



Omega Psi Phi

72nd Annual

Legend



VOL. VIII

FOUNDERS: FRANK COLEMAN, OSCAR J. COOPER, ERNEST E. JUST, EDGAR A. LOVE



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Legendary Fifth District



Bro. Sam McKenzie
5th District Representative



Greetings Brothers,

What a difference one year makes! Despite all the tragedy and obstacles that have been thrown in front of us, we stand strong!

I am convinced that we will be a better and stronger District because of this year's challenges and opportunities. November 1 begins the Fraternity's Fiscal Year 2021. Fiscal Year 2020 was tumultuous but, with God's grace, the Legendary Fifth District continues to move the Fraternity Forward.

Our International I.T. systems have been revamped and it is imperative that we familiarize ourselves with all the upgraded aspects! From the need for each Brother—young and old—to input the correct and most up to date personal information to the need for Chapter officers to know how to transact business (Member Management, MSP, SEC financial etc.)

A lot of business that was accomplished via a paper process is now totally digital and I ask that you work with the appropriate person on the District Executive Committee to accomplish your specific tasks. I thank you for the continued support you have shown and I'm excited to serve as your 23rd District Representative.

Despite all these challenges we have grown as a District and that growth has been in two areas, MSP and the Get Right Programs! We must contin-

ue to select quality candidates and be extremely knowledgeable of their value to our great Fraternity! Likewise, we must embrace our new "officially" recognized Brothers who took their time and resources to fully connect with Omega. I have found these Brothers

to be enthusiastic and eager to serve; so please assign them to committees where their talent can be put on display!

Brothers, each Chapter must begin to get their IRS Tax Status caught up and do what we must to regain exempt status for each Chapter in the district. We only have TWO Chapters that are in current "Good Standing." It's an arduous journey and I have asked the District Keeper of Finance **Bro. Erskine Oglesby Jr.** and **Bro. Michael Wade** to assist in this effort. To be clear, it may require some back fees to be paid but we must get our Chapters in good status, tax wise, before we lose our non-profit tax-exempt status as a Fraternity.

Lastly, please keep the following dates on your calendar: District Meeting is still being planned for April 8-11 in Knoxville, TN! Be clear, I will not do anything that will put our health in peril but we must make plans. If something changes, we will let the Brotherhood know as soon as we can. If I can be of service, do not hesitate to call or e-mail me.

Giving honor to God, our Supreme Basileus Humbly Submitted,

Sam

Fifth District Council



First Vice
District Representative
Quincy Snider



Second Vice
District Representative
Brandon Taylor



District Keeper of
Records and Seal
Richard Thompson



District Keeper of
Finance
Erskine Oglesby, Jr.



District Counselor
Marcus Shute, Jr.



District Director of
Public Relations
Irwin Todd II



District Chaplain
**Dr. Bishop E. Carter
III**



Immediate Past
District Representative
Bryan White

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Grand Officers

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Grand Basileus

Johnnie B. Smith
Grand Keeper of Finance

Eleualio Abraham
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Ricky L. Lewis
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Rev. Dr. Walter T. Richardson
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Kenton Kelley
Undergraduate Representative

Caleb Love
2nd Vice Grand Basileus

Benjamin L. Crump
Grand Counselor

Elliott Kelly Jr.
Undergraduate Representative

Mark Jackson
Grand Keeper of Records & Seal

Alec Fitzgerald Hall
Grand Marshal

Antonio F. Knox, Sr.
Immediate Past (39th) Grand
Basileus



FROM THE EDITOR

Brothers,

We have received successful publication of our articles in The Oracle; however, we are in need of more articles with good photographs and captions. My primary goal as DDPR is to share the events and service projects of the Brotherhood with the Fraternity and the public. We ask that you make a concerted effort to document all food drives, blood drives, health/wellness events, social justice events, and any other responses to our communities' cries for help.

Refer to the quick reference tips listed below as a guideline for writing your future articles and your future Fraternal and personal social media posts. Our Instagram and Twitter accounts are active and thriving, follow the 5th District on both platforms, our handle is @thelegendary5th.

Oracle Article Submission Quick Reference Guide

- Submit all articles in MS Word format
- Submit photographs as separate attachments
- Never text photos, email only.
- Never embed your photos in a word document.
- Email in the largest available format.
- Include caption information for all pictures submitted.
- The Oracle won't publish Brothers Throwing Hooks.
- The Oracle won't publish Brothers with tongues out.

Social Media Quick Reference Guide

- Think before you post.
- Do not discuss Omega Psi Phi business.
- Do not share Omega Psi Phi secrets.
- Is this a positive representation of Omega Psi Phi?
- Can this be used against Omega Psi Phi in court?
- I have on paraphernalia, should I post this picture?
- I have on paraphernalia, should I post this video?

Fraternally and Respectfully,

Irwin W. Todd, II

Irwin W. Todd, II
5th District Director of Public Relations



THE STAFF

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The LEGEND is an e-newsletter published by the Fifth District of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

The DDPR reserves the right to edit any submissions to The LEGEND. All printed material will be in accordance with the "Code of Conduct" and protocols of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

All submissions should be sent to the District Public Relations Director Bro. Irwin Todd II at itodd5thd@gmail.com. Deadlines will be published.

Please visit the website of The Legendary Fifth District: omega5d.us.

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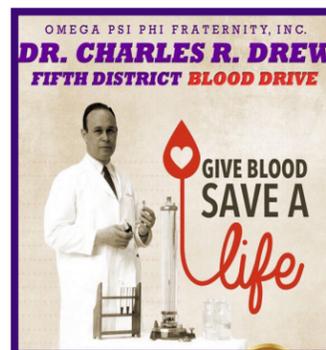
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ABOUT THE COVER:

The 72nd Annual Fifth District Meeting was held virtually for the first time ever due to COVID-19. **Bro. Sam McKenzie**, the 23rd Fifth District Representative, convened the meeting in Nashville while more than 400 Brothers attended via Zoom over the course of two days, May 29 and 30, 2020.

The Fifth District says her name: Breonna Taylor

BY: Bro. Stanley Hall

Louisville, KY | On March 13, 2020, Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old African American Emergency Medical Technician, was shot eight times by Louisville Metro Police Department officers who entered her apartment in Louisville, Kentucky, United States while serving a "no-knock warrant."

In a wrongful death lawsuit, Taylor's mother says the officers didn't knock at all and should have called off their search because the suspect they sought had already been arrested. On Tuesday May 26, 2020 the brothers of the **Theta Omega Chapter** of Omega Psi Phi Inc. stood alongside the family of Breonna Taylor and the concerned citizens of Louisville KY at the Hall of Justice demanding swift change, fairness, and justice for the family.

To keep the pressure on the City Government, the Until Justice March was organized for July 13, 2020. Brothers from Theta Omega Chapter and **Phi Eta Chapter** of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. were on hand to aid in the movement.



Top: Theta Omega Chapter stand alongside family and friends of Ms. Taylor and concerned citizens to demand justice.

Middle: Theta Omega continued to support justice for Ms. Taylor. In addition to protests, the Chapter also registered people to vote among other things.

Left: Inspired by the Brothers in Louisville, **The Sigma Lambda Lambda Chapter** in Germantown, TN created a viral meme to demand justice for Breonna Taylor.



BY: Bro. Samuel McKenzie

Ed. Note: The following is adapted from a Sept. 25, 2020 letter sent from DR McKenzie to the Brotherhood.

Once again, I must use this platform to voice social concerns. Wednesday's announcement that the Attorney General (AG) of the Commonwealth of Kentucky chose a path that placed more value on shooting into the white family's wall, than killing an innocent Black woman while she was "safely" in her apartment cannot happen without me voicing concern.

