



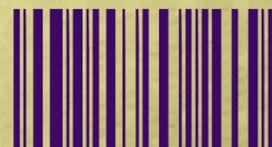
# BROTHER



*He Was Simply Known As*

# "CHICO"

**"THE 7TH DISTRICT SAYS GOODBYE TO A FRIEND"  
DISTRICT MEETING WILL BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT**



M S P U  
F.I.E.T.T.S.

## From the Desk of the 7<sup>th</sup> District Representative

Greetings to the Brothers of the 7<sup>th</sup> District,

In the matchless name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, I bring you greetings. God save this organization and preserve her ideals.

We are planning a great 7<sup>th</sup> District meeting and want individuals to learn as much as they can.

There are so many accomplishments that have been done over the past 12 months throughout the district that even this publication does not do it justice. Omega men continue to innovate and serve the community even in these uncertain times.

Lastly, I urge all 7<sup>th</sup> District Omega men to get ready to register to attend our District meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for allowing me to serve this year and we will continue to do the work of Omega together.

Fraternally Yours in Omega,

Bro. Reginald Harris, MBA, PMP

Seventh District Representative



## From the Desk of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Representative

Greetings Brothers of the Seventh District,

This past district year has been full of Zoom calls and events, but it has shown me how Omega Men overcome obstacles to keep doing the work in the community that is required.

I have tried to attend all events and meetings that have been requested. In the process I have gotten to know some good Brothers over this past year. This year I got to see first hand all of the good works of Omega men across the district.

I want to thank you for an eventful year and pray that we continue this journey together in the next year.

Fraternally,

Bro. Christopher Brooks  
1st Vice 7th District Representative



## From the Desk of the 7<sup>th</sup> District Public Relations Director

Greetings Brothers and Friends,

The State District Directors of Public Relations have been instrumental in making sure that information has been pushed out and have been active in district level projects.

As you know we have used Zoom, social media, and other avenues to keep the business of Omega going and active.

The goal of my office is to not only inform the Brothers of what is going on in real time but to document history for future Omega Men and the public to know of the positive and good works of Omega.

This issue was the first issue that was spearheaded by Bro. Herb Ford, SPRD for Georgia and he has done a great job putting it together.

Thank you to all that submitted articles.

I especially want to thank the Brothers of the district and pray you allow me to continue my work for another year.

Bro. Sean Bland, MPPM

7<sup>th</sup> District Public Relations Director



## Remainder of the District Executive Council



**Bro. Daquan Smith**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Representative



**Bro. James Reed**

District Keeper of Records and Seal



**Bro. Wilton "Chuck" Jackson**

District Keeper of Finance



**Bro. Arnold Gaines**

District Counselor



**Rev. Bro. Roi Johnson**

District Chaplain



**Bro. Dr. Brian Barkley, PhD**

7<sup>th</sup> District Marshal



**Bro. James Cistrunk**

Immediate Past DR

## **7<sup>th</sup> District State Representatives**



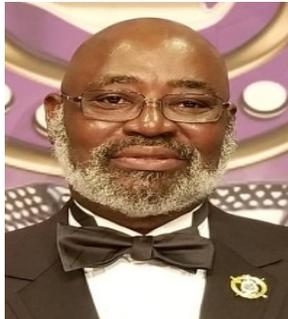
**Bro. Cary Hale, State Representative**

**State of Alabama Organization**



**Bro. Mitchell K. Woodall Sr, State Representative**

**State of Florida Organization**



**Bro. L. Keith Reddings, State Representative**

**State of Georgia Organization**



**Bro. Christopher Barnett, State Representative**

**State of Mississippi Organization**

## Editorial Committee



**Bro. Sidney Lankford,  
Alabama PR Director**



**Bro. Derek Williams,  
Florida PR Director**



**Bro. Herb Ford,  
Georgia PR Director**



**Bro. Kelly Martin,  
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**Bro. Reuben Sparks, Editor to The Pearl**

**Bro. Adanda Fondon, Committee Member**

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**Bro. Henry Rivers, Committee Member**

## **Bro Dr. Jorge Alfredo “Chico” Arenas**

Born June 2, 1939, Dr. Jorge Alfredo “Chico” Arenas entered Omega chapter on Saturday, February 6, 2021 in Atlanta, Georgia from complications of COVID-19. A native of Cuba, Bro Chico was initiated into Omega via the Sigma Alpha chapter on July 17, 1971. He excelled in the sport of baseball and spent nearly all his free time outside of school and church honing his skills in several field positions. With the political unrest brought by the Castro regime in the early 1950s, Chico and his family were forced to flee to the United States to escape political persecution, which led to Chico eventually playing professional baseball with several Negro American League (now Negro Major League) teams, before National League teams were fully integrated in 1959.



Upon retiring from professional baseball, Chico enrolled at Florida A&M University, earning his Bachelor's of Science degree. It was at FAMU that he not only earned his degree, he met his first wife, Maria, who Chico would often say was the “smartest woman in their house.” Having witnessed the inequities experienced in his native Cuba, Chico soon enrolled in medical school at the University of Cincinnati and completed medical residency in Miami, Florida, where he settled his family, which had grown to two daughters and a son. As a young doctor, Chico immediately put his knowledge and skills to work for the poorest and most under-served, first in the Liberty City community of Miami and later, a Cuban clinic in Hialeah. Throughout his professional career, Chico remained a community physician with a heart for the disenfranchised and those neglected by larger health systems. It was through his work that his clinics received federal funding to expand services to those experiencing substance abuse and mental health disorders, which was rare at the

time. Bro Arenas also managed health services for the juvenile court system within the state of Florida, which directly tied to his affinity of mentoring youth through the sport of baseball and other physical activities. After his first retirement in 2000, Chico organized another community clinic under the Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami and remained there until his second, and final retirement, in late 2018. After this retirement, he and his second wife, Marcia, relocated to the Atlanta area.



In Omega, Chico served as the first Chief of Staff to a sitting Grand Basileus when he served under 35<sup>th</sup> Grand Basileus, Dr. Dorsey C. Miller from 1994-1998. During his tenure, Chico traveled extensively with Grand Miller and became a fixture in Conclaves as a master Sergeant at Arms and within the tourism industry alike, as no nonsense when it came to negotiating contracts for Omega district and international meetings. As those worked closely with him can attest, it wasn't uncommon for Chico to walk into a hotel room, remove his shoes and jump on the bed to test the

quality of the mattress. There were also numerous instances I recall of Chico demanding the hotel provide a dish of everything on their menu to ensure the food was up to the standard of the brothers. If it wasn't, he would insist on meeting the chef and explaining how we liked our food prepared. This, of course, was after he had negotiated the property down to a bare-bones price on everything from rooms, parking and food. Chico and I often used our distinct personalities to Omega's advantage, he used his charm and out-going spirit to negotiate favorable pricing, then I stepped in to ensure the contract was codified to Omega's benefit. In that process of traveling, our friendship grew out of strict talk of Omega business, but regular phone calls to talk about life in general. Whether it was politics, family, our shared Catholic faith or just to check-in on the other to ensure all was good. Chico was the embodiment of a "Friend" to me and many other brothers he encountered over the years. A "Que's Que," there was no pretense about him, there are generations of brothers who likely didn't know Chico was even a medical doctor, as he would generally refer to himself as Chico and didn't seek the spotlight. I join scores of brothers in celebrating the life of our stalwart brother, Dr. Jorge Alfredo "Chico" Arenas, MD, and know he's ensuring the meetings of Omega Chapter are well-run and efficient.

Bro Will Jemison  
5-01-Theta Sigma  
Chief of Staff  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

## **Omega Man becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> Black Sheriff of Cobb County, GA**

November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020, marked one of the most important American elections. This election wasn't important just for the Presidential candidates, but included many local candidates as well. Specifically, for the Cobb County, GA ballot, Bro. Craig Owens made history as the 1<sup>st</sup> Black Sheriff elected for Cobb County. Bro. Owens is an initiate of "The Elite" Chi Gamma Gamma chapter of the 7<sup>th</sup> District, #4-2012. He is married with two children.



Bro. Owens holds multiple degrees and certificates of Scholarship. He has over 30 years police experience with the Cobb County Police, Military Police, and the U.S. Army as a Division Commander for over 14,000 troops in the USA, Afghanistan, and S. Korea.

Bro. Owens was inspired to run for the Cobb County Sheriff position while working in the local police department. He had discussions with other members of law enforcement that were magnifying issues stemming from the Sheriff's Department. The disconnect between the Sheriff's Department and the local community was alarming. There were over 50 deaths in the detention centers with the current Sheriff at the time. Families of the victims were not receiving proper communication or closure of what lead up to the deaths on the previous Sheriff's watch. Bro. Owens believed it was time to impact the community by running for Sheriff to bring honor and integrity to the position.

His biggest hurdle towards perseverance was learning how to be a politician. He realized his experience with the police and military wasn't quite as transferable to political campaigning. Bro. Owens surrounded himself with the right team and the support from the fraternity, he came out victorious in the election, but not prior to setting a few records. Bro. Owens received the most votes of any candidates for any position on the Cobb County ballot. This confirmed that even Republican voters believed in his integrity to bring honor to the position. He was the first

candidate to be disqualified from the running based on not producing a high school degree document, and then was able to return to the ballot and win the primary against two additional candidates without a run-off election needed. When the election was over, he said “This was an extremely stressful experience but honored that the hard work didn’t go to waste” as he was victorious.

Bro. Owens stated that early on key objectives include but are not limited to:

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

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

Bro. Aaron D. Frye – Chi Gamma Gamma

## Beta Mu Nu Rings the Bell

On December 5, 2020, the brothers of Beta Mu Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. participated in the annual Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing at the Pelham, AL area Wal-Mart. Brothers withstood the cold and rain to bring Christmas joy to holiday shoppers. The sound of Christmas carols and holidays bells could be heard throughout the day. Generous shoppers filled the red kettle buckets with monetary donations. These funds help support year-round programs provided by the Salvation Army's area community centers. Beta Mu Nu raised over \$1200 in one single day. – Bro Brian Crawford Beta Mu Nu



## Eta Omega Helps to Provide Free COVID-19 Testing in Atlanta

Atlanta, GA - Eta Omega Chapter worked together with the Fulton County Board of Health and other community partners to deliver free, drive-up COVID-19 testing to the South Atlanta area. Citizens were able to safely self-administer the shallow nasal tests in their cars. The testing was sponsored by CORE, a nonprofit organization that has put on similar events throughout the country during the pandemic.



