD**

Honorable Bro. Carl E. Stewart, Sr.  
Rho Omega Chapter  
Nominated by the 9th District

# At the Congressional Black Caucus Omega Presents Obama's Legacy on Fatherhood, Black Men & Boys

STORY BY BRO. DR. GEORGE D. TAYLOR



Brother James Clyburn, U.S. Congressman talks with Bro. Benjamin L. Crump, ESQ. before the panel discussion at the CBC.  
Photograph by Bro. James Witherspoon, Oracle/IHQ Director of Photography

**T**he Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Black male session was hosted by Congressman James E. Clyburn and the Fraternity's International Committee on Fatherhood and Mentoring. The event was held on September 21, 2017 at the Convention Center in Washington, D. C. The theme of the 47th Annual Legislative Conference was entitled, *"And Still I Rise."*

Bro. Thabiti Boone, Fatherhood Representative and Liaison to Former President Barack Obama's White House served as the panel's moderator. Bro. Robert W. Fairchild, chairman of the committee convened a distinguished panel of subject matter experts to discuss several hot button issues facing the African American community.

"It is our job in these fraternities is to prepare young

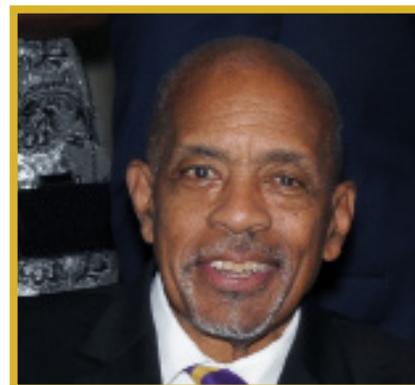
men for life," said Brother Clyburn. The Congressman (D., South Carolina's 6th District) added that persistence and perseverance will help to prepare these young men to deal with life's realities for the rest of their lives. Clyburn told a story of how he suffered three major political failures during his career, but he appealed to the audience to *"Never Give Up."*

The Fraternity's 40th Grand Basileus Antonio Knox presented Congressman Clyburn with an award for his exceptional work on behalf of the people of South Carolina. Bro. Knox said "We can never think that our vote doesn't count. Every vote counts. People died so that we could vote. Local elections are important and state elections are important." He add that Omega Psi Phi's voter education and registration drive continues.

It was noted that had Brother Clyburn given up after his failures, and quit politics, then he would not be where he is today-the third most powerful Democrat in the House of Representatives of the United States of America. The Congressman said we can make a difference when we work together and get involved in the process. "The pendulum spends twice as much time in the center than on either side. So, stay in the game but always be prepared," added Clyburn.

In a presentation, Brother S. Earl Wilson, Co-Chairman of the International Fatherhood and Mentoring Committee of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's highlighted the Fraternity's commitment to keeping President Obama's Fatherhood & Mentoring legacy alive. He cited several Obama era initiatives: Brother You're on My Mind, Affordable Health Care, Criminal Reform-Reentry, and Mentoring activities that remain active Fraternity initiatives.

Bro. Boone presented the panel with two opening questions: 1. Can we have our men to step up and be fathers? 2. How do we as men protect our women and families? The panelist included members from the Divine Nine. Bro. Dr. David Marion, Psychologist, First Vice Grand Basileus, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; Bro. Benjamin L. Crump, Esq., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; Daryl D. Parks, Esq., General Counsel, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; Kevin Powell, activist, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; L-Mani S. Viney, Educator, Kappa Alpha Psi Foundation; Dr. Stephanie Meyers, Black Women for Positive Change and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Jenabu Williams, Educator, International Representative, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.



**PHOTOGRAPHS BY BROTHER JAMES WITHERSPOON, ORACLE/IHQ**  
**TOP:** Bro. Antonio F. Knox, Sr., with Washington D. C. Mayor Muriel Bowser and Bro. Thabiti Boone. **LEFT:** Bro. Dr. David Marion. **RIGHT:** Bro. Robert W. Fairchild.

During the panel discussion in reference to criminal justice reform, Boone asked Attorney Crump 'Where do we go from here?'

"It was bad when they killed Travon Martin in the street. It is bad when our youth are killed in the court room. ... can't get life insurance when you have become a felon. Seven percent of the prison population is Black. Either all African Americans are criminals or our criminal justice system is broken. Everything is about profit; for profit foster care; over medicated. It is the right thing to do to stand up and fight for our children," said Brother Crump.

Brother Boone presented a question 'How do we keep our minds right?' to Omega's Dr. David Marion, an international scholar and psychologist.

*"If you are not mentally healthy, you are not healthy. We think, we behave, we feel. The brain can get sick just like any other part of the body. If incarcerated 30 days, your Medicaid is cut off. We have a program called "Brother You're On My Mind." It is dedicated to working with the mental state of Black men."*

*David Marion, PhD  
 First Vice Grand Vice Grand Basileus*

# Justice System Problems

By Brother Benjamin Crump, Esq.



City of Baltimore's State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby (center) discusses the problems with the Justice system at Omega's Leadership Conference held in August 2017. On left, Bro. Benjamin Crump and Bro. Antonio F. Knox, Sr., 40th Grand Basileus (right).

Six years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court established an important standard when it concluded that prosecutors' offices cannot be held liable for the actions, even illegal actions, of one of its prosecutors.

This remains the law of the land – except, it seems, when the prosecutor is black.

A recent ruling allows proceedings to move forward in a lawsuit against Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby over her office's actions in the Freddie Gray case. This flies in the face of the 2011 Supreme Court ruling in a case where a black defendant sued a white prosecutor for putting him on trial for a crime he didn't commit. During the trial, the prosecutor withheld evidence that would have helped the defendant's case

Considering the Supreme Court's determination, why are five police officers who were prosecuted over Freddie Gray's death now being allowed to put the State's Attorney on trial for her so-called malicious prosecution of them?

The circumstances of these cases are similar – defendants feel they've been wronged by a high-level prosecutor after the courts cleared them of criminal charges. But the result was 180 degrees difference when the state's attorney in the case was a black woman and the officers were white.

The Supreme Court made it clear in *Connick V. Thompson*: Prosecutors cannot be sued for doing their job, even if it involves a claim of withholding evidence.

That ruling presents its own problems with how the justice system treats minorities, but it has steadfastly protected state's attorneys from frivolous attacks and improper second-guessing about their discretion. Until now. Is legal precedent to stand only when it serves to maintain the status quo?

The irony here is palpable. The 5-4 Supreme Court decision that upheld judicial immunity for prosecutors was made by the court's more conservative justices. Now some of the very conservatives who expound prosecutorial independence when officers are cleared in police shooting cases claim that this lawsuit must be exempt from the Supreme Court ruling – supposedly in the name of justice. By suing the state's attorney, these police officers are sending a message: Support us at all costs, even when you have reason to believe we've acted illegally, or face the consequences.

U.S. District Judge Marvin J. Garbis, who ruled in January that the civil suit could continue, focused his order on Mosby's actions as an investigator, not as a state's attorney, in handling the Freddie Gray case. But how can that be claimed if her job as a state's attorney means she had an ethical and professional responsibility to see the case through on the ground level? Had she not taken a hands-on approach and rolled up her sleeves to do the best job possible, she wouldn't be in this predicament.

Her critics seem to think she should merely stay out of the spotlight, fall in line with the police establishment and continue along the path of least resistance.

*"There is solid precedent that state's attorneys have complete judicial immunity. Efforts to dodge that immunity are irresponsible."*

But is that really what the voters asked Marilyn Mosby to do when they selected her to be state's attorney? Of course not.

She had every reason to get involved in the fight for justice for Freddie Gray. This is a woman who saw her cousin die after he was shot on the streets of Baltimore. Back then, they lived in a neighborhood where justice was merely an elusive concept, but she always hoped Baltimore could be more than that. How could she not get involved when she thought her city needed her, when she had a chance to make sure justice wasn't just theoretical?

The lawsuit by the officers, and the judge's ruling allowing it to proceed, is a thinly veiled argument that says one thing loud and clear: Any action perceived as anti-police, even the pursuit of justice, will not be tolerated by the establishment in Baltimore. No matter what the U.S. Supreme Court says. That is unconscionable. That is unjust. That is discriminatory. And it will not stand.

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**Bro. Benjamin Crump** is the nation's leading civil rights attorney and advocate. Crump has served as president of the National Bar Association and the National Civil Rights Trial Lawyers Association.

He has represented clients in some of the most high profile cases in the United States, including Trayvon Martin who was killed in Sanford, Florida by a neighborhood watch volunteer; Michael Brown who was killed by a police officer in Ferguson Missouri; the precedent-setting Robbie Tolan U.S. Supreme Court case; and 10 of the 13 Black women who were the victims in the Holtzclaw Oklahoma City Police rape case in 2015.

Brother Crump, a Life Member is the Fraternity's Grand Tribunal Chairman.

# Omega Holds Youth Leadership Conference

**O**mega Educational Foundation, Inc., and Tau Tau Chapter sponsored its 24th Annual Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) on the campus of the University of Southern California (USC).

The theme for the conference was entitled "I am." The conference attracted 575 male youth ages 8 to 18, 140 mothers, 50 fathers and over 200 Omega men. The sponsors including the Black Employees Network (BEN) of Blue Shield, USBank, Cal Bank and Trust, Avery Denison, Northrop Grumman Corporation and Harrison Jones/Honda Corporation.

Significant this year was the presence of executive level Vice Presidents from two Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). Alcorn State University, founded in 1871 and Tuskegee University founded in 1881. Also present was alumni representation from Stillman College, Tuscaloosa, AL founded in 1876.

Both HBCU schools were prepared to offer scholarships for students who were prepared to be interviewed by the top-level university executives from Alcorn State and Tuskegee University.

More importantly, these executives brought with them the stories about these institutions; how and why they came into existence and why they are as vital today in the education of

students and the enlightenment of society as they were when they were founded.

Dr. Denzell Lee, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Alcorn State University mentioned the types of scholarships available for qualified students. Alcorn State University grew out of a Presbyterian-affiliated four-year college reserved for whites in 1871. According to Dr. Lee, "Oakland College, was purchased by the state of Mississippi and named Alcorn State College after the sitting governor at that time," James L. Alcorn.

Regina Burden, Vice President for Student Affairs at Tuskegee University spoke of the rich history of Tuskegee University founded in 1881. The school's founding president was Booker T. Washington.

Clifford Jones introduced Stillman College founded in 1876. Jones, an alumnus, noted that Stillman is a private small liberal arts. Jones also noted that the church related institution is committed to fostering academic excellence and providing high quality teacher education.

Brother Ricky L. Lewis said the conference "has had a major impact on the lives of 7300 youth and we are not finished yet."