Concern that we are at a point in our society that we must exhaust all methods to highlight social injustice. Breonna Taylor was assaulted and gunned down in her place of residence by the police.

This incident was done in error, but crimes were committed that the Grand Jury failed to indict, and AG Daniel Cameron is derelict in not pursuing. Once again this has raised the ire and attention of

the nation, but where do we go from here? Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

I still have stirring emotions in my soul! But this is a time for restraint and resolve! We possess all the power required to ultimately fix this and other atrocities! We must turn these emotions into actions by holding ourselves, law enforcement and elected leaders accountable for treating all citizens as equal and valued. November 3rd is a day where true change can and must happen. We must all vote and ensure that everyone that is eligible goes to the polls and votes as well.

In speaking with our Grand Basileus, **Dr. David Marion**, he wants me to convey his profound disappointment in this outcome and wish for the safety of every person in the Louisville, KY area.

To the Brothers, we want to ensure that we are an integral part of the outcry for justice but also the solutions. We want to do this in a consistent and coordinated manner. With that we are asking all brothers to contact me, District Counselor **Marcus Shute** or the Basileus of the Theta Omega Chapter **Dee Muldrow** for guidance and our next steps. Please refer the media to the Grand Basileus for statements made on behalf of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Lastly, we agree that the actions of all the officers involved are reprehensible and require consequences. Their actions represent what has become the norm: a dangerous precedent set forth by the racist, systematic, and prejudicial sentiment in our society against Black people and people of color. This requires deliberate and difficult conversations with all levels of leadership.

My sincere prayers go out to the family of Ms. Breonna Taylor.

Silent protest for social justice

BY: Bros. Errette Woodruff and Smith Jean-Phillippe

KNOXVILLE, TN (June 13, 2020) | The Iota Alpha Chapter (graduate) and the Iota Beta Chapter (undergraduate) of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc joined forces and organized a voter registration drive and a protest march in support of social justice.

The Brothers of Omega in the Greater Knoxville area wanted to bring the community together and support the national movement calling for social justice and the fair and equal treatment of black Americans. Systemic racism and police brutality along with the senseless killing of unarmed black men and women need to end in America.

The Men of Omega led a group totaling roughly 300 protesters (all Divine 9 organizations, several other Greek Letter organizations, the NAACP, Knoxville College leadership, other civic organizations, city officials, as well as individual community members) on a 1½ miles march from Alex Haley Park in East Knoxville to Market Square in Downtown Knoxville which culminated with a silent protest of taking a knee for 8 minutes and 46 seconds in memory of George Floyd.

“[This protest is] ...not just for the recent death of George Floyd, but for all Black Americans that have been killed over the course of history. The death of George Floyd is probably the capstone of years of incidences that have happened; it is just today smart phone cameras have helped the dead tell their story. But its not only about George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, it goes all the way back to the Emmett Till and the years where no one knew who killed him,” Bro. Frank Shanklin Jr.



Pillar in the community

BY: Bro. Darryl Webb

JACKSON, TN | On March 23, 2019, the **Theta Iota Chapter** of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., had a grand opening for its community center The Omega House.

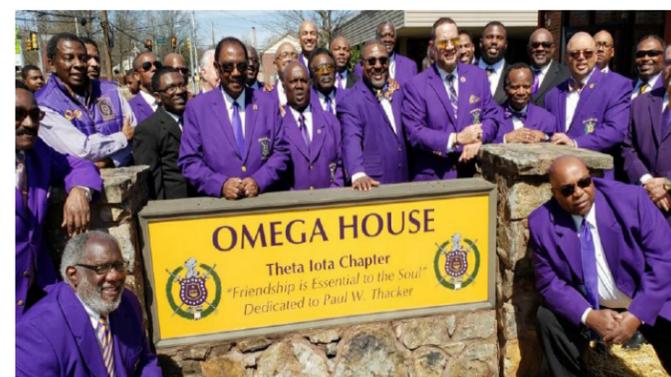
During the ceremony, the Omega House was dedicated to **Bro. Paul Thacker** (1952-2017, **Kappa Sigma**). With Bro Thackers’ family in attendance, as well as local leaders, the Theta Iota Chapter has officially begun an uplifting community center in the neighborhood.

The Chapter will have various programs for the youth (baseball team, tutoring) and adult assistance (job/college application assistance, voter registration, food drives, and mentoring). The chapter’s members and the community have begun to build a positive relationship. The youth in the community are aware of the chapter’s presence from the mentoring, turkey give away, scholarships, and events hosted at the neighborhood’s school Jackson Career and Technology Middle School and Isaac Lane Elementary School.

A parent in the community, Chalondra Fuller, stated that she’s excited about the chapter’s community center. She said, “There’s a need for positive male role models in this community, and the Omega brothers will surely be positive here.”

The Theta Iota Chapter Basileus **Dwight Jones** stated, “the excitement is not only shared by the residents, but shared by the brothers in the fraternity to live and share our Cardinal Principles with the young and old in this community. We are truly blessed.”

To all, come visit the Omega House. The address is 340 North Hayes Street, Jackson, Tennessee, 38301.



Fifth District provides tornado relief



NASHVILLE, TN | In March, the Nashville area experienced vicious storms that unleashed winds of up to 175 mph, destroying homes and taking lives. Up to 25 people were killed; fortunately, no Brothers or their families were hurt.

The Fifth District rallied a relief effort in response, surveying Brothers who were in need and establishing a GoFundMe account for donations.

In July, 23rd Fifth District Representative **Sam McKenzie** and District Keeper of Finance **Erskine Oglesby, Jr.** presented a check for \$2,100 to Lee Chapel AME in Nashville, where **Bro. Harold Love** is pastor.



Building Bridges



NASHVILLE, TN | Omega Men around the world know the importance of being a Bridge Builder. A quote from the poem says, “There followed after me today a youth whose feet must pass this way.”

Bro. **Daniel Craig** and his team have taken this concept to heart by starting a mentoring program on February 8, 2017. The Bridge Builder program is a mentoring program that works to establish a link between undergraduate and graduate Brothers through the uplifting guidance and support of members who are willing lift as they climb.

Many in the world are looking out for themselves and it is refreshing to see Bro. Craig, the 2018 Omega Man of the Year, remain humble as help his fellow man. There are several programs that are used to uplift Brothers who participate in Bridge Builder program.

One of the successful outreach programs over the past two years is “The Suit Initiative.” This enterprise helps Undergraduates get new suits upon graduating from college so they can be properly dressed for job interviews as well as worship endeavors. Last year, The Suit Initiative gave seven (7) young men suits for graduation and for many of them it was their very first suit to own.



In 2017 a partnership was formed with the **Rho Psi Chapter** at Tennessee State University in Nashville to provide care packages to the following Chapters: **Rho Kappa, Mu Zeta, Eta Psi** and **Lambda Mu**.

The Brothers also sponsored another program that provided haircuts for the students at Cora Howe Exceptional School.

In addition, the Bridge Builder program assisted with making Thanksgiving a happy time for those in need. Several families receive a full Thanksgiving meal with a turkey. Bro. **Quinton Robinson** said, “Thank you for living your creed to help Undergraduate Brothers.”

The vision for The Bridge Builder program to have a positive impact on young men and aiming to see the mentorship guide those young men on the path to success. The Bridge Builder program strives to become a solid bridge rooted in brotherhood and recognized for its exemplary dedication and devotion to the motivation encouragement and guidance of our Brothers currently enrolled in an undergraduate program

COVER STORY

Virtual Fifth District Meeting held for the first time



NASHVILLE, TN | Due to concerns about the coronavirus, the 72nd Fifth District Meeting was held virtually for the first time on May 29 and 30, 2020.

Originally planned for March, the meeting was postponed out of caution for the health and safety of the Brothers who would attend.