Eta Omega brothers volunteered at two testing events on August 14, and September 9, 2020, at Atlanta's Bethel United Methodist Church. On both days, Chapter members directed the hundreds of cars that took advantage of the free testing. Brothers also passed out water and materials promoting "Operation Registration", Eta Omega's 2020 voter mobilization initiative. 318 of the COVID-19 tests were administered over the course of the two events.

## Beta Mu Nu Thanksgiving/Christmas Giveaway

On November 24th, 2020 the Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Beta Mu Nu Chapter provided Thanksgiving dinner to Children's Village. For 50 years, Children's Village, Inc. has provided shelter, food and clothing to Alabama's abandoned, abused, and neglected children. They house boys and girls from ages 6-18. Beta Mu Nu provided turkeys with all the fixings. On a separate date, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, Beta Mu Nu delivered Christmas meals and presented the Executive Director a check for \$2200.00. These were just one of the many thoughtful gestures performed by the chapter during the holiday season, as Beta Mu Nu continued to uplift their surrounding community.

Bro Brian Crawford - BMN



## **Eta Omega Launches “Operation Registration” to Mobilize Voters**

By Brothers Jason V. Jackson and Geraud Prince

Eta Omega Chapter is known for its programs to engage Metro Atlanta area citizens in the election process. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused the Chapter to deliver its message with more of a digital touch. In August, Eta Omega launched "Operation Registration", a voter mobilization effort that encouraged Georgians to go online to register to vote, check their registration status, and educate themselves on the candidates and issues prior to the November 2020 general election. To amplify its message, Eta Omega Chapter produced and distributed electronic flyers via its own 7,000 social media followers, as well as through its chapter membership of 220 brothers. It's estimated that our digital media had a unique reach in excess of 40,000. The approach was deemed so effective that it was adopted by Omega Psi Phi chapters across Georgia and elsewhere in the Seventh District. In addition, Eta Omega also set up a special section on its website, HQ1919.com, with direct links to voter registration and election resources. The online effort and eight in-person events resulted in the registration of nearly 100 new voters, while confirming the voting status of hundreds more.

From the launch of Operation Registration on August 12th through Georgia's October 5th registration deadline, Eta Omega focused primarily on registration initiatives both through its online efforts and during in-person, pandemic-safe voter empowerment events in its service area (Southwest Atlanta and South Fulton County). In mid-October, Eta Omega began the Voter Education and Mobilization phase of their plan, using updated flyers and its website to promote participation and answer questions about the actual voting process. We listed early voting sites across Metro Atlanta with links to information about waiting times, provided information on the absentee voting, and guidance on in-person voting on Election Day. In addition, Brothers worked the NAACP's Virtual Phone Bank, provided logistical support to a *Roll To The Polls* bus service in Southwest Atlanta during the Early Voting period, and served as Poll Workers in some precincts, and poll watchers in others, on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The 2020 Election season in Georgia will not officially end until the U.S. Senate runoff occurred on January 5, 2021.

## **Long Live the Maestro!**

Beta Rho chapter recently memorialized charter member and Past Basileus

Bro. Russell Boone, Sr. (42 Eta Sigma)

Please See Obituary and Fraternity Record

### **OBITUARY**

Brother Russell Boone, Sr. was born on January 21, 1921 in St. Louis, Mo. to the late Judge and Maude Russell Boone. He transitioned this life on September 11, 2020 surrounded by loved ones at his daughter's home in Maryland Heights, Mo.

At a young age, Russell dedicated his life to Christ and was baptized by the Rev. John Nance at Washington Tabernacle Baptist Church in St. Louis, Mo. Later in life, he became a member of Second Baptist Church in Columbia, Missouri and then New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Itta Bena, Miss.

Boone received his childhood education in the public-school system of St. Louis. He graduated from Lincoln University of Missouri with a B.S. degree in Music Education and earned a M.Ed. in Music from the University of Missouri in Columbia. Additional studies were done at Saint Louis University, the University of Illinois, and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and the University of Missouri.

The St. Louis native was a veteran of WWII, serving in the U.S. Navy Band from 1942-1946 at Great Lakes Naval Base where he played tuba in the concert and broadcast bands. He also served as drum major for parades and military ceremonies. Boone is a charter member of the National Band Association, a member of Kappa Kappa Psi Honorary Band Fraternity, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., and Phi Delta Kappa in which he was in a group of three who were the first African Americans inducted into the chapter at the University of Missouri Columbia.

Brother Boone began his teaching career in 1949 at Douglass School in Columbia, Mo. as the high school band and choir director, and junior high school art and music instructor. While teaching at the school, Russell met his future wife, Patsy Ruth Smith, who was also a faculty member – the school's first kindergarten teacher. He resigned from the Columbia system in 1960 after having been selected by President J. H. White to direct the band program at then Mississippi Vocational College (MVC).

At MVC, Brother Boone clearly had a vision for growing the college's band program. Beginning in 1962, the band became a major public relations source for the college,

participating in area high school concerts, parades and homecoming activities. The band also performed in a 4-year series of Spring concerts at high schools and colleges throughout Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana and Mississippi. Under Brother Boone's direction, the MVC band received national attention and made significant historical accomplishments including:

- 1st HBCU invited to the Tournament of Roses Parade (1965) and first to be invited back (1968)
- Performances at the Indianapolis 500 (1963 & 1964)
- Performance at Disneyland (1964)
- Integrated the Mississippi Governor's inaugural parade (1968)
- Represented the state of Mississippi in President Nixon's inaugural parade (1969)

In 1972, Mr. Boone resigned as band director when then President, Dr. Ernest Boykins asked him to become chairman of the Music Department. In 1981, he returned to teaching full time and retired in 1987 but remained as a part-time faculty member for a few more years.

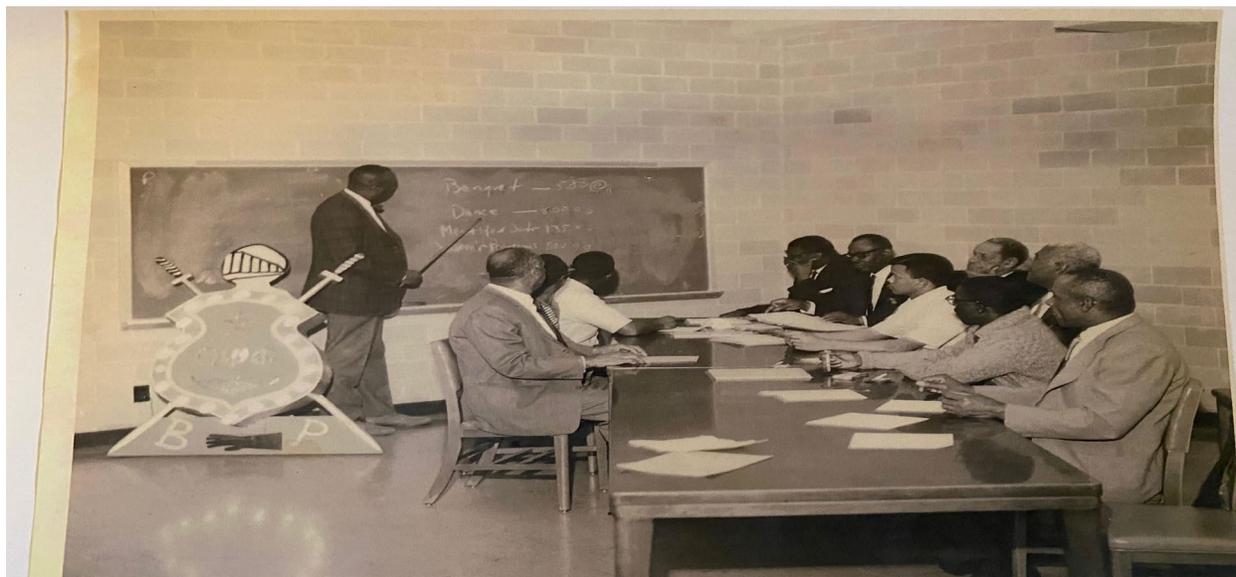
Russell Boone's influence surpassed his occupation as bandmaster. He instilled the young men and women in his band programs with integrity and character — daring them to have higher expectations of themselves and do that which seemed impossible. Leading by example, he taught his students core principles of honor, respect, ethics, self-motivation and pride in one's work and a job well done. The state of Mississippi and the nation is filled with distinguished and groundbreaking university professors and presidents, pilots, lawyers, physicians, PhD's, band and choir directors that had their start in Russell Boone's band. Professional. Consistent. Innovator. This was Russell Boone and that is why he continues to be loved, admired and respected by the valley family to this day.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Thomas L. Boone, sister, Thelma Reid, and his devoted wife of 43 years, Patsy Ruth Smith Boone. Survivors include their children, Russell Jr. of Fort Valley, Ga. and Patreece (Richard) Broadus of Maryland Heights, Mo., granddaughter, Patricha Broadus, and other relatives in the Midwest and South.

## **The Record of Bro. Russell Boone, Sr.**

Bro. Boone was initiated into the fold of Omega in the spring of 1942 by way of Eta Sigma chapter at Lincoln University located in Jefferson City, Missouri. He along with 17 other illustrious men chartered the Distinguished Beta Rho chapter April 18<sup>th</sup>, 1962 in a historical ceremony held on the campus of Mississippi Vocational College. Two years after the chapter's chartering, Bro. Boone ascended the ranks to become the 2<sup>nd</sup> Basileus of the chapter. He served at the helm for 2 consecutive two-year terms. During his reign as Basileus, he elevated the young graduate chapter to national prominence by securing Beta Rho's bid to host the 29<sup>th</sup> Mighty 7<sup>th</sup> District meeting in 1966 on the campus of Mississippi Valley State College. He was featured in the fraternity's national publication, the Oracle, May 1965 for his dynamic leadership of the Mississippi Valley State College band; which brought the music department and college national notoriety. He was the quintessential leader in many aspects of life and he truly elevated any organization that he served.

These are just a few of the many deeds in our Brother's Record.



Bro. Boone leads a 1966 chapter meeting in preparation for the 29<sup>th</sup> Mighty 7<sup>th</sup> District meeting held on the campus of Mississippi Valley State College now known as Mississippi Valley State University.

## Morehouse College's Psi Chapter Brother Miles Brown shares a few thoughts on student life during COVID-19 Pandemic

"The brothers were only able to see each other during Psi Chapter's virtual prayer calls, however, one day last fall semester we drove up to our quiet empty campus to help feed the homeless. It was both the 1<sup>st</sup> time the brotherhood had seen each other in person for quite a while and the 1<sup>st</sup> time we had conducted a social service activity since the corona outbreak," said Brother Miles Brown who helped on this day with Psi Chapter's program called the "***Sandwich Run***" at Morehouse College.