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*Story by  
Brother George D. Taylor, EdD*

## Monitoring Omega's Safety

# The Boulware Factor



*Brother Brian Boulware directed security operations during Brother Steve Harvey's visit at Omega's Leadership Conference..*

**W**hen the Fraternity faces trouble or needs clarity, facts collected or maybe an investigative report they call on Brother Brian Boulware. He is a factor in clearing up problems.

"I am an investigator, I report investigative findings," said Bro. Boulware, Omega's Corporate Compliance Officer. The Office of Compliance was previously known as the Office of the Inspector General.

The Supreme Council hired Boulware's firm, Palmetto Security Services, as an independent contractor from 2005- 2015. Palmetto provides security consulting, vendor enforcement and corporate compliance services for the Fraternity without charge.

The Corporate Compliance Office combats fraud, waste, and abuse starting at the highest levels of Omega and wherever issues may occur within the Fraternity.

Bro. Boulware said "Our Supreme Council is responsible for the ultimate outcome regarding the results of my assigned investigations. My results must be impartial."

Brother D. Michael Lyles works closely with the Office of Compliance. Lyles added "the Corporate Compliance Officer plays a critical role on almost a daily basis. Two of the more recent [compliance cases] were the investigations of hazing at Morgan State University and Miles College."

## THE MISSION

The Office's mission is to develop, monitor and/or evaluate security and integrity policies and procedures relative to the human, physical and capital resources of the Fraternity and its members. It also prevent the deviation from the Fraternity's written guidelines as well as commonly accepted business practices. The guidelines are silent to undergird the integrity of the Fraternity's leadership. Toward that end a three-part prevention strategy is employed:

***Developing Strategies to Protect the Fraternity from Internal and External Threats*** - that is, providing vehicles to encourage the reporting of activities and actions that may jeopardize Omega. Creating initiatives that promote awareness encourage support and engender buy-in to a changing culture in Omega. Examples are "Operation Protection of the Shield" and the "Omega Hotline."

***Involvement*** – is achieved through the inclusion of members from all districts that function as surrogates for the Office of Corporate Compliance in their geographic regions. This means that when there is not an international event going on Corporate Compliance team members are involved in providing training and technical assistance to headquarters personnel on issues relative to compliance.

Detecting hazing, fraud, waste, and abuse when they do occur is important. The Office conducts investigations and works under the direction of the Grand Counselor to address instances of individual wrongdoing. In all cases, the Office reports matters to the Supreme Council for its necessary action. Investigative results are also considered for identification of opportunities to prevent similar problems from arising in the future.

"The integrity of the Brothers I investigate, the Fraternity's and my own integrity are at stake. Each deserve my best effort and that is what I dutifully deliver. Our Fraternity continues to represent the idealism of a people demanding legitimacy," mentioned Bro. Boulware.

## HISTORY OF THE OFFICE

The First Inspector General of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was the late Honorable George McKinney, formerly known as the Fraternity's Inspector General. In 2015, the position was redefined to reflect the non-profit status of the entity (fraternal).

The position was renamed as the Corporate Compliance Officer by the Grand Basileus on the advice from the Grand Counselor. The Supreme Council approved the positions new name and added duties in 2014.

## BRO. BOULWARE'S BACKGROUND

Beyond fulfilling his company's mission of keeping his clients and their assets safe, Bro. Boulware is committed to using his vast knowledge of 20+ years of law enforcement and security experience to serve the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. on the International, District and Chapter levels. This commitment has existed since being initiated into the Fraternity at Kappa Epsilon Chapter, Saint Augustine's University (1995), where he also received his Bachelors of Arts Degree. He later received his Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Clark-Atlanta University (2002).

Bro. Boulware was immediately tabbed for leadership and served two terms as Basileus and Vice -Basileus while a member of Kappa Alpha Chapter. His next fraternal stop found further use of his talents in the Legendary Fifth District as a member on the Epsilon Phi Chapter. He worked on several committees including: Black Tie Ball; Fund raising Chairman, the chapter's Keeper of Records and Seal and the District MSP Chairman through 2007.

On the district level Brian also served as the 5th District Marshall for the joint 5th & 7th District Meeting in Tunica, MS in 2007 while also serving as the, newly created, District Inspector General from 2004-2009. In 2009 Bro. Boulware relocated with his family to Tallahassee, FL and it was time for the 7th District to benefit from his talents. Brian immediately assumed the responsibilities of 7th District Inspector General (2010-2014) and became an active part of the Chi Omega Chapter, where he served as the chapter's Basileus from 2013-2014.

Bro. Boulware now resides in Tyrone, Georgia with his wife Shirley; daughter Searra, and son, Brian. Brother Boulware serves as the Corporate Compliance Officer of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and he is a member of Tau Graduate Chapter.

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*Brother Richard Thompson contributed to this report*

# Omega Honors Minister Louis Farrakhan



Dr. David Marion, the First Vice Grand Basileus, began the program in earnest as he told the full house why Minister Farrakhan was chosen to receive the award and what it meant to the Fraternity. "Minister Farrakhan has been a comforter to Black people for a long, long, long time. Honoring Minister Farrakhan is not an easy task. Some have asked why a Christian organization would honor a Muslim," stated Dr. Marion.

The Minister was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award made of beautifully engraved crystal by Grand Basileus Knox. "Ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to get out of your way because I know you want to hear from the Minister. Brothers of Omega, Supreme Council, our "2017 Lifetime Achievement Award" goes to no other person, the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan," said Knox.

*Nation of Islam leader Minister Louis Farrakhan is greeted with a warm welcome from Grand Basileus Antonio F. Knox, Sr. in August. Photograph by Brother Stan Muhammad.*

*Story by Michael Z. Muhammad*

Just outside of Atlanta nestled on a beautiful acre of prime real estate sits the national headquarters of the illustrious Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Called the Omega World Center, it served as the perfect backdrop for a night of regal honor. On August 26, 2017, the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan received the organization's highest honor, the prestigious "Lifetime Achievement Award."

He was also presented with a purple and gold Founders Robe, fit for a king. This represented the first time in the history of the organization such an honor was bestowed. Minister Farrakhan's Omega experience began with a tour of the fraternity's museum located on the lower level of the grand building. The John H. Williams Museum showcases Omega Psi Phi history. As the Minister toured he demonstrated a keen interest in the men immortalized. He was very deliberate in his tour remarking, "What a list of greatness." He said, "these men never died because Omega lives. No wonder I pledged this Fraternity I would be keeping company with giants," said the Minister as he passed photos of Fraternity members such as Langston

Hughes and Jesse Jackson. He was elated to see a picture of legendary basketball coach Clarence "Big House" Gaines from Winston Salem State College where the Minister also attended. Minister Farrakhan recalled how Coach Gaines was one of his biggest supporters especially when he was attacked by Jewish groups. Following the tour, he took photos in the organization's board room as he was introduced to the Supreme Council and other prominent fraternity members.

From there, it was on to the stage of the auditorium where the program and reception was held. The tight program was presided over by Dr. Mark E. Stevens, committee chair. Student Minister Tony Muhammad, West Coast regional representative and an Omega member, was the first speaker. He noted the 40th Grand Basileus was to present the award for 40 years of work by the Minister. Farrakhan received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Omega Psi Phi during the special ceremony in Decatur, Ga. The invocation was conducted by Minister Steven Rhodes of the Kelly Chapel United Methodist Church.

"This brotherhood is a sign of a bigger brotherhood." The scripture says "ye are all gods, children of the most high God" and you are no dog barking. Omega men you are not a dog. Dog spelled backwards is God. And a god turned backwards is a dog," said Farrakhan. He also added "that you showed me downstairs all those great men, not one of them was a dog. They were intelligent men who mastered every field of human endeavor. They are the born leaders of the people who shape and build the kingdom of God on earth.

When the Minister was awarded our Founders Robe, no one in the history of the fraternity has touched that robe without being a brother," he said. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was founded in 1911 at Howard University in Washington, D.C. by three students. Today, Omega Psi Phi has over 700 chapters throughout the United States, Bermuda, Bahamas, Korea, Japan, Liberia, Germany, and Kuwait. There are many notable Omega men recognized as leaders in the arts, athletics, business, civil rights, education, government, and science at the local, national and international level.

## Omega Men Serves As Marshals

On August 28, 2017, the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., participated in the "Ministers March for Justice" as requested by Brother Antonio F. Knox, Sr., the Fraternity's 40th Grand Basileus.

The Reverend Al Sharpton with the National Action Network organized over 1,000 clergy members from through across the nation to participate in the end of the summer activity. The march began at Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Brother Robert C. Warren, Jr., a former Third District Representative guided the execution of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Marshals. Bro. Warren and the marshals had the duty of securing the march leaders.

Several religious leaders joined Rev. Sharpton, Martin Luther King, III, and Reverend Brother Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. as the group marched from the King Memorial to the Justice Building.

Omega men that participated in the march included Brother Sherman Charles, 2nd District Representative and Brother Kevin Brown, 3rd District Representative. Other Omegas included: Vince Van, George H. Evans, Robert C. Warren, Rev. Adamio Boddie, Rev. Dr. Kendrick E. Curry, Kevin Donaldson, Rev. Dr. Al Sampson, Rev. Dr. Oscar T. Moses, Raymond Bell, John Bratton, Jacques Conway, Dequincy Hentz, Kirk Banks, Bill Bennett, Calvin Marshall, David Street, Rev. George Holmes, Elwood York, Charles Penny, Shahid M. Allah and Conrado B. Morgan.

The date of the march marked the 54th anniversary of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s delivery of his famous 1963 "I have a dream," speech. The significance of August 28th also reminds us of the 1955 brutal murder of Emmitt Till, a Chicago teenage who was killed in Mississippi.



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's 40th Grand Basileus, Brother Antonio F. Knox, Sr. (left) stands with Alpha Phi Alpha's Jay West after the Alpha's Public Meeting during their national convention.

## Brother Knox Attends The Alpha Convention

On July 12, 2017, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., held their Public Meeting. The open meeting invited national presidents from each of the Divine Nine organizations, their members and the general public for a discussion about service to the greater Black community. Alpha Phi Alpha, the first African American Fraternity founded in 1906 on the campus of Cornell University held their annual convention in Baltimore in July 2017.

The theme of the Alpha's convention was entitled, "Urgency Now." Alpha Phi Alpha's mission is to develop leaders, promote brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service to communities.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Brother Antonio F. Knox, Sr., mentioned that Omega chapters worldwide stands in the vanguard in leading intensive mentorship programs for Black male youth. Brother Knox also was in agreement with other Divine Nine national presidents in that all of their organizations must work together. Knox commented that Omega continues to strengthen the weakness in the community through their unique programs.

Over 50 men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity joined Bro. Knox at the public meeting. Bro. Sherman Charles, the 2nd District Representative officially welcomed Bro. Knox to the Second District. Also, several Omegas from the Third District attended the event.