From a "command center" in the Nashville Airport Marriott and observing all social distancing protocols, **23rd District Representative Sam McKenzie** officially opened the virtual meeting, which had more than 300 participants on both days.

The meeting featured an International Candidates Forum on Friday, hosted by **First Vice District Representative Quincy Snider** and an address by **41st Grand Basileus David Marion** and other Grand Officers on Saturday.

Also on Saturday, there were a number of awards announced. **Omega Lambda Lambda Chapter** in Hendersonville, TN was named Reclamation Chapter of the Year. **Iota Alpha Chapter** in Knoxville, TN was named Retention Chapter of the Year.

In Social Action, **Rho Lambda** and **Psi Tau**

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Chapters in Lexington, KY were recognized for having the highest number of donations for the 1st Annual Charles R. Drew District Wide Blood Drive during Achievement Week 2019.

Xi Zeta Chapter at University of Memphis was recognized as Undergraduate Chapter of the Year; **Pi Gamma Gamma Chapter** in Murfreesboro, TN won Graduate (Small) Chapter of the Year and **Epsilon Phi Chapter** in Memphis, TN won Graduate (Large) Chapter of the Year.

For Scholarship, **Bro. Trae Walker** of **Psi Psi Chapter**, Kentucky State University, and **Bro. Tyler Newkirk** of **Kappa Sigma Chapter**, Lane College, were awarded the 2020 Robert Thomas-Lawrence "L.A." Wesley District Scholarship. **Phi Delta Delta Chapter**, Cumberland University, was recognized as the 2020 Chapter with the highest GPA. Bro. Newkirk and **Bro. Anthony Gunn II** of **Iota Beta Chapter**, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, were 2020 High Aspiration inductees.

For International Achievement Week, Sabian Sykes, the High School Essay Contest winner for **Theta Alpha Alpha Chapter** in Bowling Green, KY, won the District contest. **Bro. D.C. Clement**, the advisor of **Gamma Theta Chapter** (Western Kentucky University), was awarded the Ernest E. Just Undergraduate Chapter Advisor of the Year.

Bishop Calvin B. Lockett from Clarksville, TN won the District's Citizen of the Year. **Bro. John C. Howard** of **Psi Pi Chapter**, Clarksville, TN, won

the Superior Service Award. **Bro. Horace V. Perkins, Jr.** of **Xi Xi Chapter**, Fort Knox, KY, won the Founders Lifetime Achievement Award. **Bro. Brig. Gen. David M. Jenkins** of **Psi Tau Chapter** won the Col. Charles Young Military Leadership Award. Xi Zeta Chapter was also recognized as Undergraduate Chapter of the Year; Theta Alpha Alpha won Small Graduate Chapter of the Year.

Bros. **Johnathan C. Russell** of Xi Zeta and Quincy Snider respectively won Undergraduate and Graduate Omega Man of the Year awards. DR McKenzie awarded the inaugural "DR Award" to **Bro. Bobby Cain** of **Gamma Phi Chapter**, Nashville, TN, who was one of the 'Clinton 12,' the first students to desegregate a state-supported school in the South in 1956.

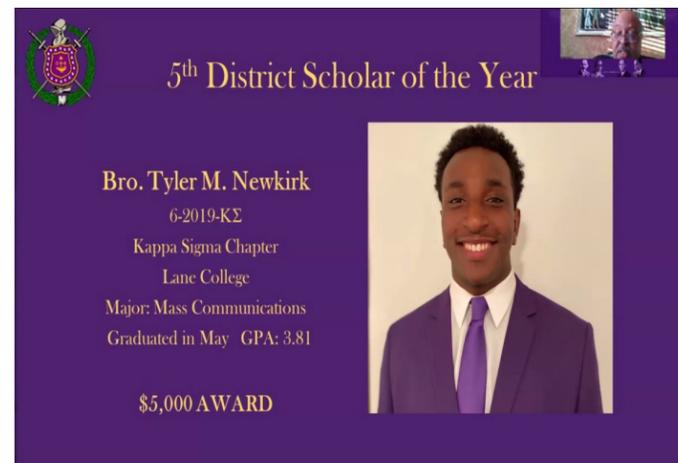
In the Election, **Bro. Brandon Taylor** of Phi Delta Delta Chapter was elected as Second Vice District Representative. All other officers were re-elected to new terms.



More scenes from the District Meeting



District represents at virtual Conclave

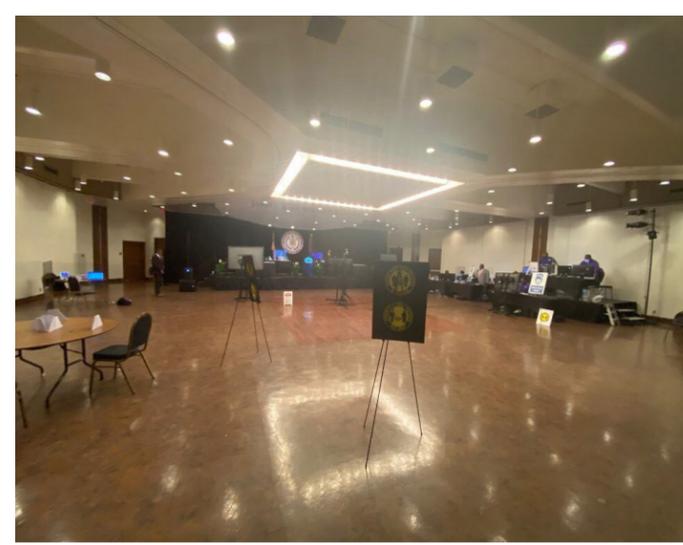


ATLANTA, GA | On July 17, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. opened its first virtual Grand Conclave, using a production set-up inspired by the Fifth District.

The Fifth District was represented at the 82nd Grand Conclave, originally planned for Tampa, Fla., with 100 Brothers registered. Of those registered, 87 were voting delegates. The Conclave convened over two days. On the evening of July 17, **23rd Fifth District Representative Bro. Samuel P. McKenzie** gave greetings to attendees on behalf of the District.

On Saturday, July 18, **Bro. Tyler Newkirk of Kappa Sigma Chapter**, Lane College, was recognized as the 5th District Scholar of the Year, a \$3,000 award. Bro. Newkirk graduated in May with a 3.81 GPA. Elections were held. **Bro. Elliott Kelly, Jr. of Phi Eta Chapter**, University of Louisville, Immediate Past Second Vice Fifth District Representative, was elected to one of the three Undergraduate Representative positions on the Supreme Council.

On Saturday afternoon, 51 Fifth District brothers were recognized for Service Awards. On Sunday, July 19, during the Memorial Service, **Fifth District Keeper of Records and Seal Bro. Richard Thompson** honored 58 Fifth District Brothers, who entered Omega Chapter since the last Conclave.



DR McKenzie elected to TN House seat



KNOXVILLE, TN | Bro. Samuel P. McKenzie, the 23rd Fifth District Representative, won the general election race for the Tennessee House of Representatives District 15 seat.

Bro. McKenzie, a Democrat, defeated Independent candidate Troy Jones with 72.9 percent of the vote in the Nov. 3 election. It was a solid affirmation of McKenzie to lead considering he won the primary election by 23 votes. District 15 covers east Knoxville and part of south Knoxville.

Born and raised in Knoxville, McKenzie has a long history of public service in Knox County, having served on various local community boards, including on the Knox County Commission.