Morehouse made the decision to reopen for a hybrid Spring 2021 Semester on February 1<sup>st</sup> after hearing from students and parents and collaborating with partnering institutions at the Atlanta University Center (AUC) who also planned to reopen. Morehouse partially reopened its campus to accommodate up to 1,200 freshmen and upperclassmen and a limited number of faculty and staff members. The AUC Center is monitoring the spread of COVID-19 and the development of a vaccine. Morehouse closed its campus on March 12, 2020, due to the global pandemic. [BY D. AILEEN DODD, NOV. 16, 2020, INSIDE THE OFFICIAL BLOG OF MOREHOUSE COLLEGE]

Prior to COVID-19, the anticipated Psi Chapter reputable "***Sandwich Run***" was done with a most uplifting spirit on the bustling campus of Morehouse, along with Spelman College and Clark Atlanta University, on an annual basis. "However, due to the community's needs as a result of the corona break out, we adjusted our Psi Chapter mission to operate on a weekly basis. So, the brothers decided to pull up on campus, operate with social distancing and protocol, make sandwiches, and then give out sandwiches every weekend to the homeless," said Brother Brown who's studying 'only' online and is on schedule to graduate this spring with a Business Administration degree with a concentration in Accounting.

"The key to learning and studying online is 'to keep track of things as closely as possible'... thereby, I am able to avoid rare moments when it appears that the days seem to run into each other, and one feels like he's just sitting at home, not in a learning environment. So, I take a quick check to see what day of the week it is, in order to realign myself at that slight moment," stated Brother Brown regarding how he manages time in his off-campus apartment for the second straight semester of learning 'only' online. Brother Brown is accustomed to having a busy schedule as shown by being a student athlete, including playing tight end for 4 years with the Morehouse **Maroon Tigers** football program which has a rich storied competitive history since 1913. In addition to his achievements, Brother Brown has earned membership in two scholastic honor societies: ***The National Society of Leadership and Success*** (the nation's largest leadership honor society with 700+ chapters) and ***Alpha Lambda Delta*** (certified national *honor society* that recognizes academic excellence in one's first year at a college or university).

Brother Brown believes he transitioned and adjusted to studying and learning online as smoothly as possible. He does believe it could be better along the lines of communication because at times it is "hard to best portray a comment, question, or answer in a virtual setting, especially when the topic is a little complex. Some topics are more challenging when you are not in the classroom and the teacher isn't present in front of you. There are questions you ask in class and receive an immediate answer." Furthermore, Brother Brown explains that online learning also experiences small lapses in communication that is hindered by a lack of body language and eye contact, not seen in a virtual setting. At the same time, he says communication is boosted by the teachers who

answer emails immediately or at the earliest convenience. “A professor who replies to an email with clarity is so helpful with the understanding of the topic and overall communications.”

“Overall, I have had continuous and successful communications when taking online classes. My daily routines and responsibilities have been similar wherever I am. I was at home in Bowie (Maryland) when COVID first broke out. And I took out the trash, prepared my own food, and helped my mom with whatever responsibilities. So, to me, there isn’t a difference when I take classes at home or when I’m in my apartment near Morehouse campus because my routines and responsibilities are similar,” stated Brother Brown, who is blessed with both Howard University alumni grandparents and Hampton University alumni parents.

In addition to this unique global pandemic, Brother Brown also recalled the significant movement in communities who marched with calls to re-examine the intensity of racial inequities, police brutality and social injustices across the nation in 2020.

“I think the recent examination of inequalities across the nation has shined a colossal light over what African Americans have faced and managed for the longest of times. And, as one knows, due to the media being a very powerful outlet, the marches are more quickly seen and widely covered than in the past. Also, I do think that our past civil rights legends have helped our African American leaders today write the narrative for our protests and civil unrest. Now, I feel it is ‘my generation’s turn to take the lead.’ Therefore, today’s narrative, I believe, is being written and told by my darker color skin generation writers more than other colors.”

Brother Brown confidently expressed that his immediate plans after graduation is to attend graduate school in the sports management and industry studies arena. While his long-term goal is to be a general manager for a professional football team or an athletic director at the collegiate level. These plans are very promising as illustrated by his achievements which also includes memberships in *the National Association of Black Accountants, Inc., (NABA) at the Morehouse Chapter* (an association dedicated which provides leadership and technical training, as well as networking and career opportunities), *the Morehouse Business Association*, and the *Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC)* (an organization that provides student-athletes with the education and experiences needed to assist them in bridging the gap from college to the professional world).

“I am here to get an education, to productively use the time that my coaches invested in me, to wisely use the time and money my parents invested in me... I am here to graduate,” strongly stated Brother Brown, who is now known as a ‘Man of Morehouse’ like all students.’ And “I feel my future is bright! I will continue to go after the goals which I have set out to get, regardless of what I have been through over the last two semesters.”



With that said, Brother Brown is soon destined to be called -- like all students who graduate -- a 'Morehouse Man.'

(the end)

## “Friendship Is Essential To The Soul”

Submitted by Brother Dr. Kenneth Brown

On August 31, 1990, Zillie Rudolph, Sr. crossed the burning sands and became an Omega Man. Though he pledged later in life, he always wanted to be an Omega. In fact, he was accepted into a pledge class as an undergraduate at Alabama State University, but circumstances beyond his control prevented him from completing the process. However, his perseverance was rewarded as he and three others crossed as only the third line for Kappa Beta Beta in 1990. Brother Rudolph has honorably served the chapter for over thirty years. He has held multiple offices on the executive council and has served on multiple committees, ensuring that the chapter fulfilled all its required duties and participated in all mandated programs. He has served as a delegate multiple times at all levels of the fraternity including at state meetings, district meetings, and grand conclaves. In fact, he and his close friend, Brother Tellis Copeland, NE '61, maintained the chapter throughout lean years when active membership was low.



Despite his declining physical health in recent years, Brother Rudolph has continued to be mentally sharp and has continued to provide valuable insight and input to the chapter. Several years ago, he and his family made the difficult to decision to admit him to a nursing home due to his physical condition. Even though he is no longer physically attending chapter meetings and activities, Brother Rudolph has remained financial. At the past 2020 virtual Conclave, he was awarded his thirty-year service award. The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic prevented chapter brothers from being able to physically present Brother Rudolph his award. However, the chapter brothers made arrangements with the nursing home to have his nurses present the award, and two brothers made the trip and were able to talk with him through his room window.

Brother Rudolph is currently ninety-seven years old. He has served his community as a high school science teacher, his country in the United States Navy, and his fraternity as a mentor and friend. Congratulations Brother Rudolph!

## **Brother Promoted to Inspector's Position**

ALBANY, GA. - The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) promoted Brother Terry Howard to Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the GBI Region 3 Field Office in Americus, Sumter County around March 13th, 2019. With that promotion Howard was responsible for the supervision of the Special Agents assigned to the Region 3 Field Office. He began his law enforcement career as a uniformed officer with the Dougherty County Police Department in Albany. He also worked as a uniformed officer with the Columbia Police Department in Columbia, Missouri. In February 2002, Howard was hired by the GBI as a Narcotics Agent and was assigned to the State Drug Task Force in 2004, when he was promoted to Special Agent. In December 2004, he was assigned to the Region 3 Field Office where he remained moving up through the ranks, first as Assistant Special Agent in Charge, and now Special Agent in Charge.



The Bureau, announced that Brother Howard was promoted to the rank of Inspector with an effective date of October 16, 2020, which made him the only Black Inspector in the State of Georgia. Brother Howard was initiated into the Fraternity on Spring 1990 - Eta Omicron Chapter, and is still serving with the chapter upon his return back to area in 2005. I'm proud to have this young man as my Line Brother of 30 Years (FIETTS)!!!

Submitted by  
Brother Marc Styles

## **Kappa Alpha Alpha Chapter in Decatur, Georgia helps local church with massive effort to give out food and inspire voting**

On each Saturday December morning before Christmas, The DeKAAatur Ques (KAA) were passionately active in all phases of a massive distribution of groceries spread out on several spacious parking lots of The *New Birth Missionary Baptist Church* in Lithonia. As hundreds of community residents drove their vehicles by the tented assembly areas with tables of assorted boxes of groceries, DeKAAatur Ques wearing face masks and disposable gloves, helped with registration, traffic control, and lifting boxes into open vehicle trunks or side doors. Along with these efforts, brothers held up signage and gave out materials inspiring residents to vote in the January 2021 US Senate Runoff Elections in Georgia.

“This effort is ‘fantastic’ because the community is in need with lots of people hurting and suffering right now. And, with government resources severely limited or not available, it’s important when churches like *New Birth* are able to do what they do. So, I’m honored to come out and volunteer with my ‘purple and gold... my Fraternity’ to help serve my community,” said Brother Ron Williams, KAA member who also helped at another previous similar event with the Chapter. “I saw people that were out the previous week. I saw grandmothers who were taking care of grandchildren because their daughters were not capable of doing it right now. Grandmothers are stepping up and filling in the gap which is an indication of where we are as a society and how we’re hurting.”

With the help of Brother Alonza A. Bennett who is one of the founding brothers of the Chapter, KAA initially paired up with NAACP (The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) to help with the voter registration effort during *New Birth’s* groceries distribution. “We wanted to be just as diligent for the Senate Runoff Elections as was done for the presidential election, meaning spreading voter awareness and registration,” said Brother Jerome Stevenson, KAA Social Action Committee Chair. However, “it’s been equally great with helping out with the food distribution as well as with voting.”

*The King’s Table Ministry* of *New Birth* has been the shepherd of these Saturday events. Its mission is to support families in the community by eliminating hunger through the distribution of free, supplementary food items. There are no income or household requirements to receive assistance. Due to COVID-19, *The King’s Table* switched to drive-up distribution service only. On these Saturday mornings, KAA along with an average of 120 to 200 volunteers, gave out approximately 83,000 pounds of fresh vegetables, fruits, fish and other food items provided by *Stonecrest Cares* and various vendors to over 1900 families, according to Kerrie V. Pabon, director of *The King’s Table Ministry*.