*Undergraduate Brothers were provided suits at the Georgia UG Summit.*

## Oracle Seeks Undergraduate Editor for Internship Program

Omega's International Editor of *The Oracle*, Brother Milbert O. Brown, Jr., established the Fraternity's first Undergraduate Oracle Internship Program in Fall 2015. Since the beginning of the program three undergraduate Omega men have served as interns.

The purpose of the internship program is to provide undergraduate Omega men with a unique opportunity to develop their communication skills. The selected intern/s would work on the Oracle Magazine under the guidance of Bro. Brown.

The Oracle intern would also have a variety of duties including serving as an editor, photographer and or writer for the membership publication.

The internship is a non-paid appointment for three to six months. Preference will be given to Omegas with majors in communications, journalism, and or media related fields.

### Program Requirements:

1. Open to undergraduate Omega men only who are financial and in good standards with the Fraternity.
2. Interested candidates must email a resume to the Editor.
3. Each applicant should also provide electronic work samples which may include: broadcast/video clips, graphic design, photography, or print/online writing. A Brother may also submit unpublished class projects if needed.
4. Email all materials to Bro. Brown, the Editor of *The Oracle* at:

**Editortotheoracle@opff.org**

# Bridging the Gap

## 2017 Georgia Undergraduate Summit

Over 100 Undergraduate Brothers representing the 21 Undergraduate Chapters in the State of Georgia descended upon Columbus State University on Saturday, August 20, 2017.

The State of Georgia uses the annual event to update the Brotherhood on Fraternity matters and provide updates from the summer's 2017 Brother Norman C. Norman Leadership Conference.

Often new members have not yet had an opportunity to attend a District or an International Meeting. The summit's agenda items covered fraternal development, objectives, and planning. Also, academic selection, managing the process and the Omega

journey were some of the topics discussed at the summit sessions. The August Undergraduate Summit was facilitated by Brother David Jones, the 7th District's Director of Undergraduate Advisors.

Two former veterans, Bro. Marvin Broadwater, Sr., the Georgia State Representative, and Bro. Jamal De Saussure, suggested that a written document should be created.

The document or book would be important in establishing standard operation procedures for future summits and or undergraduate Omega men.

The document would also serve as a template for quarterly report organization, grade verification forms, and a special event checklist.

# Gamma's First Neophyte

**B**ro. Warmoth Thomas Gibbs, Sr., born in Baldwin, Louisiana, on April 5, 1892, exemplified scholarship as a student and an educator. His academic career moved him from his childhood studies at the Gilbert Academy, an institution that doubled as a school and an orphanage.

Along the way, he earned an A.B. degree in liberal arts from Wiley College in 1912. He also earned an A.B. degree in history and political science from Harvard College in 1917; an Ed.M. degree in education and history from Harvard University in 1925; and he engaged in further graduate study at Harvard Law School from 1921 to 1922 and in history and political science at Harvard University from 1931 to 1932.

Gibbs joined the R.O.T.C. Unit at Harvard College in 1915, and when the War Department established an Officer's Reserve Training Camp for Negro men at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, Gibbs volunteered to serve. Without waiting for graduation, he reported for duty on June 15, 1917 as a member of the first group. Commissioned October 15, 1917 as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army, he commanded the 367th Infantry, 92nd Division. Fluent in French, he served as part of three engagements in France during 1918.

Discharged honorably on June 12, 1919, he returned to Massachusetts where he served from 1919 to 1920 as one of the first African Americans on the Boston Police force. From 1920 to 1922 he served as the second Executive Secretary of the Boston Urban League. Then, in 1926, Gibbs chose to dedicate his life to educating students at North Carolina A & T State College (NC A&T).



He began his career at NC A&T as Dean of Men and Instructor in Military Science and Tactics. Next, he served as Professor of History and Government, Dean of the School of Education and General Studies, Director of Summer School. Later Gibbs served as President from 1955 to 1960, guiding and shaping the institution.

During the period of his presidency, A & T College admitted its first white student in 1957. More importantly, for the first time in the school's history, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools fully accredited the institution. Gibbs presided over the historic role played by the school and its students in advancing the cause of civil and human rights with the focal point being the Woolworth lunch counter sit-ins.

During the sit-ins of 1960, the state and local elected and appointed officials pressured Gibbs to keep his students on campus and not allow them to participate in the demonstrations. Unafraid, his response resounded throughout the nation: "We teach our students how to think, not what to think."

According to Gamma Chapter's website, Brother Gibbs, an Army Lieutenant who served in World War I, and the chapter's first Neophyte, will always be remembered as a scholar and soldier.

*Photograph: Lt. Gibbs with other Black WWI soliders*

*More information about Bro. Gibbs' is posted on the Gamma Chapter website: <http://gamma1916.com/2016/03/791/>*

# Courage Under Fire

## Two-Time Bronze Star Awardee Bro. Sidney Holmes Recalls His Service

**H**e speaks with a quick, but peaceful deliverance. His steps are measured with purpose. Seemly when he passes his movements are stealth.

During his naval service, Brother Sidney L. Holmes, Jr.'s operational directives aboard ships were as precise as his retirement journey now with wife Helen.

After 28 years of service, Brother Holmes retired in 1991 at the rank of Captain. During his prestigious career in the U.S. Navy, Holmes was awarded two Bronze Stars for Combat, and two Navy Commendation Medals with Combat Distinguishing Devices.

On April 5, 1971, Navy Rear Admiral R.S. Salzer, the Commander of the U.S. Naval Forces in Vietnam awarded Holmes with his first Bronze Star. Admiral Salzer noted that *"Lieutenant Holmes was flying the Command and Control helicopter providing air cover for a convoy traveling from Dong Hung to Kien An. The helicopters came under heavy automatic weapons fire. During the fire fight that followed, one of the pilots was wounded and had to make an emergency landing."*

The Admiral also added, *"Lieutenant Holmes without regard to personal safety and in the face of great danger ...assist the wounded pilot. Lt. Holmes' exemplary professionalism, devotion to duty and courage under fire reflected great credit upon himself and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."*



"I got to Vietnam in early January of 1971. People would be shooting at you all the time. I was a naval advisor of the Navy's Wolverine Force. Some boats were mined as we escorted them down the river. We often had to return fire when fire came from the beach. The best part of that experience was getting back alive," smiled Brother Holmes.

The Norfolk, VA, native enlisted into the U. S. Navy on November 22, 1963, the day President John F. Kennedy, a navy man and the 35th U.S. President was assassinated in Dallas. Holmes said, "I joined the Navy because I am from a Navy town-Norfolk.

Brother Holmes said that his favorite ship

was the U.S.S. Northampton, a presidential command communication ship. He noted that when he joined the ship in 1965, he was one of only two Black officers out of 75. "It was a little different--the enlisted people were shocked to see me. They had to stop because they didn't believe what they were seeing--a Black naval officer," commented then Ensign Holmes.

A few years later, Holmes, now a Lieutenant was a Department Head, the only junior officer in that important position. As the Department Head on the U.S.S. Chicago, he was responsible for three deck divisions, a key duty for a Navy Lieutenant and a junior officer. "All the other officers that served as Department Heads had the rank of Lieutenant Commander and above," said Omega's Navy Lt. Sid Holmes.



*The U.S. Navy Captain uniform that Bro. Holmes wore at the Pentagon as he served as a project manager.*

On September 15, 1971, Holmes received his second Bronze Star, "For heroic achievement while serving at Kien An Operating Base engaged in armed conflict against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong communist aggressors in the Republic of Vietnam," said R. S. Salzer, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy, Commander of U.S. Naval Forces in Vietnam. "My two most joyful moments in the Navy were that I was happy that my Vietnam tour was over, and serving as the Commander of Little Creek, VA Reserve Naval Facility," mentioned Holmes.

Holmes' last duty was serving with the rank of Captain at the Pentagon. The Captain served in an administrative role as a Project Manager. His duties included overseeing Naval Reserve units that reported to the Pentagon.

Holmes graduated from North Carolina A&T State College in 1963 with a B.S. in Architectural Engineering. In 1968, he also received a B.S. from Hampton Institute in Architecture. Brother Holmes was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., through Mu Psi Chapter on the campus of North Carolina A&T State College. He is currently a member of Tau Pi Chapter where he served on several committees including the chapter's

signature event, Holiday With Omega. Brother Holmes also served as a former Keeper of Finance.

During his career, Holmes served on five ships; and for the most part he was based in the Navy's Atlantic Fleet. "I had three children, and my family never had to relocate. They stayed in Norfolk, because most of my assignments were in the Norfolk area, except for Vietnam and a short tour in San Diego, CA. Holmes was the father of three sons, and he said with a laugh, "none of them joined the Navy, they all joined the Army."

After Navy retirement, Bro. Holmes worked for the Army Corp of Engineers in the Norfolk area as an architect. Later he moved his family to the Washington, D.C., area where he served as an architect for the Naval Facilities Command. He also worked as a project manager and later the head of the Engineering and Planning section for the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Omega's Captain Sidney Lawrence Holmes (U.S. Navy, Ret), said that his "success in the military was because I remembered two of the most important leadership principles. The first principle is know yourself and seek improvement. The second principle is know your men and lookout for their welfare. If you can do that- everything else will take care of itself."

*Story by Brother Milbert O. Brown, Jr.,  
International Editor of The Oracle*

## Mu Omega Celebrates Memorial Day

PHILADELPHIA, PA. - On May 29, 2017, Mu Omega Graduate Chapter's Veterans (Que Vets) participated in two Memorial Services. The Que Vets joined the Disabled American Veterans at the Philadelphia National Cemetery. The Omega men participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the Haines and Limekiln Pike location.

"We are honored to have two World War II Omega men, Brothers Dr. William Harris and Nathan Thomas in attendance," said Brother David R. Benson, the chapter's Veteran Committee Chair. Bro. Harris was a recipient of the Purple Heart, and Bro. Thomas was a member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen.

Mu Omega's QueVets also joined the Colonel Charles Young American Legion Post #682 members for a parade and Memorial Service. The service honored Mu Omega Brothers who joined Omega Chapter since last year.

*Omega's Vice Admiral Manson K. Brown retired in 2014*

## Coast Guard's Top-Ranking Black Officer



*Vice Admiral Manson K. Brown (right) is congratulated during his 2014 retirement ceremony. Photographs by the U.S. Coast Guard.*

**O**mega's Manson K. Brown retired from the Coast Guard in 2014. At the time of his retirement after 36 years of service, Bro. Manson, a Vice Admiral, was the highest ranking Black officer in the history of the United States Coast Guard.

The three-star admiral and son of an Omega man is a Washington, D.C., native. He was raised in the District's Petworth community.

Brown graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy with a B.S. in Civil Engineering in 1978. He also graduated from the University of Illinois with a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering. Vice Admiral Brown is a registered professional civil engineer.

The Admiral was the recipient of the Coast Guard Distinguished Medal and the Coast Guard Captain John G. Witherspoon Award for Inspirational Leadership. Bro. Brown was also honored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for the highest achievement in military equal opportunity.