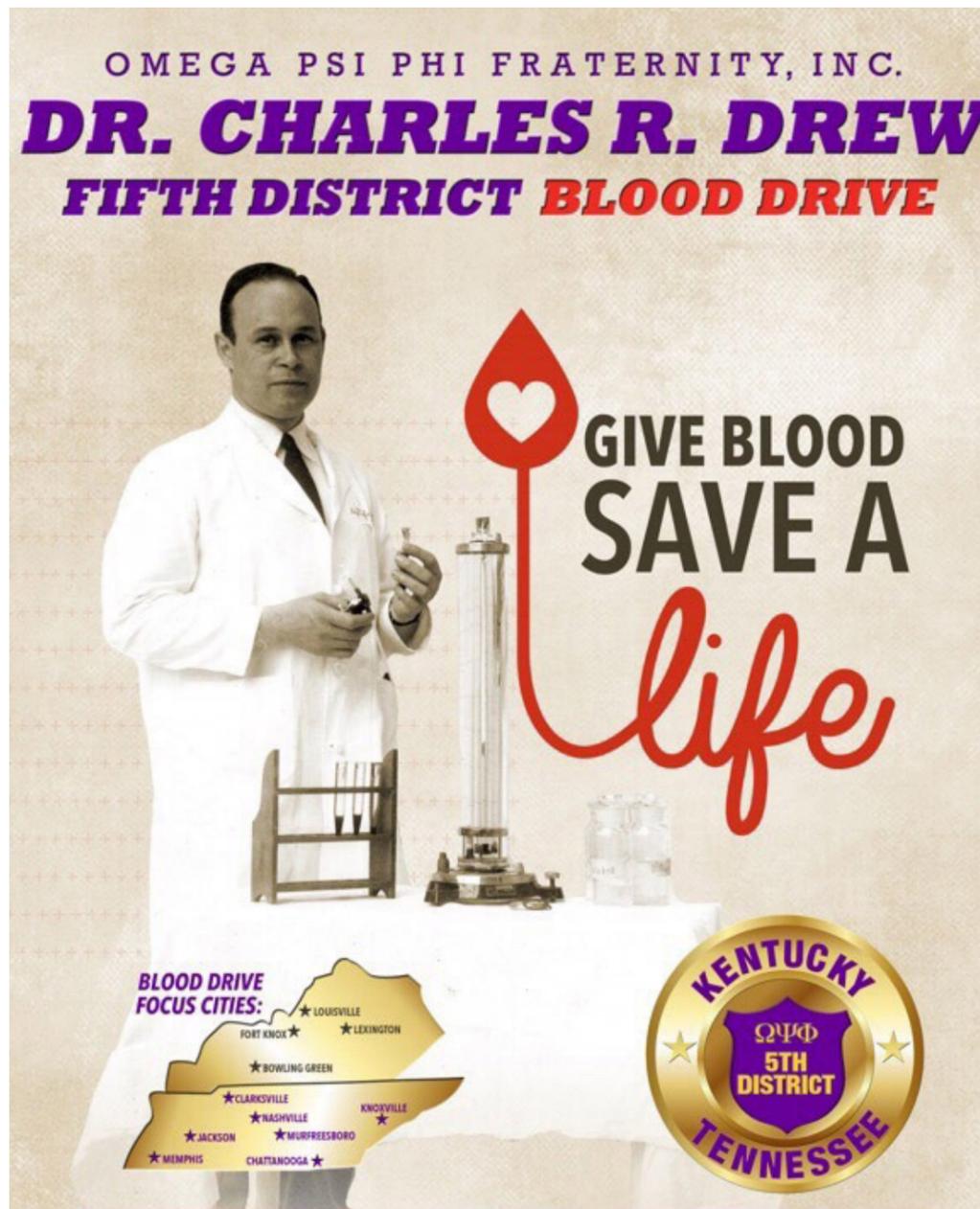
He is the brother of Reggie and Raleigh McKen-

zie, former NFL players and members of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame. Reggie McKenzie is an NFL executive who currently serves as the senior personnel executive for the Miami Dolphins.

After graduating from Austin-East High School in Knoxville, Bro. McKenzie earned a bachelor's degree in Physics from Fisk University and obtained his master's degree in Solid State Physics from the University of Memphis. He worked at Oak Ridge National Laboratory for over 30 years.

His wife, Gwen, is Vice Mayor of the Knoxville City Council.

A Legendary Blood Drive



BY: Bro. Quincy Snider

FIFTH DISTRICT (KY/TN) | On November 11 and 14 during Achievement Week 2019, the Legendary Fifth District completed the first-ever Charles R. Drew District Wide Blood Drive across the states of Kentucky and Tennessee.

This mandated program project was led by the District Social Action Committee under Committee Chairman Bro. **Charles Griffith** and under the District leadership of Bro. **Sam McKenzie**, 23rd District Representative.

One of the goals of the District Representative was to move our Committees from “Good to Great;” what better way to move toward this directive than to have a monumental District Wide Project. The project consisted of nine (9) focus cities and several stand-alone locations in the Fifth District where simultaneous blood drives were executed.

Brothers, Church

members, Students, Military and the Community donated blood and platelets in the name of Omega Psi Phi and Charles R. Drew.

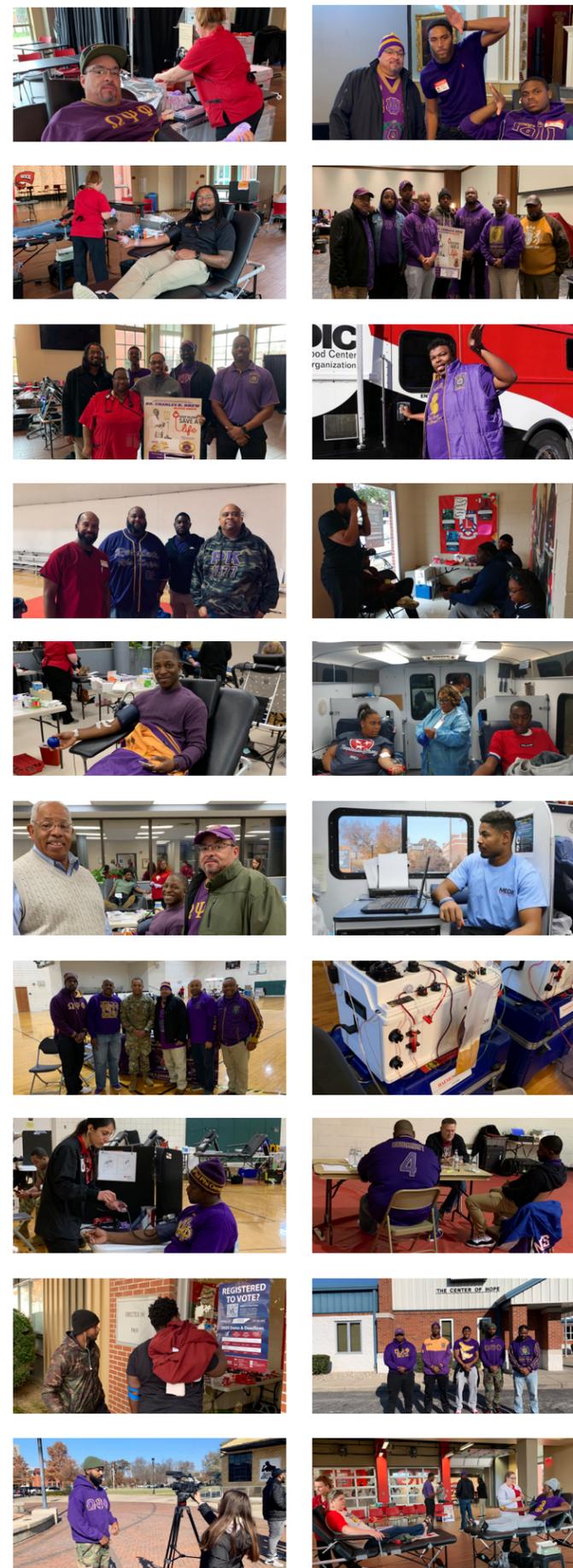
Graduate and Undergraduate Chapters came together as one and executed the District wide blood drives that took place on our college campuses, city malls, blood donor organizations and our churches throughout the legendary Fifth District

Our combined investment of undergraduates and graduates working together not only yielded tangible results of exceeding our blood donation goal by 40 percent but also strengthened relationships throughout the Fifth District among our graduate and undergraduate chapters as well as with our community partners and other organizations within the various focus cities. Bro. Griffith worked with Bro. **Richard Thompson**, DKRS, and Bro. **Irwin Todd**, DDP, to deliver all materials that would be needed to facilitate this District Wide project that included: standardized posters and flyers, a press release, marketing and advertising materials and strategies and project plans to name a few of the materials.