“I think *New Birth*, under Kerrie’s direction, did an outstanding job” with food distribution along with extensive efforts to ensure safety and protection in the middle of this COVID, including taking temperature readings before all of the volunteers such as KAA, other *Divine Nine* members, *New Birth* volunteers, the music DJ, and other individuals and groups stepped onto the grounds each Saturday morning, Brother Stevenson said.

“I felt a sense of family, community, and unity when we as *‘Divine Nine’* came together to help people cope with some of the issues in their lives right now. Seeing the *Divine Nine* coordinating with both church and community just seems to make being an ‘Omega man’ so real and true,” said KAA Brother Marques Fletcher, who placed numerous food boxes in vehicle trunks and back seats. “My actual participation right alongside *Divine Nine* members was in alignment with how ‘Omega is noted for calling attention to the plight of black Americans’. This made me feel both a sense of energy and urgency to help in any way possible.”

Our community was very grateful for *New Birth* and all the volunteers who have executed food distribution. I’ve been thanked by numerous people; however, to me, it’s not anything special required of me. “I feel it’s an obligation, it’s reasonable service, it’s an opportunity to give back to the community,” said Brother Williams, who expressed his belief on personal sacrifice, especially during these challenging unique times.



Also, reflecting on these times Brother Fletcher shared this account: “A driver of a Mercedes Benz car waiting in line said to me ‘Brother, you don’t know what can happen. I normally donate to efforts like this --- But my restaurant business is literally on my last seed. So, if I can get free food, it allows me to use money to pay another bill and not go to the supermarket. However, people think I got it when they see me pull up in this Mercedes. I don’t have it... I’m ‘not’ even living paycheck to paycheck.”

Adherence to social distancing was conducted throughout *New Birth's* event due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Coronavirus Disease 2019). Medical officials encouraged people all over the world to take common-sense precautions to prevent this disease spread most often through the air by coughing or sneezing, through close personal contact (including touching and shaking hands) or through touching your nose, mouth or eyes before washing your hands. [*Georgia Department of Public Health, an Official website of the State of Georgia government* <https://dph.georgia.gov/what-covid-19>]

On a recent *Divine Nine* virtual conference, Brother Fletcher recalled how he was so impressed with the multitude of Omega men from all over the country who plugged into that conference. He said that shows how our 'Omega brotherhood bond is omnipresent' just like it has been exhibited by KAA brothers who suspended personal sacrifices in favor of bonding together and serving the community on those recent Saturday December mornings before Christmas.  
Bro Clarence Pittman III - KAA

## KAA – Election Day

On Election Day, Tuesday November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Brothers of Kappa Alpha Alpha participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> District Perseverance Project. 27 Brothers worked two hour shifts from 6:45am until 7:15pm at the Berean Community Center Polling Location in Stone Mountain, Georgia. Stone Mountain is located in Dekalb County and was one of the critical counties in the 2020 election. During the day, approximately 300 Voters were provided water and snacks. Small packaged dinners were also provided to the voters who came in after work. Even though the election day turnout was relatively low, due to the high number of early voters in our community, the residents of Dekalb County were very grateful of the Men of Omega. Bro Greg Davis



## **“Stop Hunger... One Community at a Time”: Kappa Alpha Alpha Chapter gives out hearty meals to citizens of Dekalb County, GA**

On a recent November Saturday morning, about 30 brothers of Kappa Alpha Alpha (KAA) collaborated with The Greater Piney Grove Community Development Inc. (GPGCD) to place large boxes filled with an assortment of premium delicious foods into the trunks of over 1,000 cars. This event named **“Stop Hunger, One Community at a Time Food Distribution”** served nearly 1,700 local citizens with approximately 39,000 pounds of food.

“Family members were outstanding and very appreciative for what we did. I have never gotten as many phone calls from people saying how happy they were after a KAA event. It felt so good that God blessed us to do it,” said Brother Robert Murrell, KAA’s coordinator for this event. “And, I was very happy that we, KAA, took ‘the next level’, meaning we’re able to provide a variety of premium food goods for multitudes of families. Our people deserve the best to eat, no matter what status they are in.”

This is the first time KAA has coordinated with GPGCD which, since 1914, has been partnered with The Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church to better address the pressing needs of the community. *[The Greater Piney Grove Community Development website <https://www.thegrovecdc-atl.org/services/>]*

“We got lots of praise from people who witnessed our leadership and high energy as we loaded the numerous weighted large food boxes into multiple car trunks. People felt our process was done orderly, properly, and expeditiously as much as possible during this massive operation,” said Brother Basileus Greg Davis who leads the KAA Chapter which is also known as Q.K.A. ‘DeKAAatur Ques’. “Our Chapter’s planning and execution was very successful; even in the middle of this pandemic, everyone wore face masks and conducted social distancing to be protective and safe to accomplish what we needed to do.”

The preparation of these hearty take-home meal boxes consisted of offloading the cargo of food from an 18 wheeler truck and trailer, followed by unpacking the separate boxes and mixing these various food items of apples, fish, turkey, tilapia, shrimp, pizzas, frozen vegetables, canned goods, asparagus, collard greens, pies, cakes and other side food items into individual take-home meal boxes. When directed, the local citizens drove their cars with open cleaned out trunks through a tented assembly area where take-home meal boxes were placed in each trunk.

In addition to KAA, others contributors to this **Stop Hunger** event, included about 15 brothers from different Omega Psi Phi metro Chapters, numerous members of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. Other organization included YMCA members, over 170 individual volunteers, and about 12 middle school through high school male students who are members of Omega KNIGHTS (who fall under the guidance of KAA’s Manhood Uplift mentoring program), according to Brother Murrell, who is also a proud deacon at Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church.

“It was a great day for our KNIGHTS who were able to come. The fact that over 39,000 pounds of food was given out speaks for itself! Our mentees played a key role preparing those large boxes of food given to the families,” said KAA Brother Clinton Raines, whose 13-year-old grandson and his friend are KNIGHTS. “And, this event was successful, even in this COVID, because Ques still do what we do... Ques perform community services. I like to say, what I say all the time... you don’t get credit to do what you are supposed to do... you just do it... which we did today.”

“The mentees, who have been with KAA for about three years, were very enthusiastic and very proud of themselves, which showed as they constantly hustled today. These young men were assigned to go down the assembly line of tables and fill a take-home box with food items which weighs about 50 pounds at the end of the line,” said KAA Brother Andrew Porter, chair of Manhood Uplift mentoring program. “I went down the assembly line and it was challenging filling up a box with goods and carrying it to the load-up table to be paced in car trunks, therefore, I know the mentees got a workout... so we’re thankful for them.”

This ***Stop Hunger*** event is also extra meaningful for the honor and memory of Brother Murrell’s late older Brother Michael Murrell of Mu Epsilon, Fall ’73 who transitioned to Omega Chapter in April due to COVID-19 Pandemic complications. Michael was also a member of both KAA and Eta Omega Chapters.

“In the past during this time of the year, Brother Michael Murrell would coordinate about 100 tickets for KAA, Toney Elementary School students and staff, and our mentees to go enjoy the Celebration Bowl at the Mercedes Benz Stadium. So, this ***Stop Hunger*** event was in honor and memory of Brother Michael Murrell’s food drives and community services,” reflected Brother Porter.

Adherence to social distancing was conducted throughout ***Stop Hunger*** due to these challenging times of COVID-19 pandemic (Coronavirus Disease 2019). Medical officials encouraged people all over the world to take common-sense precautions to prevent this disease spread most often through the air by coughing or sneezing, through close personal contact (including touching and shaking hands) or through touching your nose, mouth or eyes before washing your hands.

*[Georgia Department of Public Health, an Official website of the State of Georgia governmentrother <https://dph.georgia.gov/what-covid-19>]*

“***Stop Hunger*** was also purposely scheduled around Founders’ Day. We wanted our community actions to be highlighted simultaneously on our Founders’ Day,” said KAA Brother Robert Murrell.

(the end)

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.  
7<sup>th</sup> District  
Kappa Alpha Alpha Chapter  
Decatur, Georgia  
Brother Clarence Pittman III

## **Kappa Alpha Alpha Chapter tutorial program: Brothers greet students for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 2020 with Christmas Toys**

On the Saturday morning before Christmas, Kappa Alpha Alpha (KAA) conducted a Toys Drive-By for its SMART Academy Tutorial Program at *Toney Elementary School*, Decatur GA. This special Drive-By was coordinated to primarily show the students and teachers that KAA still plans to play a vital role in tutoring and mentoring. As numbers of parents and kids wearing face masks drove up in their vehicles onto the school's parking lot, KAA brothers and school staff members, wearing face masks and latex gloves handed out bags of toys into these drive-by vehicles. These abnormal times of COVID-19 Pandemic has prohibited KAA from conducting its normal SMART Academy held each Saturday morning with face-to-face learning sessions with the students.

“Today was great giving out toys; however, with it being limited to a ‘Drive-By’ due to COVID, it limits the kids’ reactions because they cannot express themselves in your presence as they normally would. But we saw the smiles... which is worth it, especially from these kids who anticipate Christmas but do not know what they may receive,” said Brother Francois R. Russ, who’s worked with SMART Academy for nearly 13 years and a recent *Colonel Charles Young Award* recipient for Outstanding and Dedicated Service. “I feel this is very significant today because this is a community that KAA has served for over 30 plus years, so expectations are for us to come out during all the holidays and the school year, to help out wherever they need us. Undoubtedly, I would say due to these abnormal times, KAA hasn’t been able to support *Toney* in the way in which we usually do.” Normally, by this time of the school year, KAA would have been in the classrooms for about 3 to 4 weeks tutoring the kids in reading, math, writing, science, and other subjects. It is somewhat sad this is the first time this year we are present; however, we’re here in ‘excellent spirits’ and these brothers represent 10, 15, 20, and 22 years of experience tutoring kids at *Toney*, said Brother Calvin Horton, who has worked with *Toney Elementary* for 22 years and has served as KAA’s recent Basileus.



The success of this Drive-By was helped by a *Toys for Tots* grant and by KAA which funded lunch gift cards given out to 61 teachers and staff. Also, the services of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, a professional nurses organization, helped identify and separate the toys by gender and age groups, according to Brother Eldridge Stephens, KAA's *Assault on Illiteracy Chair* and who's worked with SMART Academy for last three years.