As a Coast Guard officer, Brown has served in the Iraq's combat zone. He has also served as deputy commandant for Mission Support for the U.S. Coast Guard from 2012 to 2014.

Admiral Brown also served as commander of Coast Guard Pacific Area in California from 2010 to 2012 and as commander of Coast Guard District 14 in Hawaii from 2008 to 2010.

After retirement from the service, Manson K. Brown, Vice Admiral (Ret)., was appointed as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction and Deputy Administrator by President Barack Obama in 2015.

Brother Brown entered the Fraternity in June 1983 through Sigma Iota Chapter. He was later active with Sigma Alpha. During the 2011 Centennial Celebration he served as an Honorary Co-Chair of the Military Salute Dinner. Currently, Bro. Brown is a member of Alpha Omega Graduate Chapter.

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*Story by  
Brother Norman Senior,  
3rd District Director of Public Relations*

# Military Based Chapter Support Projects In the Third District

**K**appa Iota Iota is a graduate chapter composed of primary military Omega men stationed at Fort Eustis, an Army installation near Newport News, VA.

In March 2017, the chapter consolidated several care packages that were distributed to the Women's Battered Shelter in Newport News. The shelter is designed to provide the support that survivors of sexual and domestic violence need to overcome their crisis and to transform their lives.

Also, in March Omega's Kappa Iota Iota Graduate Chapter provided support to the Fisher House located at the Portsmouth Naval Base, VA. The Fisher House was established by Zachery and Elizabeth Fisher's Armed Services Foundation in 1983.

The purpose of the house is to boost the morale of military families by providing housing at no cost. The families are able to enjoy the comforts of home as their love ones are given medical care at a nearby military treatment facility.

On May 6, 2017, the chapter participated in the Tenth Annual Hampton Home Repair Blitz. Repair work was performed on 25 homes in the in Hampton (VA)'s Northern Phoebus neighborhood. The Housing and Neighborhood Services Division.

In partnership with Habitat for Humanity's Peninsula Greater Williamsburg and the Hampton Redevelopment & Housing Authority the residents were very impressed with the Omega men's dedication to duty and ability to complete the task. Some of the repairs to the property included: pressure washing, painting, window/door replacement, and gardening.

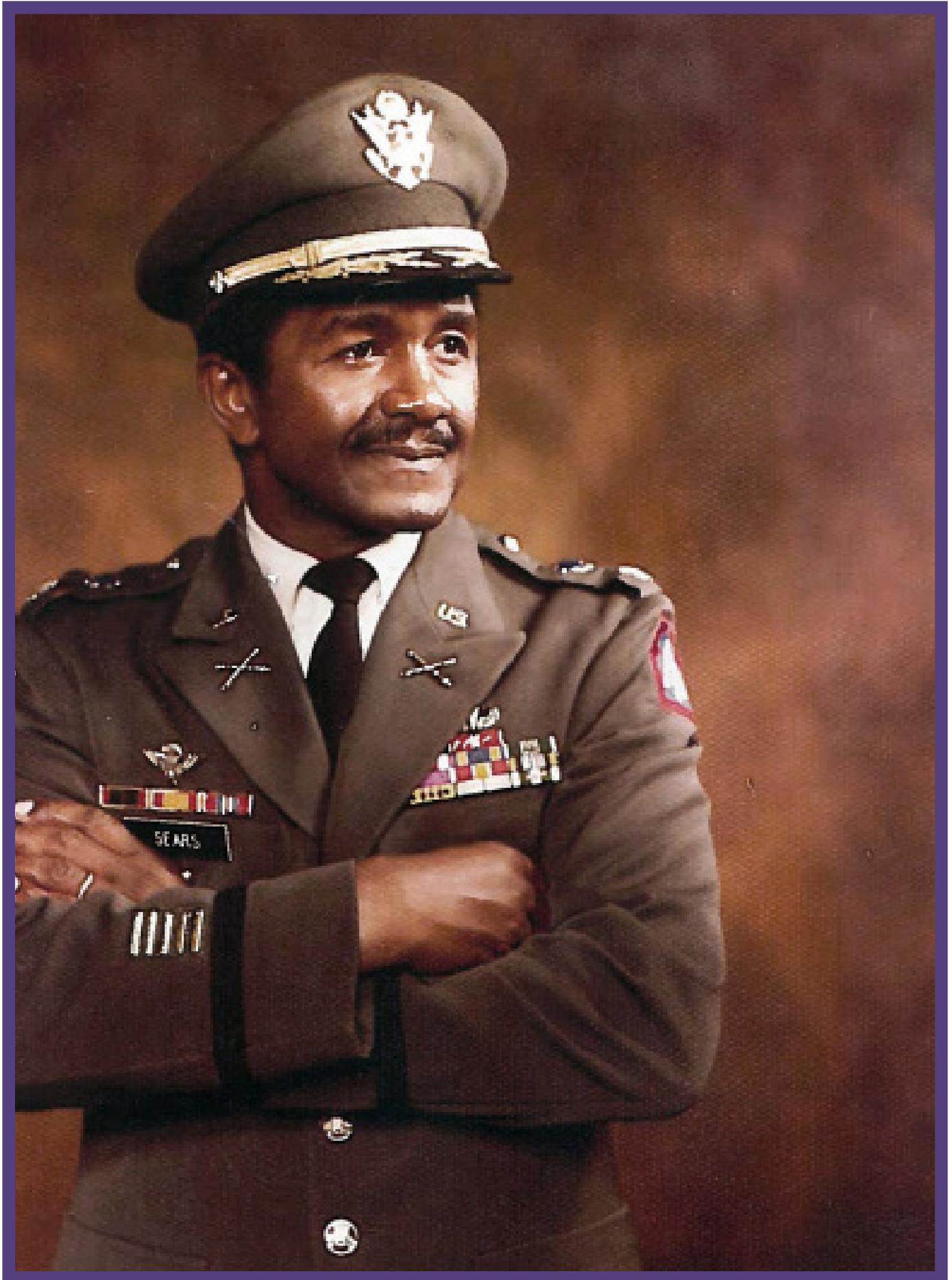


## ROTC *Hall of Fame*

**O**n September 23, 2017, three brothers initiated at Epsilon Gamma Chapter, Saint Paul's College were inducted into Virginia State University's Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) Hall of Fame. The Omegas included: **Arnold Pleasant (Spr '82)**, Lieutenant Colonel, Army (Ret); **Lawrence Silas (Fall '82)**, Colonel Army (Ret), and **Rossie Johnson (Spr '85)**, Lieutenant Colonel, Army (Ret).

Alpha Omega's Brother **Leonard W. Jones**, was promoted to that rank of Colonel (U.S. Army) on September 30, 2017, Later that evening, Norfolk State University's Military Alumni Chapter inducted Colonel Jones (Pi Gamma '85) into the Norfolk State University ROTC Hall of Fame. Both events were held at the Bolling Club, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C.

Other Omega inductees that entered the Norfolk State University, ROTC Hall of Fame were: **Brother Eddie Moore**, President of Norfolk State University, Nu Chapter 1966; **Brother Dr. Edgar Farmer**, Professor Emeritus Penn State University, Alpha Alpha 1972 and **Brother Elmore Jones**, Xi Xi 2017.



## *A Purple Heart and Bronze Star Recipient*

# A HERO

*Story by Brother Bryan K. Dirke*

**N**ow at 88 years-old Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Brother Charles W. Sears, an Army Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) stands tall. Brother Sears, a member of Mu Iota Chapter attends District Meetings, Leadership Conferences and Conclaves.

He has been a fixture in the Fourth District since his 1952 initiation into the Fraternity through Iota Psi Chapter at Ohio State University. Before entering the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program at Ohio State, Sears was a private in the U.S. Army Reserve. Brother Sears graduated with a major in Physical Education, and received his U.S. Army commission in 1954.

After his appointment as a Second Lieutenant, Omega's Sears served six years in Europe and a tour of duty in Vietnam for three years. Sears also saw military action in Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic. When Brother Sears was promoted to the rank of Captain, he attended and completed the Intelligence Officer Training in Baltimore, MD and served as an Intelligence Officer Advisor in Vietnam.

He was promoted to the rank of Major in 1965, and again served in Vietnam for his second tour of duty. During that tour, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, the Bronze Star (four times), the Air Medal, and the Purple Heart. When Brother Sears returned to the United States he was assigned as the Senior Advisor to the Ohio Army National Guard. In the spring of 1975, he returned to Ohio State University earning his Masters degree in Health Education in 1980.

After retirement from the United States Army, the Norfolk, VA, native donated his time to teach kids how to swim and stay healthy. He has served as the chapter's Vice Basileus, Keeper of Finance and Editor to the Oracle (Chapter Reporter). He has also served on the Achievement Week/Founders' Day, Talent Hunt and Charles Drew Blood Drive committees. He still participates with the undergraduates during Omega Week at Ohio State University.

Mu Iota Graduate Chapter named the Reclamation and Retention Cook-Out in Brother Charles W. Sears honor. Currently, he is the chair for the Health, Post Initiation Chair and Sweetheart Dinner/Dance committees. In the Fourth District, Brother Sears is the District Health and Post Initiation Chair for both committees.

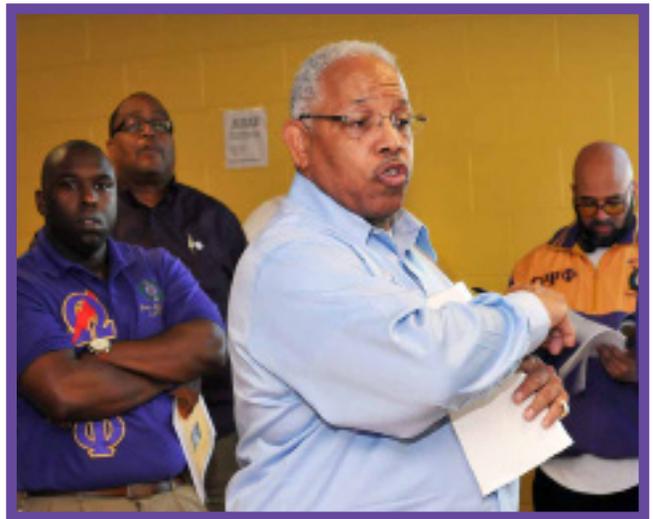
Brother Sears is still making significant contributions to Mu Iota Graduate Chapter, the Fourth District, and the Fraternity on the International level. Bro. Charles W. Sears is a rock. Sears is an Army Hero and he still stands tall within Omega.

*Omega Lambda Lambda's Mentorship Program***Enhances the Lives of Youth**

**I**t was the vision of Brother Charles Hopkins in establishing a mentorship program that would enrich the character of young Black males. Hopkins also considered that the program would be a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the chapter's connection with the Nashville (TN) community.