The Fifth District was able to showcase live pictures of the simultaneous blood drives throughout the District on the newly created Instagram account @thelegendary5th. This Instagram account has helped promote the great work of the Fifth District by showcasing all positive events related to Omega Psi Phi and the Legendary Fifth District.

Those that follow @thelegendary5th were able to see the Community and Brothers in the various cities donating blood for the Charles R. Drew Blood Drive. The Fifth District has received several invitations from colleges and individual communities to partner with them next year to increase the awareness of donating blood especially in the African American community.

All the Brothers of the Legendary Fifth District offers thanks to the community that made this project a successful event and the brothers will make this an annual District Wide project and plan on making it bigger and better each year.



Mu Zeta supports MTSU Freshmen



BY: Bro. S. Rock Jones

Murfreesboro, TN | Our Fraternity's Founders' aim was to uplift the downtrodden. So as a Chapter, we must continue to take the initiative to help and support our youth with proactive and comprehensive programs that encourage them to succeed.

Mu Zeta Chapter accepts this challenge and has worked diligently to support Middle Tennessee State University freshmen students through the Chapter's new scholarship program.

The scholarship program identifies deserving MTSU students who have demonstrated perseverance throughout their freshmen year. The scholarship not only provides financial assistance, but also creates better relationships with the new and younger students at MTSU by mentoring and

building a bridge with those who may be unaware of Omega's goals, purpose and overarching principals.

2019 was the first year that the Chapter presented these scholarships; however the plan is to make the program stronger and more impactful each year.

The MZ "Myles Cooper Ridley" Scholarships are named for a MZ founder, **Bro. Myles Cooper Ridley**, who passed away in 2000. Bro. Ridley was known for his work in his church, the Fraternity and the local Nashville community. Thw 2019 winners were Ms. Monet Henderson and Mr. Joey Smith.

Ms. Henderson's Major is Social Work and she is from Chattanooga, TN. She plans to become a school social worker or school counselor. Mr. Smith is a Biology Major from Knoxville, TN and was undecided on what field he would like to

pursue.

In the future, the Chapter hopes to support the efforts of other enterprising youth in the pursuit of furthering their educational aspirations at MTSU. Using this program, the Chapter will continue to recognize, reward, and encourage hundreds of students to share their innovative ideas with Omega and the world.

The program promotes critical thinking practices by giving challenging topics that will engage and lead students to the pursuit of new ideas and concepts. The program also helps to develop problem solving skills and other creative endeavors that provide a window into the foundation from which the student and society will benefit in the future.

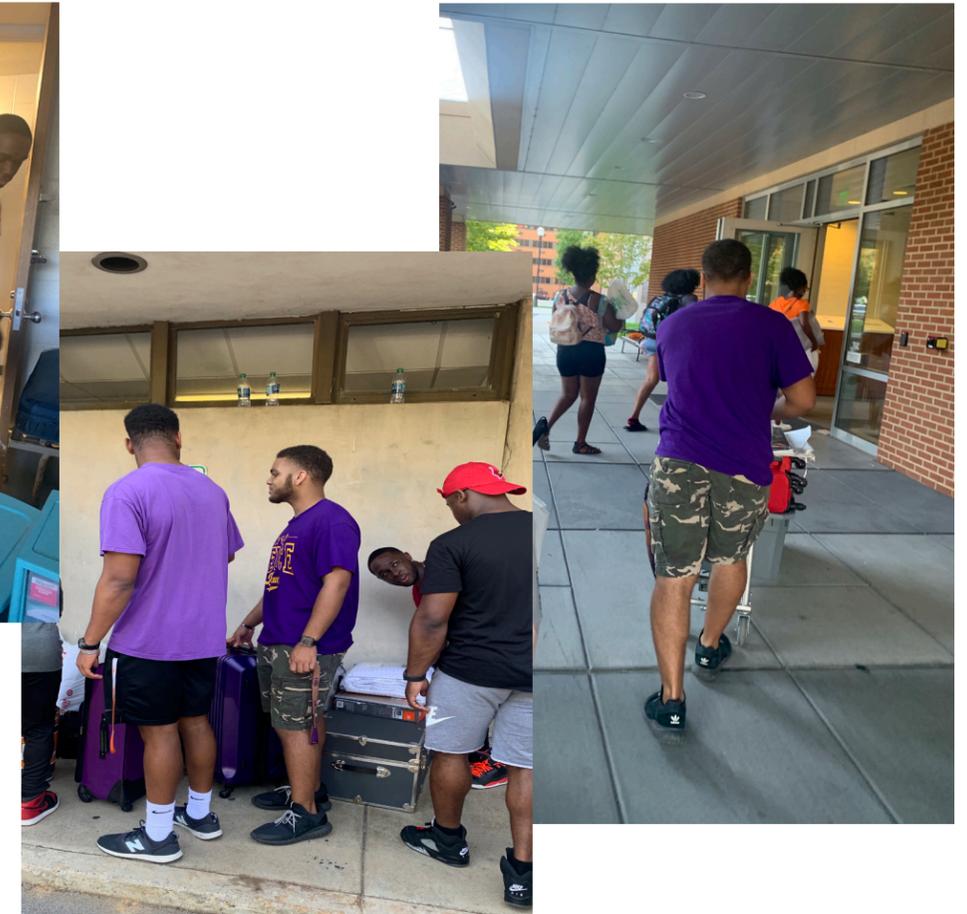
Bro. Kobey Frazier, Chapter Basileus at the time, stated: "[The 2019]

program was very intense because we had a great deal of excellent essays written by a number of deserving students. This required the committee to do a great deal of work over countless hours to determine the most worthy students. Regardless of the role one undertakes, hours spent supporting our school and the students is our future and an investment in developing a thriving and successful community."

When education is the priority—our children, teachers, and community will always win. Mu Zeta will strive to make the process even more efficient and beneficial for the MTSU students next year.

There are many other opportunities for mentoring and other service projects at MTSU as well as area high schools and Mu Zeta is ready to meet the challenge.

Iota Beta welcomes students to campus



By: Bro. Anthony Gunn II

KNOXVILLE, TN | The **Iota Beta Chapter** of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated kicked off the school year right by partnering with other organizations to help welcome incoming students. The men of Omega and other D9 organizations teamed up to help incoming freshmen move into their dorms on August 17th.

The goal is to show the incoming students the diversity and presence that African American Greek Organizations have on the campus. The move in has been a tradition since the 1970s. **Bro. Devin Redmon** says that move in day is one of the most influential parts of the freshmen college experience. "Move in day really helped me," Redmon said. "I was able to see fresh faces and people of color. Now that I am an Omega, I understand the importance of helping with move in day." The men

of Omega along with other organizations stand in the front of each residence hall. From there, they help students and their parents carry the bulk their belongings. Most students are looking for a tone setter for the semester. The men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated offer advice to each and every student in order for them to be successful for the year. Most of the students of color are not aware of the true culture of a PWI. The University of Tennessee didn't accept their first black student until 1960.