**“Handing out toys today is also good for the fact that we’re a PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support school) which means whenever we get a chance, we try to highlight the kids who are doing a great job. On today, our teachers have primarily recommended toys for kids who have put their best foot forward in virtual learning, including handing in assignments and showing upmost respect towards their fellow classmates and teachers,”** said Mrs. Lisa Lewis, the counselor at *Toney Elementary School* for 15 years. **“So, these toys bring joy of course, but also are a special acknowledgment for these kids. Additionally, it’s an opportunity to thank the parents for their help and guidance. When we send out an invitation for the parents to drive by and pick up these toys, we thank the parents in the invitation.”**

The current remote instruction & virtual learning has made its impact; however, KAA has taken on various initiatives at *Toney Elementary* as well, including both donating many volunteer hours and a tremendous amount of school supplies. “We’re in the middle of providing about 150 headphones for kids who can’t come to the classroom. And, on another initiative, we’re coordinating with Mr. Dean [Oliver L. Dean, II, *Toney Elementary School* principal], to pay for the kids’ haircuts who can come to the classroom. We’ve learned that the more we put into the kids, they in turn understand why we do it and then they strive harder. In fact, the kids take this commitment into their homes which is ‘full community service’, said KAA Brother Russ.

“KAA loves this community so we’re here to do what we do. Without us we don’t know what would happen to this community. This community looks forward to seeing us and we look forward to being here to serve them.” There are two things that we must understand about a community for it to survive. A community must have the church and it must have the school. And, KAA has been the support for this school component which has helped this community survive, according to Brother Horton.

Over the years our relationship, unquestionably, has also been built with the teachers who have trust and confidence with KAA’s actions in support of helping the kids learn. And our interaction with the kids includes their guardians. “One of the more satisfying moments is when the kids excitedly introduce me to their dad, mom, or grandparent. I might add, a more satisfying moment is when a dad tells me how much we’ve helped his son and it really has made a difference. When something like that is said to you... you truly feel that gratitude,” KAA Brother Russ said.

KAA is looking forward to seeing what 2021 has to offer as the Dekalb County School District, which has been operating in a full virtual learning mode, switches to more of an open mode which will hopefully allow the students in the classrooms on Saturday morning. Mrs. Lewis says several teachers have commented that virtual learning is challenging, and they are mostly looking forward to the students returning to the classrooms. And there’s optimism that the upcoming vaccinations will save lives and get schools and daily life back to some normalcy.

“Our SMART Academy has done exceptionally well. In fact, Toney was having some challenges a few years ago and appeared on the failing list. However, after we’ve tutored students for the last three years, *Toney* is no longer on that list. The students’ grades on the state exams have tremendously improved to the point that *Toney* is now meeting their academic targets,” said KAA Brother Stephens.

The SMART Academy evolved from a mentoring program in 2000 through the efforts of KAA Brothers --- Genard Medley, a teacher at *Toney*, Ron Shinault, *Project Uplift* President, and Brother Robert Marshall Jr, who was instrumental in the early stages of *Toney* and now is in Omega Chapter. Project Uplift and KAA’s long association with this school has led the Chapter to be formerly designated as *Toney*’s Partner in Education by the Partners in Education Foundation of the Dekalb County School System.

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# Inaugural CyQUEling with the Ques Fitness Classic a Success

*By Brother George Fishburne, Jr.*

**SMYRNA/DOULASVILLE, GA** – October 10, 2020 – With the stark reality of Covid-19 lingering worldwide, the Brothers of **Mu Mu Mu Chapter** recognized the need for effort and activity that would break up both the monotony and ease the boredom. Thus, the **Inaugural CyQUEling with the Ques® Fitness Classic** was born.

**Basileus Andra Brantley** recalls how the idea came to him for an activity that would naturally align with our Fraternity's **Health Initiative Mandate** while at the same time be engaging and fun. He shared, *"A few of our more physically fit Brothers had at that point been cycling for several months. Their commitment and perseverance to the sport made it clear that we could not keep this effort to ourselves. We charged our Fighting Trim Committee (Health and Wellness Committee) to develop it further."*

The fitness effort covered a 12.5 mile stretch of the **Silver Comet Trail** (*the trail stretches 61.5 miles through Cobb, Paulding, and Polk Counties*) in Cobb. Cyclists from all over Metropolitan Atlanta peddled their way down winding trails, across scenic bridges, and under a slight drizzle of rain with the intent of remaining fit despite the horrific pandemic.

**Brother Chris Brown**, Chairman of the Fighting Trim Committee is a personal trainer and fitness expert who works with countless clients each year. He explained people's passionate interest for the event in this way, *"At our core, we all desire to be at our best physically. Cycling (and proper nutrition) in many ways helps to level the fitness playing field. Anyone can do it and they can do it at their own pace."*



**\*\*\*Mu Mu Mu Chapter is a graduate chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. Mu Mu Mu is based in Douglasville, Georgia, which is approximately 20 miles west of Atlanta and situated in Douglas County. The chapter services lower to upper middle-class suburban communities throughout Western Georgia including Carroll and Paulding Counties.**

The **CyQUEling with the Ques®** event has been trademarked by the Mu Mu Mu Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. Basileus Brantley shared the chapter's rationale for securing the name and its intellectual use going forward. *"We (Tri-Mu Chapter) agreed that our ability to host a quality cycling and fitness event each year is directly connected to being able to control the branding and use of the event name."* He added, *"Next year's CyQUEling with the Ques will not only be bigger, but it will also certainly be better. You can count on it."*

## Chapter Supports Essential Workers

Members of Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter visited the Atlanta VA Hospital's Nursing Home ("Eagles Nest") on Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, 2020. The chapter has traditionally visited the nursing home every year on Veterans Day since the chapter was chartered (1998). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic there were no veterans at the facility. All the veterans were moved to other locations within the state of Georgia.

The Nursing Home coordinator told us the facility lost twelve (12) veterans due to the pandemic before the others were moved. It is unsure if they will return to this facility in the future. Being there were no veterans to visit the chapter purchased food for essential workers from Brother Bertrum McCrary's restaurant Mustard Seed, and the menu consisted of ribs, chicken, baked beans, potato salad, and green beans.

This was a token of appreciation for their daily sacrifice and work at the VA Hospital. The chapter also purchased Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the form of masks, six boxes of gloves and fifteen bottles of hand sanitizer as part of the donation to the workers.



The brothers and workers pose for a picture before they go back inside of the building to enjoy the food.

Submitted by Brother Marc Styles  
Chapter Reporter

## Atlanta Police Helping

Atlanta Police Department Zone 3 Investigator Keith Backmon is helping children in his community stay digitally connected during the COVID-19 pandemic. Rather than spend his Hazard Pay Bonus on himself, he decided to share it with four families by donating an Amazon Fire tablet to five kids so they will be able to complete their school assignments.

On May 6, 2020, Investigator Backmon visited the Villas at Lakewood and Capital Vanira Apartments to distribute the tablets along with a \$30 donation to go toward setting up an internet connection. Captain Willie Adams from Zone 3, supervisors, and fellow investigators accompanied him to show their support.

Investigator Backmon is very involved with the residents of southeast Atlanta, especially those living at the Villas at Lakewood Apartments, where he serves as a part-time security officer. When the property manager told him about two families in need of technology for school, he was happy to help.



Investigator Backmon's relationships with crime victims go beyond just trying to solve a case. After investigating a shooting at the Capital Vanira Apartments, Investigator Backmon stayed in touch with the families of two 11-year-old girls who were almost shot when a man decided to randomly shoot at their apartment building, striking both the upper and lower level. When he learned about their lack of access to technology to complete homework, he stepped in.

“As a public servant, it's my job to give back to the community,” says Investigator Backmon, who joined the Atlanta Police Department 16 years ago and has been working in Zone 3 since 2018.

## **Tuning in to Talent: Sigma Alpha Chapter Hosts Inaugural Virtual Talent Hunt.**

COVID-19 has taken a great toll on everyone. One of the biggest blows the virus gave was removing safety in any gathering of over two people. With this obstacle present, The Sigma Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi fraternity Inc exercised ingenuity to maneuver around this roadblock. This year, Sigma Alpha hosted the inaugural virtual talent hunt. The chapter went online to present a great showcase of young Miami talent that entertained and impressed all viewers.

Sigma Alpha's Virtual Talent Hunt debuted on Saturday, January 30th. The presentation was released on the chapter's Youtube page. It can be viewed there and on the chapter's website, [miamisaques.com](http://miamisaques.com). The virtual Talent Hunt had three Miami Dade County students facing off against one another with their exceptional skills in dancing and singing. The participants of the Talent Hunt were Akoya Austin, Kennedy Ross, and Lemari Hills. The Talent Hunt was organized by Brother Kenard Stevens, "We have so much youthful talent in South Florida. I would love to inspire them to use those powerful gifts they were blessed with for the nation can see," said Kenard Stevens, Talent Hunt Chair. The Talent Hunt is one of the fraternity Mandated Programs. Omega Psi Phi uses the Talent Hunt to provide exposure, encouragement, and financial assistance to talented young people participating in the performing arts. Winners are awarded recognition and college scholarships.

The contestants earned points based on their technique, pitch, and level of difficulty for their performance. Brother Stevens reached out to his network and gathered three individuals who are savvy in the arts to judge the performers. "The judges have a keen eye for talent. All three of them have a connection with the youth in their respective businesses," said Stevens. The judges were Candice Elliot, Miramar High School Teacher, Clarence Jones, Choreographer, and Associate Director at Barry University, and Zipporah Hayes, Director of the Entourage Expo, a music artist development company.

The first performance was from Akoya Austin, she did a ballerina routine. Kennedy Ross followed, and she executed one of the flag routines from Miami Norland Senior High School Flagettes. Lemari Hills completed the performances and sang "My Testimony" by Marvin Sapp. All of the contestants put on a stellar show. The candidate who scored the highest among them was Lemari Hills. He earned a \$500 scholarship from the chapter and an opportunity to compete in the Omega Psi Phi's statewide Talent Hunt.

Brother Stevens, along with the whole Talent Hunt Committee, completed a major accomplishment in the Virtual Talent Hunt. Next is prepping Hills for the upcoming performance. Stevens is looking into building on top of what was done with this year's Talent Hunt. In the event Sigma Alpha has to do this again in 2022, Stevens will rise to the challenge.

By Bro. Clayton Gutzmore

## Providing Uplift during a Pandemic

Atlanta, Georgia – As the nation falls deeper into the darkness of the pandemic, COVID-19; that really started to get widespread in March, the brothers of the Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter heard the calls from Brothers Charles Jenkins and James A. Jones. Their call was to come out and help them provide some uplift for all the people that were starting to lose their jobs and couldn't provide food for their families around the city. On May 19, 2020, Brother Jenkins asked the brothers to come and assist the Atlanta Food Bank and his home church New Life Presbyterian pass out food boxes during a "Drive Through" Food Give Away. Each car received two boxes of the selected items that had been prepacked into those boxes. Brother Jones, had been assisting the food bank and another organization pass out boxes at the Georgia World Congress Center that started on weekends in July.