After a discussion about his idea with the Fifth District Representative Brother Bryan White, Hopkins also garnered the support of his chapter in launching a year-long program called the *Master Omega Beautillion*. The purpose of the program is to mentor youth in a positive and optimistic matter. *The Master Omega Beautillion* provides youth the opportunity to experience an array of cultural activities and group service projects.

The Master Omega program also is designed to enhance the development of young Black males' social skills, and improving their self-esteem. Since the spring of 2017, Omega Lambda Lambda Graduate Chapter has presented several mentorship activities. Some of the events that the chapter has hosted were: a Bullying Workshop, Community Service events, Mother and Son Luncheon, Police Interaction, and a Survival



Workshop. Brother Hopkins noted that more activities for the youth have been planned and added by the *Master Omega Beautillion* committee.

**Photograph (Top):** An Omega Lambda Lambda Chapter Brother served as mentors for the Master Omega Beautillion's Bullying Workshop.

**Photograph (Bottom):** Brother Charles Hopkins (center) is joined by Omega Lambda Lambda Chapter Brothers during the program's orientation session.



# Mu Psi Chapter Celebrates 90th Year

*North Carolina A&T State University's Chapter were leaders in the community*

In March 2017, Mu Psi Chapter celebrated its 90th chapter anniversary. All of the weekend's activities were held at the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NC A&T) campus in Greensboro, NC. Brothers of the Mu Psi Chapter not only promote the ideals of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., but they also maintain a high standard of excellence and service to the communities in which they reside.

The chapter is a place of honor as several outstanding individuals were chapter members. Some of the more well-known members were Brothers Ellis F. Corbett, Dr. Ronald McNair, and Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr.

**BROTHER ELLIS FRANKLIN CORBETT**-was the longest serving International Editor of The Oracle (1945 to 1963). Corbett would later be elected as the Fraternity's 26th Grand Basileus from 1967 to 1971. He joined Omega Chapter on March 3, 1971.

**BROTHER DR. RONALD MCNAIR**-graduated magna cum laude from NC A&T with B.S. in Engineering Physics in 1971. He also received a Ph.D in Physics from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Bro. McNair was one of the first group of Black NASA astronauts in 1978. He was the second African American to fly into space in 1984. He later served as the Mission Specialist for the Space Shuttle Challenger which exploded during the launch on January 29, 1986 (Omega Chapter).

**REV. BRO. JESSE L. JACKSON**- would become one of Dr. Martin L. King's staff members during the Civil Rights Movement. He came to Mu Psi as a transfer student from the University of Illinois where he was initiated through Pi Psi. He had been denied an opportunity to play quarterback at Illinois. At NC A&T, Bro. Jackson played quarterback and was the Student Government President. In the Fraternity, Bro. Jackson served as the 15th Second Vice Grand Basileus (1962-1964). Brother Jackson later became a two-time U.S. Presidential Candidate.

## Beta Mu Nu Chapter Provides Service to the Community



The Brothers of Beta Mu Nu Chapter were recently approved to start an Adopt-A-Mile program with the Alabama Department of Transportation.

The chapter will be responsible for the stretch of Highway 119, between mile markers two and three near the Alabama Veteran Cemetery in Montevallo, AL. The chapter will clean the highway in their assigned area every month.

Beta Mu Nu Chapter is also providing funding for the Alabama Kidney Foundation's Financial Assistance Program. The funding helps serve kidney patients who need assistance with their utility, and prescription cost.

The funding also provides transportation for dialysis treatment visits. Beta Mu Nu members participated in the "2017 Birmingham Kidney Walk" in April 2017.

The purpose of the walk was to raise monies for the research and awareness of kidney disease. The event was held at Samford University's Track & Soccer Stadium.

In addition the chapter participated in the "Out of the Darkness Walk," a program that brings awareness to mental illness. This year marks the tenth edition of Birmingham's "Out of the Darkness Walk."

More than 1,700 walkers participated in the event last year and nearly \$180,000 was raised for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention uses the monies raised from the "Out of the Darkness Walk" to fund suicide prevention research, advocacy programs, education programs and awareness events.

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Story by Bro. Sidney R. Lankford

## Omega's Jones Top Police Leader



In October 2014, Brother Craig Owens was selected as the Third Command Sergeant Major (CSM) in the Military Police Division's 200th year history. CSM Owens was also the first African American to hold the prestigious post.

The U.S. Army's Brother Owens is responsible for the training and readiness of thousands of U.S. Army Military Police Soldiers who deploy to places such as Guantanamo Bay, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Iraq. He also provides command team support for over 13,000 soldiers consisting of 4 Brigades, 27 Battalions, three Criminal Investigation Divisions (CID) Battalions and 12 direct reporting units.

Owens holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice and a M.S. in Public Administration. He also graduated from the U.S. Army's Sergeant Major Academy and the FBI National Academy's Advance Criminal Investigation Course. Brother Owens is a member of Georgia's Chi Gamma Gamma Graduate Chapter.

# Bro. Prosper, An Omega and USAF Leader

Winner of the International Colonel Charles Young Military Leadership Award



**A** young Paul A. Prosper was born in Kingston, Jamaica. At age 10, he and his family moved to America settling in Long, Island, NY. Fast forward, Paul enrolled into The Citadel, a college known for training military leaders.

Today, Major Paul A. Prosper is a leader of men and women as an Assistant Professor of Management at the United States Air Force Academy. His primary Air Force career field is Air Battle Manager. Major Prosper is a Senior Director on the E-3 Sentry combat aircraft (AWACS). Prosper has spent many years of his career as an Instructor Air Weapons Officer, Chief of Training for a squadron of 300+ Airmen, Director of Operations and he has held various leadership positions that involved developing, retaining, motivating & training Airmen.

During his most recent assignment, Brother Prosper supervised execution of the Commander and Director of Operations' guidance of requirements, tactics, intelligence, life support, simulators, and supporting contracts for the E-3 AWACS weapons system. He ensured precise management of annual 552 Operations Group flying hours program, SERE, and training for over 1,800 aircrew.

Brother Major Prosper graduated from the Citadel in 2001 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He also holds a Masters in Human Relations from the University of Oklahoma and a Doctorate of Management from the University of Phoenix. Bro. Prosper is also a certified Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) by the Human Resources Certification Institute (HRCI).

Out of uniform, Bro. Dr. Prosper is very active in the community. He is currently the Basileus of Xi Pi Graduate Chapter and the Eighth District Director of Public Relations. His other community activities include duties at the Executive Director of the African American Youth Leadership Conference and he serves as the 2nd Vice President of the Hubert L "Hooks" Jones Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. At the 2017 Leadership Conference, Bro. Prosper was presented as the "2015-2016 International Colonel Charles Young Military Leadership Award winner.

## Xi Pi Awards Scholarships

Xi Pi Graduate Chapter and it's 501©3 Uplift Foundation awarded scholarships to deserving local high school seniors in the name of Founder and Charter Member of Xi Pi Chapter, Brother Samuel C. Hunter, Jr.

On June 17, 2017 four high school seniors received \$4000 to \$5000 scholarships from the Uplift Foundation. The recipients of the awards included:

**Aimee L. Hatley** - is a 2017 graduate of William Mitchell Harrison High School with a 3.0 GPA. Ms. Hatley plans to major in Psychology with a minor in Sociology at the University of Colorado. **Samara C. Henderson** - is a 2017 graduate of Vista Ridge High School with a 4.3 GPA. Ms. Henderson plans to study business marketing at the Arizona State University. **Kiara D. Mitchell** - is a 2017 graduate of Sierra High School with a 3.6 GPA. Ms. Mitchell plans to major in biology with a pre-med track at Colorado State University. **Cole C. Pelt** - is a 2017 graduate of Liberty High School with a 2.6 GPA. Mr. Pelt plans to major business administration at Colorado State University.

# Four Ques Inspire Youth Athletes at Camp

The Dallas Cowboys' quarterback Dak Prescott hosted his first Dak Prescott Youth Football Pro Camp in June 2017. Prescott enlisted the help of some of the best and brightest coaches from around the Dallas area. Several of these outstanding coaches were men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Four Omega men from different chapters participated in the two-day camp for first to eighth grade youth.

## PHOTOGRAPH ON RIGHT

The four Omega coaches were Brothers *Larry Johnson, Alpha Iota Iota; Tony Culton, Epsilon Alpha; Michael Stevens, Theta Alpha and Byron Bailey, Sigma Lambda.*

The coaches offered tips and hands-on instruction, including lectures on fundamental football skills, and positive environment.



Campers were placed in small groups by ages to ensure that each child received maximum instruction. "This was a great experience for the campers with different skills levels," said Bro. Tony Culton of Epsilon Alpha Chapter.

Brother Larry Johnson of Alpha Iota Iota Chapter said "I thought the level of competition was great all day." Johnson added that the campers were inspired to perform well in order to receive individual and team awards. The camp was held at Lake Dallas High School in Corinth, TX.

## *Epsilon Alpha Works with the Fort Worth Community*

Tragedy struck the south side of Fort Worth, TX, on June 10th, as seven people were shot and two tragically killed. Violence in Fort Worth is up 69% in 2017, which was an astounding number from just a year ago. In an effort to, repeal this violence, the south side Fort Worth community came together to start a positive initiative, which was called "No Shots Fired."

The "No Shots Fired" is a 100-day initiative influencing positive change by stopping violence through community engagement. The event began on June 19th known as Juneteenth. The historical date is

when the state ended slavery in Texas. After a series of several activities over the summer, Fun Fest was held in July 2017. The event included live entertainment, public speakers, youth activities, music, and food.

The food was provided by the brothers of Epsilon Alpha Chapter. "I work and live in this community, and just like everyone else, I want the violence to stop," said Brother Jerry McDowell, Epsilon Alpha's event coordinator. Brother Darryl Jordan also added, "This grill is hot, but not as warm as the climate in Fort Worth streets.

Violence is running rampant now. I wanted to come out and do my part in creating positive memories."

Also in June the chapter participated in 'Recess: End of School Party.' The purpose of the event serves as a special opportunity to celebrate the enthusiasm and dedication of area administrators and educators. The annual event was held at the Fort Worth Central Library.

*Both Stories by*

*Brother Clarence Brooks,  
Epsilon Alpha's Chapter Editor*



*Upsilon Pi Chapter Brothers join with members of the community during the Race for a Cure and Feed the Hungry event.*

## Zeta Phi Holds Ques and Cops Event

**O**n June 17, 2017, the Zeta Phi Graduate Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated opened the doors of their Burnel E. Coloun Community Center to members of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

The first Ques and Cops event was a first step in building a bridge with law enforcement officers and the community. The purpose of the event was simply to say “Thank You” and we are here to assist in our communities.

Zeta Phi Chapter recognizes that not every police officer has ill intentions against the Black community. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity has been a vital force in the community and uses the necessary tools to uplift the community with law enforcement help.