Iota Beta was established on campus in 1970, just a decade after Theotis Robinson entered the institution. This rich tradition has stemmed from a time when there were less than 200 students of color on campus. "I think that is good for a black student to see another student that they can relate to when they first arrive on campus," **Bro. Jake Jackson** says. "There is an automatic connection."

Bro. Young posthumously promoted to General



BY: Bro. Daniel Muldrow

Frankfort, KY | What a monumental and momentous morning it was at the Kentucky State Capitol on Feb. 11, 2020! **Bro. Colonel Charles Young** was posthumously promoted to the rank of Brigadier General by Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear during the Black History Program hosted the Kentucky Black Legislative Caucus.

Righting an horrific injustice was long overdue and marked a great day in Black history and in the history of a legendary member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. There was a great



representation of Omega men at the program, including **23rd Fifth District Representative Sam McKenzie** who was able to meet with Bro. Young's descendants.

Brig. Gen. Young was the highest-ranking black officer in the military at the time of his

passing in 1922. He was born in Mays Lick, Kentucky, to enslaved parents in 1864. He valued education throughout his life and graduated with honors from high school in Ohio, where his parents escaped slavery. Bro. Young taught elementary school and entered the United States Military Academy in West Point, NY.

Brig. Gen. Young consistently set the standard of what it meant to be an Army officer while serving in various assignments ranging from Haiti and Liberia, to Mexico and Nigeria. When he was medically discharged from active duty, Young was the



highest-ranking African American officer in the military, having been promoted to Colonel.

“Brigadier General Young was a pioneer that showed groundbreaking dedication to his country and peers while becoming only the third African-American graduate of the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “It is a great honor to recognize General Young for consistently displaying moral courage and selfless service, all while overcoming personal adversity with honor and integrity.”

Bro. Young was made the second honorary member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity on March 8, 1912. Bro. Young famously spoke at the 8th Grand Conclave in Boston, MA, where he delivered his powerful speech entitled, “The Reconstruction,” to an audience of more than

10,000 men of Omega.

Charles Blatcher III, founder and chairman of the National Coalition of Black Veterans Organizations, whose mission it is to raise public awareness of the military contributions of African Americans and other minorities, was the keynote speaker at KY Black Legislative Caucus program and talked about his support for rank elevation of Brigadier General Young.

“Charles Young is a significant figure in black U.S. military history,” said Blatcher. “You can’t study the subject without coming upon his legacy. Many Americans past and present felt had it not been for the political and social climate of the times, Colonel Young would have been the first black brigadier general in the regular United States armed forces. We agree.”



Following his death, Bro. Young was given full military honors and burial in Arlington National Cemetery where his legacy as a leader and example to others continues to remind Americans of what it means to persevere and excel through all things.

Bro. Young’s outstanding military leadership, tenacity of purpose and perseverance made him a figure to be immortalized in Omega history. Brother Young's demonstration of leadership abilities and mental toughness is certainly a hallmark of success for all to follow.



EPhi uplifts shooting victim

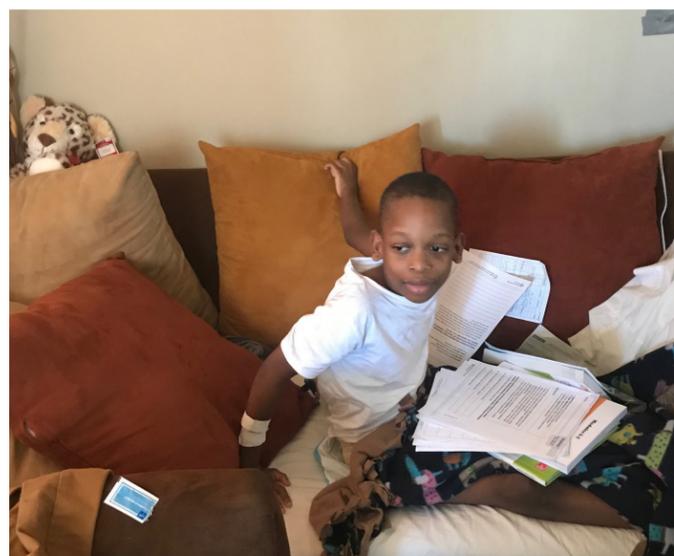


BY: Bro. Alvin J Clark

Memphis, TN | On Tuesday, November 26, 2019, 9-year-old Cedric Nesby was shot in the back while riding in the car with his father after leaving a local convenience store. Cedric is a student at Magnolia Elementary School, The bullet remains lodged in his back and he is paralyzed from the waist down due to the bullet shattering part of his spine.

Young Cedric was a student of **Bro. Nathaniel Nathaniel Crawford, Epsilon Phi** 2011. Bro. Crawford brought Cedric's situation before the Brotherhood at our December Chapter meeting. It was decided by the membership that we would assist the Nesby family through our Uplift committee. **Bro. Commodore Primous, Phi Psi '60**, and **Bro. James Waller, Beta Epsilon '66** are officers on that committee.

The Brotherhood donated \$1,100 to the family that night. And after a conversation between Bro. Crawford, Bro. Primous, and our Vice- Basileus **Bro. Antonio Avant, Chi Psi '91**, it was decided to contact Tim Simpson of WREG News Channel 3.



News Channel 3 has a news segment entitled "Pass it On" where the station asks viewers to nominate needy individuals to receive cash awards from the station. The cash award is either \$300 or \$600.

Mr. Simpson agreed to award \$600 to young Cedric as part of their February 7, 2020 Pass it On segment. Epsilon Phi Chapter added an additional \$1,100 bringing the total donation to \$1,700. With cameras rolling, Tim Simpson, along with Bros. Crawford, Primous, Waller, and Avant, en-

tered the Nesby's home to make the presentation.

Cedric was busy doing his homework when they arrived. Bro. Crawford counted out the \$600 in gift cards from News Channel 3 to Cedric's grandmother, Ms Patricia Nesby. Then Bro. Primous followed and counted out 11 \$100 bills. Young Cedric began to smile, while Ms Nesby became emotional as she thanked everyone for such a generous donation.

Before the group departed, Cedric's father, Cedric Nesby Sr., returned from running errands. When Mr. Simpson told him what had just occurred, he too thanked everyone for the much needed gift.

"This is one of the things we raise funds for", stated Bro. Primous, "to give back to our community. When we heard of this young man's situation,

we knew we had to do something."

Thanks to all the Brothers of the Epsilon Phi Chapter who gave selflessly to help this family that has suffered such a senseless tragedy.



Omega Lamplighters Shine Bright

Memphis, TN | Under the direction of **Bros. Lloyd Stovall and Anthony Patrick** the Memphis Omega Lamplighters Memphis club is an auxiliary organization of the **Epsilon Phi Chapter** of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

This organization serves the youth of the Greater Memphis Area grade levels, 5th- 12th. The Memphis Omega Lamplighters started in 2015 and is dedicated to helping young men grow and develop their leadership talents in every phase of human endeavor.

We provide local and national networking opportunities, and conduct mentorships and partnerships with the highly esteemed men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc Undergraduate and Graduate Chapters in Memphis. The Memphis Omega Lamplighter program creates a brotherhood bond among the youth themselves.

These young men, with the assistance and guidance of the directors, have completed numerous

hours of community service and active duty in their Greater Memphis Community. In June 2019, The Memphis Omega Lamplighters joined the Epsilon Phi Chapter and completed a beautification project at the NAACP Jesse H. Turner, Sr Freedom House. The Lamplighters also participated and served the community at the Juneteenth Celebration Downtown Memphis.

These young men are not only developing into outstanding leaders and they are achieving success in the classroom and on the field. Also, the Memphis Omega Lamplighters is a competitive Step Team. They have competed in 5 Steps shows and are the 2019 National Step League Tennessee State High School Champions as well ranked 6th in the Overall National Step League High School Male Division.