Just like the prior event these giveaways were also done "Drive Through" style. Each car received two boxes of prepacked items and everyone was encouraged to wear a mask during the events. This program ran from July until September 26, 2020. Brother Jones drove to Spartanburg, SC., to assist with food giveaways there if nothing was going on here in Atlanta. On October 27, 2020, Brother Jenkins and the brothers were back once again to assist New Life Presbyterian Church conduct another food give away. Hundreds of families were impacted by these kind acts and the food was much needed during these difficult times.

Bro Marc Styles, PKK

## TLL Project Perseverance

Tuesday November 3<sup>rd</sup> was indeed a brisk autumn day. The kind of day that sends a cool chill down your spine. That chill could have been from the fall wind whisking through or one could say it was a chill of uncertainty of where our country would be headed. This day was the day where Americans celebrate the very essence of democracy in the form of the General Election. In true “Omega Spirit” the Clarion Call was made to serve and as all real Omega men do, we answered the call.

Omegas esteemed Grand Basileus Dr. David Marion challenged each chapter of our beloved Fraternity under the platform of “Project Perseverance” to assist wherever we can on Election Day. Be it serving as a poll worker, encouraging people to vote or simply passing out light refreshments to the community as they wait to cast their vote for the candidate of their choice. The Mighty Men of Theta Lambda Lambda (TLL) answered the call. We stood and served at two polling locations across two counties; Fayette and Coweta. Eight men thoroughly immersed in true Omega spirit served at the Tyrone Public Library in Fayette County and the Central School in Coweta County.

In Coweta County we began at 7am and ended the day at 2pm. Four brothers served at this location. In Fayette we had two shifts 11am-2pm and the close out shift of 4pm-7pm as directed by the polling location. Each location had four brothers serving. We were directed to stay at least 150 feet away from the polling dwelling. Both locations had additional community organizations such as the NAACP join our efforts. Omega will continue to be a beacon in our community and we will continue to answer the call!

## **“Your vote will count!”**

by

Bro. Alton Jobes, Bro. Wes Thrower & Bro. Mohandas Martin

During the month of September, the brothers of Upsilon Gamma Gamma (UGG) chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. were engaged in Voter Registration throughout the Augusta, Ga community. The UGG chapter in partnership with the “New Georgia Project of Augusta,” the National Pan Hellenic Council Augusta Chapter, the Augusta Chapter of the NAACP, and several community residents volunteered over 150 man-hours on this worthwhile endeavor this month.

The overall goal of this Social Action was to educate and register voters, and motivate our community to show up at the polls during this extremely important political election. UGG and other “Divine Nine” member organizations were stationed at strategic locations within Augusta, registering citizens to vote and to be a part of our community's political process. Statistics revealed that there are several minority groups in the surrounding area who were not registered voters. Many of these citizens do not realize the importance of local and national politics. While this Presidential election is particularly important to our country, our everyday lives are affected by the laws made right in our own cities, counties, and state. Encouraging these citizens to vote, having an opportunity to teach the community how voting affects the school systems, community resources, and policing in their own neighborhoods were a couple of the chapters major priorities. It's telling when you talk to some voting age men and women and they only know who is running for President and are ill-informed of the fact that they are also voting for a District Attorney who will have a finger on the scale of justice in their community.



While the chapter highlighted voter registration during the month of September, the chapter also supported the “New Georgia Project” since the beginning of the fiscal year and increased our efforts through until the national election on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Upsilon Gamma Gamma Chapter was very excited to be part of the process. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “*Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter.*” Upsilon Gamma Gamma will not be Silent!!

## **Omeegas and Deltas – Debate Watch Party**

With the presidential race being the focal point of every media outlet, the brothers of Chi Gamma Gamma along with the Sisters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc's Marietta-Roswell Alumnae Chapter (MRAC) hosted a Debate Watch Party on Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Watch Party was available via Zoom and Facebook live to allow viewers the opportunity to interact with one another throughout the debate. The night started with a pre-show and welcome by Chi Gamma Gamma Basileus, Brother Chesley McNeil and the chapter president of MRAC, Soror Laura Reid. Our very own Grand Basileus Dr. David Marion greeted the brothers and sisters and highlighted the importance of this election and how we cannot miss the opportunity to exercise our right to vote. Soror Rhonda Briggins – Co-Chair of the National Social Action Committee for Delta Sigma Theta, spoke to everyone about the opportunities available for us to get involved in our communities. Next the Grand Counselor, Brother Benjamin Crump opined about the many different cases that have crossed his desk and the many cases that the public is unaware of. Brother Crump's passionate speech highlighted the state that we are in and the need for change. After the debate, closing remarks were given by both chapter vice presidents, Vice Basileus Brother Chris Drayton and Vice President Soror Tonya Byrd. Over 300 people participated in this event and all pledged to go the polls and exercise their right to vote.

Bro H Ford and Bro Dale Smith

## Welcome Zeta Theta Chapter's Newest Brothers

On Monday, November 9th, 2020, under the auspices of the Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter, six new brothers were initiated into the sacred folds of the fraternity by way of Zeta Theta Chapter located on the campus of Georgia State University. With only one brother left on the campus, the moratorium, and the pandemic, this was a major accomplishment to continue the legacy for ZetaTheta Chapter. Zeta Theta became inactive and in jeopardy of having their charter revoked. The GA State University Greek Life office under Mr. Jeff Benson assisted Bro. Oliver Barker, Chapter Advisor for Zeta Theta as they prepared for the MSP process. Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter participated in the "Meet the Greek" initial RUSH event sponsored by The University. Brother Zachery Hayden, who was initiated into Zeta Theta in 2017, spoke with Brothers Oliver Barker and Brent Jackson, the Chapter Advisors for Zeta Theta about seeking approval to have an MSP so that the chapter would not lose their charter. Both brothers are current members of the Phi Kappa Kappa Chapter which serves as the Graduate Chapter that has been assigned to assist Zeta Theta throughout their college years. Following the strict guidelines of the Fraternity everyone that participated in the event had their temperatures checked, wore masks, gloves, and maintained social distancing as much as possible.



The newest brothers are collectively known as the "6 Chambers of Virtualocity", and they are seated left to right: Emmanuel McQueen, Kiaunte Hazel, and Martin Flowers; standing left to right: Andreus Ladson, Malik Sumter, and Ezavier Curtis.

## Zeta Beta Beta at the Voters Poll

On Tuesday, November 3, 2020 the brothers of Zeta Beta Beta set up a table at the Fair Street Community Center in Hall County. Fair Street was one of the voting polls in Gainesville, Georgia. The Brothers handed out water and snacks to approximately 300 voters, poll workers and other citizens in the community. There were three Chapter Brothers from the Zeta Beta Beta Chapter who volunteered from 11am-3pm.

Bro Shean Brown

## Adopt A Mile Cleanup

On Saturday, January 30th, 2021, the brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Beta Mu Nu Chapter participated in a roadside cleanup in Montevallo AL. The event took place at the Alabama National Cemetery. Members of the chapter walked the one mile stretch of adopted highway and cleaned trash along the way. The efforts of these brothers do not go unrecognized, and it shows positive examples and dedication to maintain clean streets throughout the Shelby County area.



## Beta Mu Nu Achievement Week 2020

National Achievement Week is a Mandated Program of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., that was originally designed to promote the study of African American life and history. Presently, the Achievement Week Program is used to recognize those individuals at the local and national levels who have made significant contributions towards improving the quality of life for African Americans. The Beta Mu Nu Chapter continued the legacy of Achievement Week 2020 by having a “Virtual Achievement Week Program”, on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 5pm. Our guest speaker was 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Grand Basileus of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Bro. Ricky Lewis.



## Project Perseverance- Help at the Polls

Election Day 2020!! Arguably, one of the most important and historic elections in our lifetime. At stake, four more years of GOP rule and chaos or restoring this country to some sense of normalcy, while putting one of our own Divine Nine member in the White House. The Brothers of Beta Mu Nu as well as Brothers from across the metro area mobilized and supported the citizens in the long lines by providing, water, juice, and snacks to make the waiting process easier.

Chapter Reporter- Brian K Crawford



## **BA MLK Community Service Project**

Bro Billy Bullock

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, The Beta Alpha (BA) Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. (The Capital City Ques) and the Upsilon Epsilon Chapter (YE) participated in the chapters Martin Luther King community service project. This year's project was a blanket drive. The blankets will replace the supplies at Stewpot's Opportunity Closet that was depleted due to the ice storm that recently hit Jackson.

The Stewpot Community Center provides men, women, children with meals, groceries, clothing, shelter, mentoring, and other programs. These programs help nurture the health and welfare of individuals to help them get on their feet. Often, we take for granted getting in a warm bed or having a roof over their heads to call their own. The Beta Alpha Chapter is so proud and fortunate to be able to assist the Stewpot Center.

The response to the community service project was so overwhelming that the Beta Alpha Chapter had enough blankets to share with the Stewpot Center and as well as in the community. After leaving the Stewpot Center, Brothers met at Smith Park to serve refreshments and distribute additional blankets to individuals in the park.

The Beta Alpha Chapter is honored to assist the Stewpot Community Center. Stewpot Community Center provides support that enhances the lives of individuals in Jackson and the surrounding community.



## **The Mighty Chi Omega Chapter “From Thomasville to Tallahassee”**

Submitted By: Chapter Reporter Larry Harris

The Chi Omega Chapter of the Omega Psi Fraternity Inc. has a rich history that started in Thomasville, Georgia and is now located in Tallahassee, Florida. The Chi Omega Chapter has represented the fraternity for over 97 years and has established itself as a working and knowledgeable chapter. The Chi Omega Chapter was chartered on Monday December 15, 1924. in Thomasville, Georgia. The name Brother Dr. Percy Richardson has been linked in being very instrumental in the chartering of the Chi Omega chapter. The chapter experienced growth and stability during the rest of the 20's. In 1925 the members of Chi Omega hosted a New Year Night Smoker. Dr. Bowen was the speaker of the Emancipation Exercises that night. Brother Bowen spoke in front of the largest crowd assembled in South West Georgia. Brother J.P Murchinson advised the chapter on future expansion, and development. Prominent members of the Chi Omega Chapter at this time included Dr. M.L Walton, Dr. Mosley, Brother Smith, Brother Professor H. Rogers, Brother Hutto, and Brother M.S Paige.