**PHOTOGRAPH:** Zeta Phi Graduate Chapter Brothers with members of the Indianapolis Police Department.



## Upsilon Pi Provides Service

**T**he Brothers of Upsilon Pi Chapter, the graduate chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity for the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek Michigan communities served as Race Marshals for the 2017 Komen Southwest Michigan Race for the Cure on May 21, 2017.

About 100 race participants and another 150 spectators were present at the Gilmore Car Museum in Hickory Corners, Michigan, to support this important community event. The chapter help to direct racers through the course.

The Komen organization’s vision is to create a world without breast cancer. Their fund raising goal this year was to raise \$50,000. They exceeded that goal by raising \$53,215 and the Upsilon Pi Chapter was thanked for their service to this important community event.

The event was attended by the chapter charter members and chapter founders, Brother George Bridges and Brother Richard Gaines as well as friends and family members of chapter members. The brothers of Upsilon Pi and Upsilon Gamma, the undergraduate

chapter at Western Michigan University have also made a commitment to help feed the hungry in Kalamazoo. The chapters also joined with the deacons of Galilee Baptist Church and the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission.

The Kalamazoo Gospel Mission had it humble beginning as a Depression Era soup kitchen in 1933. Besides offering food service with three meals a day to individuals and families in need, they also offer women’s shelter, men’s shelter job training and other important services for individuals and families in transition.

The Gospel Mission has the distinction of being the only food pantry and meals service organization in Kalamazoo that offers three prepared meals per day 365 days of the year. They prepare 600-700 meals per day and the Upsilon Pi and Upsilon Gamma Chapters play an important role by volunteering regularly.

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*Story by*  
**Brother Dr. Theodore Sanders,**  
Upsilon Pi’s Chapter Editor

# Sea Lover Joins the U.S. Navy

*Lambda Omicron's Bro. Robert Hammond enjoyed the sea and science*

Robert S. Hammond was born in Philadelphia on April 28, 1926. Upon the death of his father, his mother sent him to live with his uncle and aunt in Charleston, SC.

His uncle would take him aboard his shrimp boat as they would travel to Cuba, Haiti, and Jamaica. During his travels, Robert was fascinated by boats and the sea.

Hammond would attend segregated schools in Charleston, and he could read at six-years old. Because of the South's Jim Crow laws, Robert would return to the City of Philadelphia. He later joined the U.S. Navy and was sent to Guam for duty.

In April 1945, Robert Hammond was assigned to Base 18 Hospital. He later was assigned to the Medical Dispensary at Camp Wise Naval Base and the Marine Corps dispensary at Barracuda Village. He worked under the supervision of the first African American Medical Doctors in the U. S. Navy. Hammond distinguished himself in providing medical treatment and care for sailors and Marines. It was through some of Hammond's training in science, that many soldier's wounds were healed and cured.

Hammond was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy in June 1946. The next year, he enrolled into Shaw University graduating in 1951 with honors with a Bachelor's Degree.

While at Shaw, Robert Hammond would become a member of

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity's Delta Psi Chapter. He also a member of the Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honorary Society.



After graduation, Bro. Hammond worked at the U.S. Army Quartermaster Testing Lab as a Physical Scientist in Philadelphia. He later worked as a Public Health Inspector. In 1957, he married Joan Mason and they had one son, Robert, Jr.

Brother Hammond was selected from a nationwide group of Ten Public Health Inspectors by the Surgeon General's Office of the United States for a scholarship to attend the School of Public Health's Masters Program at the

University of Michigan. He graduated with a Master of Public Health Degree in 1957. He moved to the Los Angeles to become the Senior Public Health Specialist for the County of Los Angeles. He also attended Southwestern University's School of Law. Hammond was promoted to Chief Environment Health Specialist in 1984. His duties included the training of food service operators during the 1984 Summer Olympic Games.

In December 1994, Bro. Hammond received a citation from the Los Angeles Sentinel, the Black newspaper in Los Angeles for his extraordinary courage and devotion while fighting racism at home and oppression abroad during World War II. Two-years later, Brother Robert Hammond received the "Dorie Miller Memorial Award" for his inspirational leadership. The award is in recognition of Bro. Hammond's endeavors to advance the overall readiness and competence of the naval service through outstanding personal contributions.

Story by Brother Myron E. Reed, 12th District Director of Public Relations

# A Model of Brotherhood

**T**he hallmark of Brother Franklin Henderson's life has been service. Franklin was born in Miami, but unfortunately his father passed away when he was very young. The support of his family and the awareness of his environment provided Franklin with positive Black male role models.

"Many professional men in the community were members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. They were dentists, morticians, pharmacists, teachers and attorneys. In retrospect what I really liked about these men is collectively the Ques were 'regular guys. What I mean by 'regular guys' is that they were leaders and role models. Also, they very down to earth, fun-loving and approachable," said Brother Henderson.

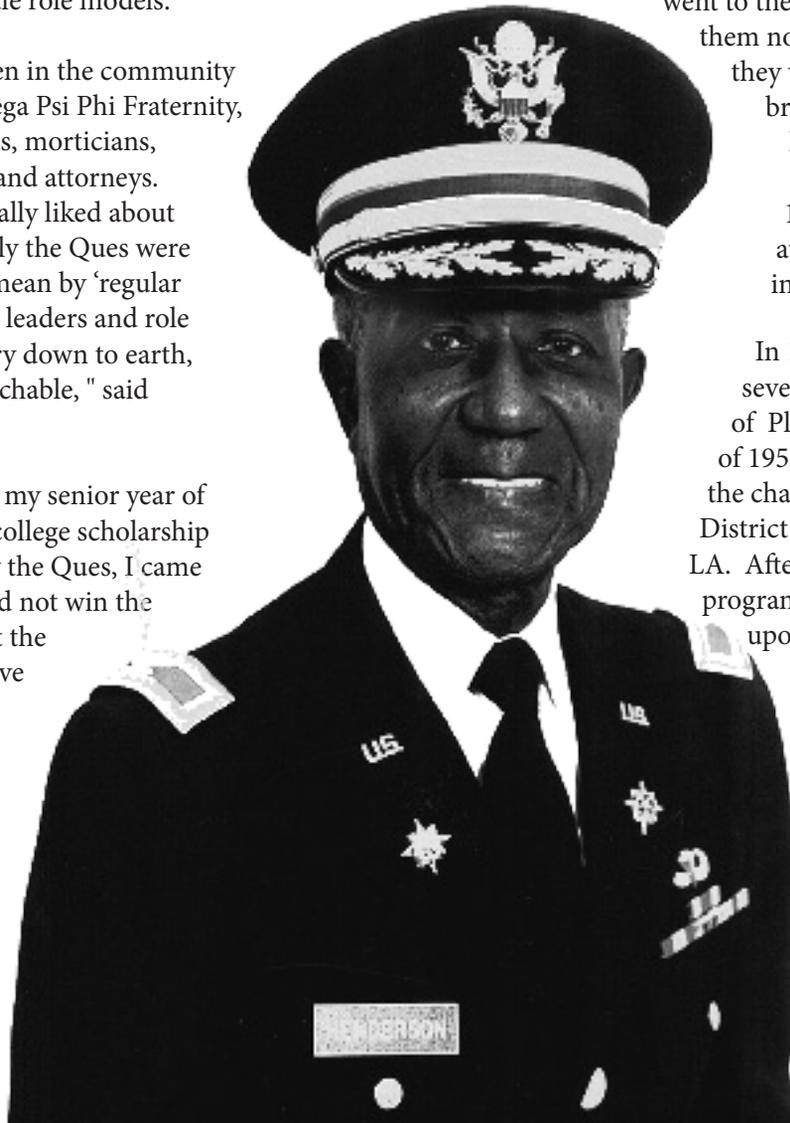
He also added, "during my senior year of high school I entered college scholarship program sponsored by the Ques, I came in second place and did not win the scholarship money but the experience left a positive impression upon me related to Omega."

When Henderson arrived on campus at Southern University, he noticed that many of the Omegas were military veterans and cadets in the ROTC program. "They appeared to have a very strong sense of Brotherhood," commented the young Franklin Henderson. Near the end of Franklin's sophomore year, he had strong interest in seeking membership into Omega. He was initially rejected by the Omegas, but he went to

the invitation only smoker anyway. "In addition to my persistence, I was a math major with a B+ grade point average," noted Henderson. He said that the Omegas wanted to kick him off line and returned his refund check. "I later learned that my line Brothers unanimously went to the big Brothers and told them no Henderson, no line, they would all quit if I was not brought back. That was a true lesson in Brotherhood," smiled Bro. Henderson. In 1950, all 13 of the Fall 1950 at Beta Sigma were initiated into Omega.

In 1951, Brother Henderson served as Beta Sigma's Dean of Pledges and in the spring of 1951, he was selected as the chapter delegate to the 9th District Meeting in Shreveport, LA. After being in the ROTC program at Southern University, upon his graduation Henderson was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army during the Korean War Conflict. He would serve on active duty from 1952 to 1957, and in the Army Reserve from 1957 to 1982. Brother Henderson would end his military career with the rank of Colonel. Currently, he is active with the 555th, the "Triple

Nickels" Parachute Infantry Association, and the Buffalo Soldiers Ninth and Tenth Cavalry Association.



STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 55

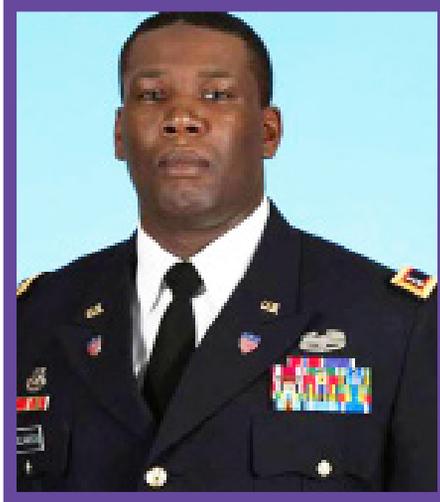
# An Omega Endures Major Injuries

June 12, 2006 could have been the day U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2, Bro. Tawan Williamson's life ended. Instead it was the start of a new direction. "I was in the passenger seat of a Humvee as a part of a personal security detail in Iraq. A bomb blew up directly under my seat. When I looked down through the smoke and blood I saw my leg was shredded. I knew then that it couldn't be saved," said Brother Williamson. He also added, "I may have died, but I lost my left leg below the knee and part of his right foot."

Less than a year after Brother Williamson's injury, he was running on a high-tech prosthetic leg. In years past this prosthetic would have signaled the end of a military career. An Army soldier in Williamson's situation usually would have received a quick discharge, a disability check and directions to the Veterans Administration Hospital.