Overall, this program is designed to empower young men to LEAD by example, excel ACADEMICALLY in school, become MATURE men, be able to Persevere all adversities that come their way and, most importantly, LET THEIR LIGHT Shine.

Epsilon Phi Chapter delivers



Memphis, TN | Uplift, it's more than just the fourth Cardinal Principle of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. It's what we do in any situation as men of Omega.

In a season that's all about giving, with our annual toy drive, we were able to uplift the spirits of the children that are currently receiving dialysis at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in 2019. The **Epsilon Phi Chapter** had the vision to start the toy drive in December 2016.

Due to the children not staying in the hospital,

but in a clinic adjacent to the hospital, often times, these children weren't recipients of donations from other charitable organizations. After learning that information, **Bro. Travis Smith**, a dialysis patient, felt compelled to change that situation.

Bro. Smith and his line brothers spearheaded a committee, presented the idea for the toy drive, and the Chapter unanimously voted to execute the idea.

The toy drive has grown bigger each year. Donations have been received from all over the city of Memphis and the

surrounding areas. The word has spread about this noble endeavor for children, which compelled a variety of people and organizations to donate.

Toy drive boxes were decorated and left to collect toys at doctor offices, churches, and different businesses located throughout the Greater Memphis area.

Through social media advertising, toys were received from Texas, Louisiana, Ohio, and Missouri. Also, the chapter held a Trim the Tree Social. During this event, brothers and their families were able to bring an

ornament to place on the tree — plus donate a toy. This event was open to the public and received a variety of donations from members of other fraternities and sororities in the Memphis area. This event was a great success and along with having memorable fellowship.

On December 20, 2019, three SUVs loaded with toys arrived early at Le Bonheur Hospital. The toy drive exceeded expectations this year. The toys were organized and placed on display. The children were allowed to choose as many toys as they like, and the parents were able to choose toys for siblings not on dial-



ysis. The children were ecstatic to choose their toys and the look on their faces was a priceless experience.

After the children in the dialysis clinic chose their toys, the remaining toys were taken to other floors of the hospital. Those children were able to choose toys as well. The trip through the hospital ended with the children and parents waiting in the emergency room. They were able to choose toys for themselves as

well as for siblings not at the hospital.

The staff of Le Bonheur were very accommodating and assisted in anyway needed. Since the toy drive has been established, they look forward to the drive every year.

To some, the toys received by the children may seem like a small gesture; however, to the children that receive dialysis three times a week, it is a grand



gesture. The act placed a smile on their faces and allowed a brief escape from the reality of being sick.

In addition to the toys, eight new pairs of Nike shoes and over \$400 dollars in gift cards were donated to the dialysis children.

Excess toys were donated to the Pre-K classes at Berclair Elementary. This would not have been possible without the community rallying

behind the chapter and making this the biggest toy drive thus far.

On behalf of The Epsilon Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity, Inc, Thank you! Your support and donations are greatly appreciated.

To the Omega men of The Epsilon Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity, Inc, continue to put in the work through uplifting and service.

SLL provides owtstanding donation



BY: Bro. Christian Coburn

Millington, TN | When Soul Out Ministries' Founder and CEO Carolyn Jenkins needed help ahead of Thanksgiving, a friend of hers knew exactly who to call: the Brothers of **Sigma Lambda Lambda Chapter** of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

"This year, Carol decided to do Thanksgiving baskets with all the trimmings for families to prepare a meal because of the pandemic," said Debra Union-Sigee, whose son is **Bro. Emile Sigee**. "I called on my Omega Brothers to purchase some turkeys for the baskets. Instead of purchasing some turkeys, they purchased all of the turkeys for the Thanksgiving baskets."

Indeed, for the last eight years, the Owtstanding Chapter has played a key role in Soul Out Ministries' Thanksgiving outreach and this year the Chapter stepped up to the plate so Ms. Jenkins would not have to shoulder the load of setting up boxes for recipients alone.

Bros. Dr. Kendrick Brown and **Tramayne Jenkins** (no relation to Ms. Jenkins), the Chapter's Basileus and Social Action Chair respectively, bought and unloaded all of the turkeys needed for the ministry's mobile food drive effort. Individual members made donations as well. The food was distributed the following week, giving families a chance to prepare a Thanksgiving meal.

Nelson honored as humanitarian



BY: Bro. Patrick Marshall

Murfreesboro, TN | **Bro. Willie Nelson** is a 45-year member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. who works tirelessly in the community and, for his efforts, he recently received a Humanitarian Award from the Murfreesboro Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Bro. Nelson, a member of the **Pi Gamma Gamma Chapter**, volunteers weekly at an elementary school reading to kids, volunteers for Habitat for Humanity projects and shows up to other organizations events to support their efforts and causes.

Bro. Nelson is a certified Quality Engineer and his experience includes 22 years as Quality Engineer group leader for General Motors. He received his Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Clifflin University and a Master's degree in Statistics from Wright State University.

He is married to Ivory M. Nelson and they have two sons, Ryan and Avery Nelson. One of Bro. Nelson's favorite quotes is by actor Denzell Washington: "Ease is a greater threat to progress than hardship."



At the other end of the table

A tribute to late DRs Bros. CleArthur Morris and Mark Bishop

BY: Bro. Ralph Johnson, 15th Fifth District Representative

I first met **Bro. CleArthur Morris** when he was the active DR during a District Council meeting. He was catching a lot of heat from the brotherhood during the meeting. Afterwards I complimented him on how he handled the assembly. He said, "The key is to never let them see you sweat." I said, "Man you look so cool up there." Then he opened his sport coat and underneath his shirt was wringing wet. He appointed me to my first district level office, Recommendation chairman.

I met **Bro. Mark Bishop** when he approached me at a District meeting. He asked me if I was considering running for 1st Vice DR, I didn't know that when he asked me that he was a candidate. I had no idea at the time of running for anything. But after that question Mark made me

think when he asked for my support for him and then he said, "One day I think you would make a good DR." I was elected his 1st Vice DR.

CleArthur Morris served as the 13th Fifth District Representative from 1986 to 1991. Mark Bishop served as the 14th Fifth District Representative from 1991 to 1995.

When they left office after their tenure, they left the position but they never left the

love, the enthusiasm, the instruction, and the concern.

Other former DRs before them were somewhat laid back and reserved. They would only make a comment when things got a little heated or to give a witty remark during the meetings.

But Mark and Cle didn't miss a thing. They gave their opinion and/or commented on anything that was going on.

Now some brothers may have, but I never witnessed them in an argument, with

each other.

It is a shame that these two great Omega men could not memorialized during the time of their passing as they deserved. Time will not permit to tell all of their great accomplishments and achievements. It should not be ironic to any brother and even their families that one passed away so soon after the other. I hardly saw one without the other.

"At the other end of the table." What my title of this memorial tribute means. After the 1997 District Meeting I began my first year as a former DR. I started on right side facing the dais. Every so often, after a DR would complete his term, we would

move to the left.

Every year since that time Mark and Cle would beside me. Whenever they would caucus on the dais,

which was very often, I was always welcomed to join in the discussion. I shall miss those talks and we all shall miss their presence.

After serving my tenure as a DR, I had looked forward to taking my seat on the top of the dais on right side. Well, **Bros. L.A. Westley, Frank Bowden, Al Berry,** and other former DRs have passed on while we moved to the left on the other side of the dais.

Cle and Mark were always there. Every sitting DR would look to them first for guidance and

advice.

Well next time we, the 5th district assembles in person, I will be one seat from the left end of the table.

Brother Robert Jefferson (8th Fifth District Representative), I am in no hurry to sit on the very end.