Side Note: The Chi Omega Chapter was named and documented in a May 1924 Oracle even though they weren't chartered until December of that year.

The 30's were a time of despair and struggle for many due to the depression. Chi Omega persevered. In 1934, Chi Omega officially relocated to Tallahassee, Florida. During the 1933 Conclave in Durham, North Carolina it was voted on to accept the transferring of Chi Omega from Thomasville, Georgia to Tallahassee, Florida. Prior to this time Chi Omega was instrumental in establishing the Upsilon Psi Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. on the campus of Florida A&M University in 1932. Chi Omega had a documented membership of 19 members in the mid 1930's. These members consisted of teachers, dentists, physicians, and business owners.

The 40's brought about change and war. Members of the Chi Omega Chapter served bravely in the Armed Forces. Membership intake on both graduate and under-graduate levels saw a period of inactivity based on military intake. For a short period of time prior to 1945 the Chi Omega Chapter had been practically inactive in so far as participation in the national life of the Fraternity was concerned. To a large extent this inactivity was due perhaps to a decline in fraternity consciousness which resulted from the great mortality suffered by the undergraduate chapter Upsilon Psi at Florida A&M College, because of the war. Even though the war was still in progress, the graduate brothers of Tallahassee most of whom were staff members of Florida A&M College met on March 4, 1945 and elected officers. {Oracle May. 1946 pg. 36} A decline in membership was inevitable but once again the principle of Perseverance came forth. The war ended in 1945, this sparked a rebirth in chapter activity. New chapter officers and committees were established. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1945, the Chi Omega Chapter elected the following officers; Brother M.S Thomas, Basileus; Brother C.B Lindsay, Vice Basileus; Brother B.F Holmes, Keeper of Records and Seal; Brother E.L King, Keeper of Finance; Brother James Emmanuel, Chapter Editor; and Brother H. Manning Efferson, as Chaplain. The brothers of Chi Omega paid their national dues and made plans to become more active with the undergraduate chapter Upsilon Psi. Joint activities included freshmen welcoming at Florida A&M University, and freshmen orientation. Chi Omega organized one of the more successful dances on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1946. There was an Annual Omega Dance at the local USO Club, brothers from out-of-town chapters celebrated and supported this event. The brothers of Upsilon Psi were guests on this

occasion. As the fraternity was seeing growth Chi Omega continued with their momentum. On March 11<sup>th</sup> Chi Omega and Upsilon Psi helped in honoring Brother J.T Brooks, District Representative. A luncheon was held at the home of Past Basileus W.A Campbell's. The fraternities annual Memorial service in honor of the late Colonel Charles Young was observed by Chi Omega on March 24, and Brother J.V Anderson delivered a memorable eulogy.

### Recommendations

The Chi Omega Chapter was instrumental in recommending that all fallen men of Omega be honored during the Memorial Services held in honor of the late Colonel Charles Young. They also considered the shifting of Achievement Week as it clashed with American Education Week. The members of the Chi Omega Chapter in regular meeting assembled proposed the following recommendations that their delegate to the regional present the following:

1} That in view that Achievement Week comes at the time as American Education Week this district goes on record proposing to the national body that the time of our observance be shifted. {So many of our brothers in this area are in the teaching profession that such a change in date would be beneficial.}

2.} That the 7<sup>th</sup> District goes on record proposing that certain changes in our Spring Memorial to Colonel Charles Young be affected since the death of Colonel Charles Young many other distinguished Omega Men have passed on to their reward men who have done work meritorious as the great soldier did in his. {Oracle May 1946 pg. 37}

Respectfully Submitted

C.B LINDSAY

CHI OMEGA DELEGATE

Chi Omega continued to build and prosper during the 50's. The Chi Omega chapter continued to feed off the momentum from the 40's and kept making strides in community affairs and on the campus of Florida A&M University. The Quettes of Chi Omega were also established in 1956 under the guidance of Basileus W. Gaither. Chi Omega took a stand during the racially charged 60's and participated in the Tallahassee City Boycott. The Chi Omega Chapter continued to put their mark on many diverse fields of labor. Members of Chi Omega held ranks in the medical field, teaching profession, law enforcement, athletics, law, and pharmacy. The 60's also saw Chi Omega bring in and initiate the first members of the Chi Theta chapter in 1967. This chapter would set a standard and make history as the first black Greek organization on Florida State University campus. The 70's saw Chi Omega host the 1976 State Workshop in Tallahassee, Florida. Brother Ted Scott was recognized for his outstanding service as State Marshall.

The Chi Omega Chapter kept up the work of Omega throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Chi Omega held initiations in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2008, 2011, 2013, 2016, and 2018. The chapter continues to reflect and fulfill the Mandated Programs of the Fraternity. Programs that the chapter upholds are Roadside Cleanup, Neighborhood Safety Walk, Charles Drew Blood Drive, Annual Golf Tournament, Vegas Nights, Talent Hunt, Scholarship Awards, Brothers for Fitness, Angel Tree Salvation Army, Welcome Back Students, Que-Kappa Cosmo, Brother Night of Fellowship, Achievement Week, Memorial Service and Reclamation and Retention, NAACP, Voter Registration, Read to Succeed, Chi Omega Biking Brothers, Chi Omega Fitness, and members also support the Omega Lamplighters Mentoring Program. Chi Omega earned State Graduate Chapter of the Year in 2008 and History and Archives 1<sup>st</sup> place winner in 2011.

### Chi Omega Historical Information

Chi Omega was chartered Monday December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1924 in Thomasville, Georgia  
Brother A.S Parks served as Basileus in 1947 and was a charter member of the Upsilon Psi Chapter in 1932.

John Love was acting Grand Basileus when Chi Omega was chartered in 1924.

Chi Omega was instrumental in the establishment of Upsilon Psi and Chi Theta Chapters in Tallahassee, Florida in 1932 and 1967 respectively.

Dr. M. L Walton was awarded Chi Omega Man of the Year in 1951

Chi Omega established their Quettes in 1956 under Basileus W. Gaither

Edwin Norwood- educator in the public-school system of Leon County and later at Florida A&M University was an early member of Chi Omega who was instrumental in the city-wide protest of segregated seating on Tallahassee city buses.

H Manning Efferson was awarded Chi Omega Man of the Year in 1958

Brother James A. Hefner (1965 Chi Omega)- Former President of Tennessee State University

Chi Omega hosted the Florida State Workshop in 1976

Chi Omega was State March Down champs in Florida in 1993 and 2015

Several Chi Omega initiates and members served in state, district and international capacities

State Positions:

Ozzie "OH" Hankerson- FSO State Representative 1977-1981

Darron Toston- First Vice State Representative

Royle King- State KRS, State Public Relations Director

Craig Brown- State Counselor

District:

Benjamin Crump- District Counselor

Darron Toston- District Director of Public Relations

E. Newton Jackson- District Scholarship Committee

International:

Benjamin Crump- Grand Counselor

E. Newton Jackson- International Scholarship Committee

State Workshops:

1976- Ted Scott- State Marshall

1995- Carver T. Spence- State Marshall

2008- Zollie White II, State Marshall

2016- C. Terrell Jenkins- State Marshall



### Chi Omega Summary

The Chi Omega Chapter has represented the fraternity for over 97 years and has established itself as a working and knowledgeable chapter. We have earned awards in categories ranging from Social Action to History and Archives. Chi Omega will continue to spread the brotherly love reflected by the founders and remain a beacon of light in the Tallahassee, Florida area and beyond. This a brief reflection of history on my home chapter Chi Omega.

## Mu Phi

“Uplift: which puts man in connection with the community in which he lives and lets him realize that he has a responsibility to those who are less fortunate than himself; that he must also do what he does with the idea of service to the community and to the nation.” – The Most Honorable Bro. Bishop Edgar Love. I learned that one of our Mu Phi Brothers was up to it again. I was not surprised. However, I was again delighted to hear that he continues to exhibit the true meaning of Omega “Uplift”. I thought it would be a great idea for me to share this so that you can join me in acknowledging the strong efforts in “Uplift” recently demonstrated by our own Brother John Ratcliff. With the devastation of two hurricanes hitting his hometown this season, Brother Ratcliff felt the need to do more than just read about it. Being the “Certified Pit Master” that he is, Brother Ratcliff (on his own nickel) made a journey in November back to Lake Charles, LA to spearhead the preparation of over 880 meals. The meals were provided to those in need. I am sure that the meals were excellent and most welcomed. But based on the feedback I received, the goodwill of Brother Ratcliff and the others involved provided a magnificent source of both spiritual and social “Uplift” for the entire area.



Thanks, Brother Ratcliff, for your service to the community. You make all of us Omega Proud.

**Brother Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Michael Brian Fleming, U.S.  
Army Officer**

Brother Fleming entered Omega Chapter on November 20, 2020. He graduated from Norfolk State University with a B.S. degree and was a member of the Army ROTC Spartan Battalion.

After graduation he was commissioned as a Signal Officer in the U.S. Army and served his country both overseas and abroad for more than 24 years. With a keen awareness of Scholarship,

Brother Fleming also earned a Master of Acquisition degree from Florida Institute of Technology in 1995. He was initiated into the Fraternity through Pi Gamma Chapter in 1979 and during his various military assignments, and into retirement, he continued his service to Omega Psi Phi for more than 41 years with his last chapter being Psi Kappa Kappa Chapter in Huntsville, Alabama where he served as the president of the Youth Friendship Foundation

## Beta Alpha Answering the Call

The city of Jackson, MS was hit with one of the worst ice storms in over a decade on February 15, 2021. The winter weather shut Jackson and the surrounding southern area down. Temperatures fell into single digits at night and rarely rose above the freezing mark for several days; infrastructure issues were created. The ice and snow accumulation of up to five inches created situations in which many residents were without power, and with the roads iced over, they were unable to leave their homes to safely move to another area.

The City of Jackson's aging infrastructure was not built to withstand such long stretches of frigid temperatures. As a result of the prolonged low temperatures, the city's water distribution system experienced widespread leaks and line breaks. As the temperatures finally warmed up the city was able to supply residents with non-potable water to flush toilets, but the residents still needed drinking water. The brothers of Beta Alpha chapter met to see what our community needed and how can we assist. The Beta Alpha Relief Fund, the brainchild of our current Basileus Bro. Jeffrey Turner was created for just such a situation. The Brothers decided that drinking water was needed. The Brothers of Beta Alpha worked together and acquired and distributed several pallets of water to several locations throughout the City of Jackson. Locations included:

NCBA Housing Estates (an assisted living facility)  
Cade Chapel Senior Living Facility  
Johnson Elementary (Beta Alpha's adopted school)

Lanier High School (JPS food distribution location)  
Forest Hill High School (City of Jackson Non-Potable Distribution site)



The Brothers of Beta Alpha Chapter (The Capital City Ques) are so blessed and thankful to be able to continue to assist our community in times of need.