Brother Williamson persevered as he overcame his debilitating injury and doubt in continuing his military career. The military had planned to discharge him, but he appealed and won the right to continue serving. "My mind was set on being a testament for those wounded warriors that thought life has thrown them a curve ball and there was no future for them due to their disabilities," said Williamson.

He spent over a year at The Center for the Intrepid, part of Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, TX recovering from his injuries and learning to use his new leg. He wanted to grow and mentor soldiers as a drill instructor, but the Army ruled that field work would be too demanding for an amputee.



That competitive spirit manifests itself in military Para olympic competitions where Omega's Williamson competes in the power lifting, wheelchair basketball, shot put, discus and 50 meter butterfly disciplines.

Currently, Williamson serves as the Area Coordinator in Kaiserslautern, Germany. He is a member of Theta Rho Chapter located in Kaiserslautern, Germany.



He applied to the Army's Warrant Officer Candidate School, was accepted and completed the program in 2010.

"I set high aspirations for my future endeavors and to prove it I wanted to continue to strive towards those demanding obstacles that would uplift those after me," Brother Williamson stated. The challenges of serving with able bodied soldiers did not deter Brother Williamson.

*Story by*

*Brother Carl Bampoe,*

*13th District Director  
of Public Relations*



Bro. Garry D. Howard

### HENDERSON STORY--from p. 53

In 1960, after active military duty, Brother Henderson earned a Masters degree in Engineering from Tennessee State University. While in graduate school, he met his wife, Doris. They have been married for 61 years.

After graduation, Henderson with his wife, and baby daughter Judi made the transition from Nashville, Tennessee to Los Angeles after he had secured a job as an aerospace engineer with Douglas Aircraft Company in Santa Monica, California.

Brother Henderson arrived on the west coast and has been a member of Lambda Omicron Graduate Chapter since 1963. Henderson said, "Being an Omega is a mutually beneficial two-way street. I have gained much from Omega, but I have also contributed to Omega. My leadership and administrative skills that were honed in the military and were put to as an officer and committee member in the fraternity. Beta Sigma Chapter had many World War II veterans during my era – the sense of Brotherhood has had a profound impact on me over the years "

## Media Press Club Inducts A Que to HALL of FAME

The Milwaukee Press Club inducted **Omega Psi Phi's Garry D. Howard** to the club's Media Hall of Fame in October 2017.

"This year's inductees were a highly respected group of journalists," said LaToya Dennis, press club president. She also added that "throughout their careers, they met the highest standards of journalism. We are inspired by them and look forward to celebrating their achievements."

The Milwaukee Press Club, founded in 1885, is the oldest continuously operating press club in North America. Proceeds from Milwaukee Press Club programming benefit the MPC Endowment, Ltd., and its scholarship fund.

In 2000, Brother Howard was the Assistant Managing Editor for Sports at the *Milwaukee Sentinel*. During his over 15 year career at the newspaper he was also the Associated Press Sports Editors' first African-American to hold that position.

The Bronx, NY native was awarded the "2009 Sam Lacy Pioneer Award" by the National Association of Black Journalists' Sports Task Force.

Brother Howard was also awarded an Emmy for "Outstanding Achievement for a Sports Program Series." He served as the host of the Journal Sentinel's High School Sports Program. Howard also appeared regularly on *ESPN's The Back Panel-Quite Frankly* with Omega's Brother Stephen A. Smith.

After leaving the *Journal Sentinel* in 2010, Howard was named as the Editor in Chief with *Sporting News*. At the *News*, he was responsible for all editorial operations, setting editorial direction, managing writers and editors and supervising production of *Sporting News Magazine*, *Sporting News Today*, *Sporting News.com* and *Sporting News Yearbooks*.

Currently, Bro. Howard is the Director of Corporate Initiatives at *American City Business Journals*. Howard also has worked for several newspapers during his prestigious career in journalism.

He served as a police and government reporter at the *Home News*; sports copy editor at the *Rochester Times-Union* and a sports copy editor at the *St. Petersburg Independent*.

Howard also worked at the *St. Petersburg Times* as a prep design editor, and a deputy sports editor at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Howard attended Lawrenceville School where he received a four-year academic scholarship to Lehigh University. After college graduation, he began his career as sports reporter at the *Trenton Times*.

Omega's Garry D. Howard was initiated into the Fraternity through Xi Phi Chapter in June 1985. During his time in Milwaukee, he was very active with Kappa Phi Graduate Chapter. Currently, Brother Howard is a member of Pi Phi Chapter located in the Sixth District.

# WHEN WE WEAR THE GLOVES

*"When we wear the gloves, A brother has gone from our midst and sailed to golden shores.*

*When we wear the gloves, A friend has passed the final test and walks through purple doors.*

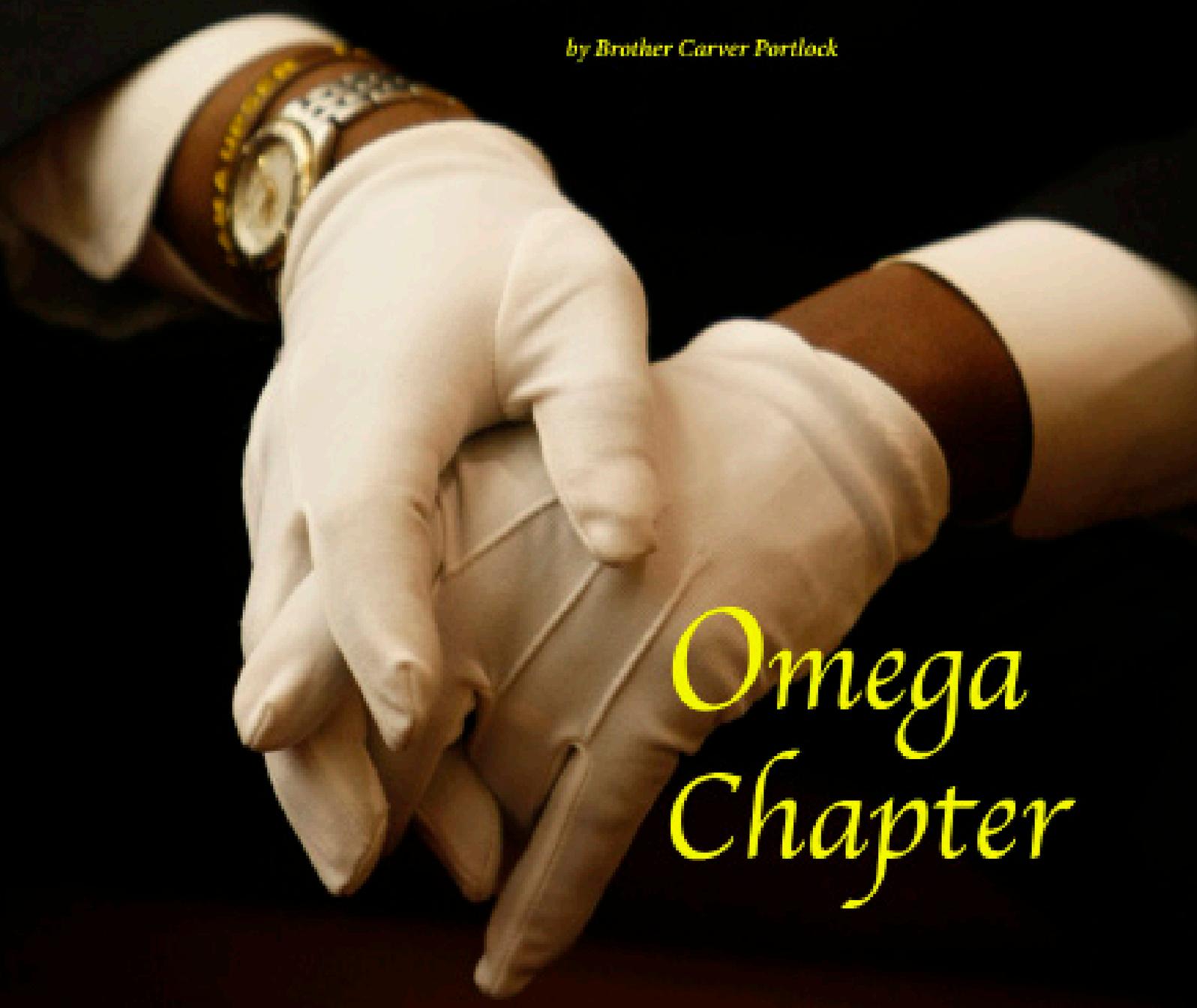
*The circle has an empty place, A voice will raise no more. The song of fellowship and love Uplift  
forevermore. When we wear the gloves, A light goes from this earthly life. The visor closed again.*

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

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

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

*by Brother Carver Portlock*



Omega  
Chapter

## **Brother Eric V. Alleyne**

*Army Officer and Tennis Champion*

Brother Alleyne entered Omega Chapter on December 16, 2016. He was initiated into the Fraternity through Xi Tau Chapter in 1963. Alleyne was the first African American Captain of the University of Toledo's Tennis Team. He was also a member of UT's Mid-American Conference Championship in 1966. After graduation, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army.

## **Brother Luther B. Buckley**

*Educator*

Brother Buckley entered Omega Chapter on August 14, 2017. He was initiated into the Fraternity through Beta Alpha Chapter in 1967. After serving in the U. S. Army, Buckley enrolled into Jackson State College graduating with a B.S. degree in Education. He also received a Master of Arts degree in Education from Western Reserve University. He was principal at Brinkley Elementary-Junior High School and Lanier High School for over 30-years, retiring in 1987.

## **Brother Julian A. Cook, Jr.**

*Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court*

Brother Cook entered Omega Chapter on May 16, 2017. He was initiated into the Fraternity through Nu Chapter in 1950. He earned a B.A. from Pennsylvania State University. After serving in the U. S. Army, Cook entered Georgetown University's School of Law, entering a Juris Doctor in 1957. He also received a Master of Law degree from the University of Virginia's School of Law. Judge Cook was appointed to the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in 1978 by U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Cook's legal career spanned over 60 years. He also served as Chairman of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, and as a adjunct professor of Law at the University of Detroit's Mercy School of Law.

## **Brother Linwood L. Creekmur**

*An Omega Man*

Brother Creekmur entered Omega Chapter on April 8, 2017. He was initiated into the Fraternity through Nu Psi Chapter in 1966 on the campus of Virginia State University. At Mu Alpha Alpha Graduate Chapter, Brother Creekmur served as Basileus in 2000 to 2004. In addition to his leadership roles, Linwood served as chairman or a member on various chapter committees, i.e. Orange County Uplift Foundation, voter registration drive, 47th Twelfth District Meeting, Mu Alpha Alpha Health Fair, Mentor at the El Monte Children's Center and Alternate Chapter Delegate at the 79th National Grand Conclave in Philadelphia, PA.

He was honored as Mu Alpha Alpha Chapter's Omega Man of the Year in 1993, 2001 and 2004. In 2012, Linwood received the Superior Service Award. On July 25, 2016, at the 80th National Grand Conclave in Las Vegas, Nevada he received his fifty year pin for continuous Omega service.