Billy Bullock  
Social Action Chairman

## Lambda Mu Nu of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Lambda Mu Nu of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated gave back to Phenix City, Alabama by purchasing meals and delivering food to Canterbury Healthcare and Rehabilitation workers and in the Phenix City area. This was a win-win for both. First this was a way to give back to the community. This was also just a simple way to thank healthcare workers for risking their lives for us each and every day. Lambda Mu Nu Chapter fed total of 45 employees at the center. This gesture of kindness definitely brightens their day and was exactly what healthcare workers deserved for all their hard work during the pandemic. The impact that Lambda Mu Nu made today and in the coming years will undoubtedly improve wellbeing and strengthen our relationship in the community.



## Chi Omega Bicycling Brothers

I want to start off by recognizing the Chi Omega Bicycling Brothers, Riders for Fellowship. Members include Brothers Rufus Lang, Willie Vann, Wesley Hawkins, Jeff Turner, Butch Barnes, T. Jenkins, and new addition James Moran. This is a national movement amongst members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Brothers Edwin Anderson and Larry Melton are the administrators for this movement. The above-mentioned Chi Omega Brothers are in their second month of competitive cycling. Categories include highest elevation, distance, and longest ride. Results amongst these brothers in the chapter are well deserved and earned. The first 2 months saw the Chi Omega brothers finish in the top half of the field which is comprised of approximately over 200 brothers nationwide. Several brothers in our chapter finished in the top 50 and we had a top 30 finish and 2 top ten finishes. If you want any further information on the nationwide program check the Facebook page, if you want to start off locally contact any of the previously mentioned brothers. The Facebook page is OPP Biking Bruhz” Fitness with a Purpose”. They have raised year to date over \$25,000 for issues such as diabetes and child education with only five years in existence. The brothers in Chi Omega Chapter will continue to pursue areas of fitness and wellness. We give thanks to the brothers in this chapter that took the initiative to bring awareness of this great means of health and fellowship.



## **Chi Omega Chapter “A Pillar of Professionalism”**

**Submitted by: Bro. Larry Harris – Chapter Reporter Chi Omega**

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Brother Dennis Gates II has lived and endured times of pain and times of joy. Perseverance is a word that reflects the ideals, determination and character of Brother Gates. Mentally and physically, Brother Gates carved his path in athletics at an early age. He birthed his legacy on the courts of Whitney Young High School in Chicago. Building on that momentum Brother Gates established a positive career at the University of California. He earned Pac-10 All-American honors twice as well as earning his bachelor's degree in three years. Brother Gates was also the recipient of the University of California Most Inspirational Player Award in 2001. Transitioning from player to coach seemed natural for Brother Gates. His first coaching opportunity was as developmental coach with the Los Angeles Clippers. This was followed by stops at Marquette University, a return to his alma mater University of California, Florida State, Northern Illinois and then back to Florida State University. During the next eight seasons Brother Gates was involved in 4 NCAA tournaments, an Elite 8, and was pivotal in the recruitment of several top NBA prospects. The list of prospects includes, Jonathan Isaac, Dwayne Bacon, and Terrance Mann. Opportunity always seems to find those ready to take that next step in their careers. The hard work and dedication to the sport paid off once again as Brother Gates was named head coach for the Cleveland State Vikings Basketball Team. Brother Gates wasted no time establishing his prowess. He was awarded the Horizon Leagues Co-Coach of the Year in his first year controlling the sidelines. He was able to restore confidence, and create a culture of hard work and team vision. Brother Gates is only the second coach in program history to win the award. Brother Gates is a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. as he was initiated at Chi Omega Chapter in the Fall 2013. He is a true example of an Omega Man, and in him you see a sermon every day.



## **Eta Omega Chapter Celebrates Kwanzaa**

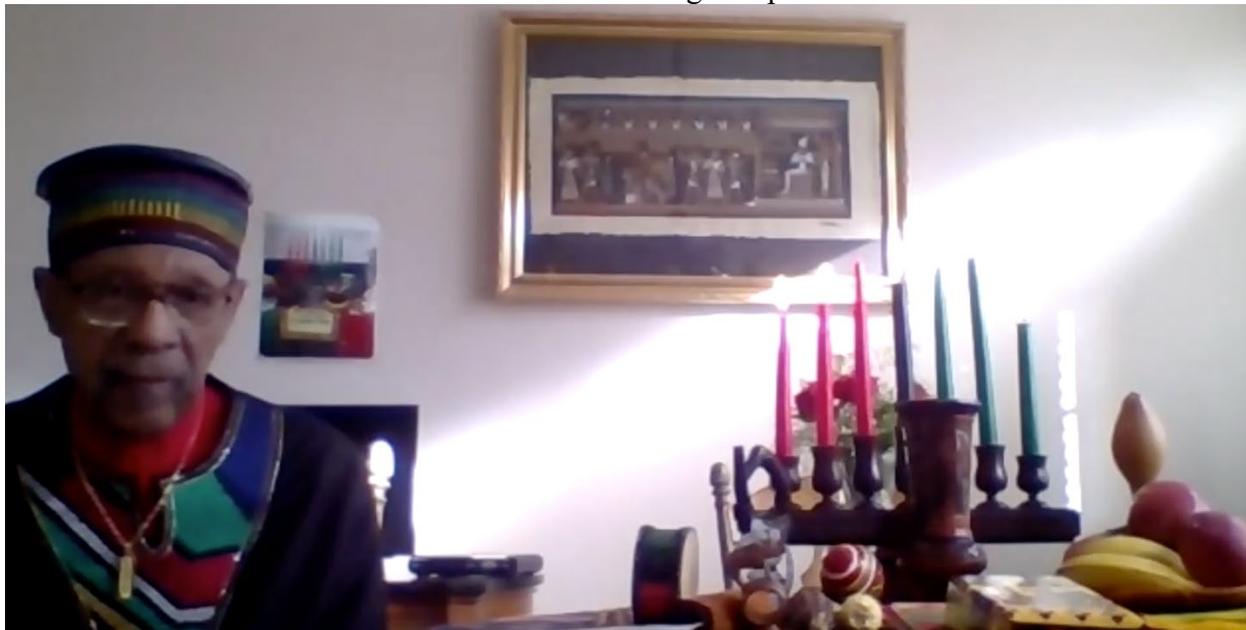
By Bro. Jason V. Jackson

Eta Omega's fifth annual Kwanzaa Celebration was held online on December 29, 2020. Kwanzaa is a Pan-African holiday which celebrates family, community, and culture. The Celebration was emceed by Bro. Dr. Webster Wallace, a distinguished former professor at a number of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Bro. Wallace led attendees through a history of Kwanzaa, its symbols, seven principles, and traditions such as the Recognition of Elders, Lighting of the Unity Candle, and Pouring of Libation. Bro. Wallace enlisted the "virtual" assistance of youth presenters, audience members, and Omega brothers during his presentation. Original poetry was recited by Bro. Akbar Imhotep.

The Celebration occurred on Kwanzaa's fourth day, which highlights the principle of "Ujamaa" (cooperative economics). The featured speaker was Eta Omega's Bro. Julian K. Smith, Jr. Bro. Smith is the Chairman of Friends of Fountain Hall, an initiative aimed at restoring the historic Fountain Hall Building on Atlanta's Morris Brown College campus. Fountain Hall was once the home of HBCU Atlanta University and later became one of Morris Brown's most prominent structures; it has fallen into disrepair in recent years. In his remarks, Bro. Smith asserted that restoring Fountain Hall and Morris Brown College to their former glory would have a positive economic impact in the College's westside community and beyond. Fountain Hall has been the recipient of grants from the National Parks Service in recent years and is in the midst of a fundraising campaign, while Morris Brown aims to have its accreditation restored in 2021.

The Kwanzaa Celebration ended with all attendees standing and taking part in a traditional Kwanzaa chant, "Harambe". Harambe means "pulling together" in Swahili.

A video of the Celebration can be viewed on [EtaOmegaChapter.com](http://EtaOmegaChapter.com).



Caption: Bro Webster Wallace Displays the Kwanzaa table with its seven symbols

# Researching Our Ancestors: Eta Omega's Black History Month Program

By Bro. Jason V. Jackson

On Saturday, February 13, 2021, Eta Omega Chapter held its annual Black History Program via the Zoom platform. This year's celebration was focused on African American genealogy with the theme of "Bringing Our Ancestors to Life". Eta Omega brothers provided information on topics including Omega's role in Black History Month's genesis, Atlanta after the Civil War, and the African Homeland before giving way to the afternoon's guest speaker, Tammy Ozier, for a special presentation.

Ms. Ozier, the President of the Metro Atlanta Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, demonstrated to attendees methods through which they could research their family history. She used her own genealogical research as an example, detailing the process through which she found information on generations of her family that extended back into slavery. Ms. Ozier then fielded questions and provided the audience with materials to guide them on their own research.

**ETA OMEGA CHAPTER of  $\Omega\Psi\Phi$  PRESENTS**  
**BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM**

**ZOOM - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 @ 1 PM**

**AFRICAN AMERICAN GENEALOGY**  
**FINDING OUR ANCESTORS**

**GUEST SPEAKER: TAMMY OZIER, ATL. PRESIDENT**  
**AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**ZOOM ACCESS: HQ1919.COM**

**BRO. CARTER G. WOODSON**  
**BLACK HISTORY MONTH FOUNDER**  
**OMEGA MAN**

**HQ**  
**ETA OMEGA**  
**CHAPTER**  
**EST. 1918**  
**ATLANTA**

## Our Journey Across the Centuries

Bro Birdel Jackson, a member of Chi Gamma Gamma is a member of the Kings and Queens of Alpharetta American Bridge Association, sponsor of the Roswell Roots Annual Bid Whist Party. Bro Jackson discusses his 200 year family history from slavery to the 20th century as told in his book, "Our Journey Across the Centuries", followed by a book signing. Bro Jackson, is a retired civil engineer, living in Alpharetta, is a member of the Academy of Distinguished Engineering Graduates of the University of Toledo and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