## **Brother C. Arthur Eubanks,**

*An Omega Man*

Brother Eubanks entered Omega Chapter on February 17, 2017. He was initiated through Mu Psi Chapter (North Carolina A&T University) in 1949. His Omega Life was marked by a long history of leadership and service that included such outstanding accomplishments and contributions through Mu Nu Chapter as having been elected as the Chapter Reporter and then the Basileus from 1990 to 1992. He also served as chairman for several years for such key chapter committees as Talent Hunt, Political Action, and Social Action. He also served as the Second District Assault on Illiteracy Chairman in 1987. He was recognized as a three-time Mu Nu Chapter "Omega Man of the Year." He was also a three-time Superior Service Awardee.

## **Brother Frank T. Gaither, Sr.**

*An Omega Man*

Brother Gaither was a member of Pi Phi Chapter for over 60 years. He was a long time, dedicated member of the Pi Phi Ensemble and Pi Phi Achievement Week Committee, serving as its chair in 2001. During his service to the chapter over the years he has been recognized with the chapter's Founders Award, Omega Man of the Year Award, and Outstanding Service Award. Brother Gaither also served on the 6th District Achievement Week Committee.

## **Brother Donald O. Harris**

*Educator*

Brother Harris entered Omega Chapter on August 22, 2017. He was initiated into the Fraternity through Lambda Omicron in 1973. He later moved to Las Vegas becoming a member of Beta Mu Mu Chapter. He started teaching school for Los Angeles County Special Schools where he became an assistant principal. His education included Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education from Azusa Pacific College. Harris also worked as a teacher specialist for the University of California and California State University. He trained teachers to instruct delinquent students with special needs under President John F. Kennedy's special program, Teacher Corps.

## **Brother Johnny L. Harris**

*An Omega Man*

Brother Harris entered Omega Chapter on June 7, 2017. He was initiated through Upsilon Epsilon at Jackson State in 1971. He was an International Life Member, Seventh District Life Member, Alabama State Organization Life Member and was an active member of Theta Tau Chapter. Brother Harris served the Alabama State Organization as State Representative, First Vice State Representative, State Chaplain, Regional Representative, Undergraduate Advisor, Time and Place Committee Chairman and State Marshall on three occasions. He was recognized with a plaque for 40 years during the Centennial Celebration of the Fraternity in Washington, D. C.

## **Brother Dr. Jimmie James, Jr.**

*Professor of Music*

Brother James entered Omega Chapter on June 25, 2017. He was initiated into Omega through Upsilon Epsilon Chapter on the campus of Jackson State University. Bro. James graduated from Jackson State with a Bachelor of Music Education in 1960. He also graduated with an M.S. from the University of Wisconsin, and a doctorate degree from the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. James served as the Fraternity's International Director of the Talent Hunt. James also served as a professor, band director, and the coordinator of the Graduate School's Music Department at Jackson State. The Hattiesburg, MS native was a charter member of the Mississippi State Omega Hall of Fame. The Mississippi State Talent Hunt was later named "*The Jimmie James, Jr., State Talent Hunt.*"

## **Brother Homer Johnson**

*An Omega Man*

Brother Johnson entered Omega Chapter recently. Johnson was initiated into Omega through Xi Psi Chapter at South Carolina Stater College on December 15, 1950. He was an active member of Lambda Omicron Chapter's Omega Gents Mentoring Program.

## **Brother Samuel A. Jones**

*Firefighter with the Hamden Fire Department*

Brother Jones entered Omega Chapter on October 29, 2015. He was initiated into Omega through Beta Epsilon Chapter on the campus of Knoxville College in 1947. He was an active member of Iota Alpha Graduate Chapter. Until his retirement in 1990, Bro. Jones was Hamden, Connecticut's first Black firemen in the city's fire department.

## **Brother George C. Knox**

*Coach and Educator*

Brother Knox entered Omega Chapter on August 2, 2017. The WWII Army veteran received his B.S. and Masters degrees from North Carolina A & T State University. He also holds a principal's certification from the University of North Carolina. He started his career coaching football, basketball, baseball and serving as a History teacher. He later was the first African American principal in Rowan County School System. He was also inducted into the North Carolina A & T State College's Sports Hall of Fame. In 1986, Bro. Knox was elected the first African American Rowan County Commissioner.

## **Brother Rogers J. Newman**

*Mathematics Professor*

Brother Newman entered Omega Chapter on January 9, 2016. He served as a professor of mathematics at Southern University. He was initiated into the Fraternity through Psi Chapter at Morehouse College in 1943. Newman served in the U.S. Army during WWII. After his service he returned to Morehouse graduating in 1948. He also received a Masters degree from Atlanta University and a PhD in Mathematics from the University of Michigan. Bro. Newman was an active member with Lambda Alpha Graduate Chapter.

## **Brother Sam McKenzie, Jr.**

*An Omega Man*

Brother McKenzie entered Omega Chapter on July 13, 2017. He was initiated into Omega through Rho Psi Chapter on the campus of Tennessee State University in 1955. After graduation he worked for the Tennessee Department of Human Services. Brother McKenzie served Omega for over 60 years. McKenzie was an active member of Iota Alpha Graduate Chapter. Omega's McKenzie was the father of three Omega men: Brothers Raleigh, Reginald and Samuel.

## **Brother Garth Partee**

*Chapter Editor*

Brother Partee entered Omega Chapter on July 24, 2017. He attended Central State University. Partee was initiated into Omega through Nu Omicron Chapter. He later became a member of Omega Xi and Alpha Mu Nu Chapters. In 2016, Alpha Mu Nu presented Bro. Partee with their chapter's outstanding service award. He worked on the chapter's Membership Selection Program and served as the Keeper of Peace and Chapter Editor.

## **Brother Charles L. Shelton, Jr.**

*Educator and Former 8th District Representative*

Brother Shelton entered Omega Chapter on March 20, 2017. The Life Member has served the Fraternity for over 50 years. Brother Shelton served as a three-term 8th District Representative. At the time of his death, he was serving on the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity International Life Membership Board. Shelton was the President of the Retired School Employees of the St. Louis Public Schools. The former teacher and principal also served as the Vice President of Region 14 Missouri Retired Teachers' Association. Brother Shelton "BeBe" Shelton bowled in the Davis Bowling League for over 50 years.

## Brother Dr. Andrew E. Whitted

*Pastor*

Brother Whitted entered Omega Chapter on August 4, 2017. He was initiated into Omega through Omicron Iota Chapter in 1961. He received a B.A. from Livingstone College, a Master of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary and an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Livingston College. He began his pastoral ministry at Providence AME Zion Church. Later, Whitted served as the pastor of Park Street AME Zion Church and St. Catherine AME Zion Church. He was active with Tau Alpha and Psi Omicron chapters during his service to Omega.

## Brother Harold F. Winstead, Jr.

*Financial Consultant*

Brother Winstead entered Omega Chapter on January 13, 2016. He was initiated into Omega through Omega Zeta Chapter in 1982. As an Omega man for over 30-years, Brother Winstead also was a member of Zeta Iota, Pi Rho, and Beta Mu Mu chapters. While growing up, Bro. Winstead distinguished himself both in the classroom and on the athletic fields. In high school, he was a member of the National Honor Society, and an All-City, All-District athlete in football and baseball. He received a football scholarship to Duke University. After graduation, he started his career in the financial services industry with First Investors. Winstead also worked for several companies in the financial industry.

## A Poem from an Omega Veteran

**B**RO. ALFRED L. HARRIS, SR.  
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army (Ret.) wrote the "Birth of An American Veteran" poem during his tour in Vietnam in the early 1970s. Brother Harris is currently an active member of the 5th District's Epsilon Phi Chapter. Harris was initiated into Omega through at Eta Sigma Chapter, Lincoln University (MO) in Fall 1966.

### **Birth of An American Veteran**

*As I awaken, dawn breaks in the distance  
on the horizon of a land that is not my own.  
I move awkwardly, and perhaps too slowly,  
toward the duties of the day that lies ahead.*

*Last night, I slept when I could...  
sometimes gladly...  
sometimes, helplessly...  
sometimes, to escape the particulars of my circumstances.  
(But three hours just weren't enough.)*

*Now... struggling... I pull away from the remnants  
of the uneasy peace I made with the darkness of the night before.  
While standing the watch and cradling my weapon...  
I grew anxious in the hope that I would one day,  
similarly embrace those whom I love and who love me in return.*

*And so, it goes as I shiver to shake-off the tender moments  
that flash dimly before me... on the fading crest of my down time.  
realizing that today is another day... One that promises no victory...  
one that is, as yet, unfamiliar with peace.*

*Today is another day in the trenches or the jungles.  
It is another day in the mountains or on the beachheads.  
It is a day of undefined battle lines... one of rural or urban  
warfare... In the desert or in the swamps...  
Upon the waters or above the clouds...  
It is a day... a mission... a war ... that holds no selfish prize for me.*

*But faith and commitment will sustain me.  
Confidence that I will thrive again, on American soil, motivates me.  
My trust that family and friends  
will save space for me in their hearts and homes,  
gives balance to the bitter taste of combat  
as it enters and offends the whole of my being.*

*And yet, I'll go on.  
I'll go on because I promised:  
I gave my word (in a solemn pledge made before God) when  
I became  
America's "Army of One".  
Its "Navy Team",  
Its Corps of the "Few and the Proud",  
Its dominant Force in the sky,  
And its "Guardian of our coastal water ways".  
I'll go on because I must.*

*I'll go on because others will support and relieve me.  
I'll go on because my family awaits me.  
I'll go on because I can't turn back...  
I'll go on... because I'd rather die in battle  
Than live in fear.*

*And when this day is over and my tour is done,  
I'll return home:  
Maybe in the silence of my mortal life...  
Maybe decades later.  
Maybe broken and wounded...  
Maybe not my "old self"...  
And maybe even, by the grace of God, in one piece.*

*But surely, I will return... asking no greater reward than  
To be well received,  
Tended in my need,  
Appreciated for my service,  
And free to share equally in the abundance of the land that I love.*

*For on that day, I will have been born ...an American Veteran*

*By Brother Alfred L. Harris, Sr., Lt. Colonel, Army (Ret.)*

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

## **He Served With Honor**



**O**mega Psi Phi's Brother George Purefoy (center) was initiated into the Fraternity through Zeta Chapter, Virginia Union University on May 5, 1946. Sergeant Purefoy served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War in the early 1950s. Today, he proudly stands with two Grand officers, Bro. Dr. David Marion, the First Vice Grand Basileus (left) and Bro. Daniel B. Jones, Sr., the Grand Keeper of Finance, Lt. Colonel, U. S. Army, (Ret.) on right at the Zeta Omega Graduate Chapter Center in Cleveland, Ohio.