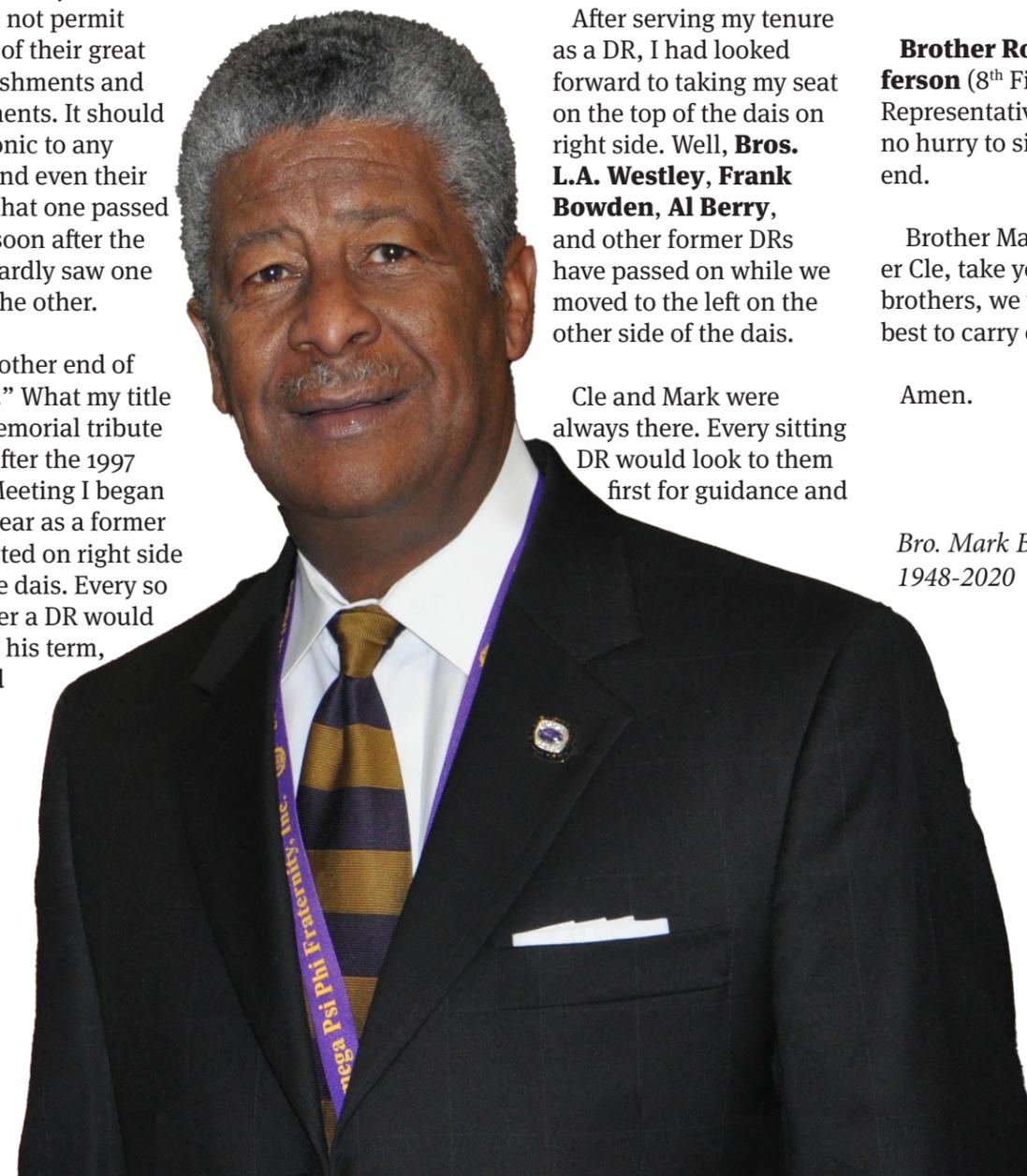
Brother Mark and Brother Cle, take your rest my brothers, we will do our best to carry on.

Amen.

*Bro. Mark Bishop
1948-2020*



*Bro. CleArthur Morris
1945-2020*



Bro. Mark Bishop



Mark's journey began April 19, 1948 in Memphis, Tennessee. Born to Jesse H. Bishop, Jr. (paternal father) and Emily LaMondue Bishop Jackson, his arrival brought joy to both the Bishop and LaMondue family.

In his family, he saw strong men who shaped him with principles, character and love. These giants included Jesse Henry Bishop, Sr. (grandfather), Isson H. Jackson (Dad), Eloyne F. LaMondue, Sr. (grandfather) and James J. Bishop (uncle). Mark graduated from Hamilton High School in 1966 and while there, he was a very active and involved student.

He participated in

many organizations focused on the development of young, talented Black men, and was elected president of his senior class. After high school, he continued his educational pursuits and graduated from Tennessee State University with a degree in Business Administration.

In 1967, Mark was inducted into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, **Rho Psi Chapter**, while attending his beloved university and proudly held leadership positions on the national, district and local levels. In his local chapter, he served as Dean of Education, Finance Chair, and Basileus.

Mark's outstanding

work led the chapter to award him the Citizen of the Year Award in the early 1990s as well as the District and Chapter Omega Man of the Year. On the district level, Mark served as the Keeper of Finance, Vice Chairman of Project Rho Psi, a member of the Human Resource Committee, and he also became the 5th District Representative, the highest-ranking officer in the 5th District.

On the national level, Mark was selected as National Omega Man of the Year for both 1994 and 1999 and also awarded the National Superior Service Award. Mark also served on the Board of Uplift, Inc., and Epsilon Phi, Inc. He was elected to serve on the Omega Life Membership Foundation representing the Fifth District. His love and dedication to the mission of his fraternity led him to the work of providing leadership to reinstated chapters.

During this time, he pioneered protocols to support these chapters and developed a procedural manual that was officially recognized and adopted on the Na-

tional Level. Additionally, Mark served on the Omega Supreme Council and was a Life Member of Omega Psi Phi. A strong supporter of historically black colleges and universities, Mark was passionate about making sure young people had access to higher education opportunities.

Mark truly loved his family and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Jesse H. Bishop, Jr.; stepfather, Isson H. Jackson; and his sister, Lisa C. Bishop-Walker (Cliff). Left to cherish his memory: Carolyn, his wife, and children, Marjon Aleta Bishop and Mark Austin Bishop (Brandi); two grandchildren, Lauryn Mari' Bishop and Austin Karter Bishop; his mother, Emily LaMondue Jackson; sister, Iris H. Jackson; brother, Julian B. Bishop (Rosa); niece, Emily R. Foreman; aunt, Jo Terrell LaMondue; uncles, James J. Bishop (Rudine) and Ernest LaMondue (Norma); and his stepmothers, Geneva Evans Bishop and Beverly Bishop.

Bro. CleArthur Morris



Brother CleArthur Morris, Sr. was born August 24, 1945 in Eads, Tennessee, to the late Mr. and Mrs. Columbus Morris.

He graduated from Mt. Pisgah High School in 1963 as the class Salutatorian and recognized as an outstanding student athlete.

For his hard work, Brother CleArthur Morris, Sr. was awarded a basketball scholarship

to LeMoyne-Owen College. Brother CleArthur Morris, Sr. became a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in 1966 through the **Chi Psi Chapter** on the campus of LeMoyne-Owen College.

He graduated with a degree in Mathematics and Science in 1967. Brother CleArthur Morris, Sr. had several distinguish careers with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Sports, Fishing and Wildlife,

and finally with Equal Opportunity Employment Commission where he retired from in 2006.

Brother Morris' passion evolved around public service, lending time to the NAACP, National Civil Rights Museum, Voters Registration and the Boys Club just to name a few.

Brother CleArthur Morris, Sr. cherished his family, he leaves to mourn, his wife Frankie M. Morris, two sons, CleArthur Morris, Jr. and Marques Morris and four lovely granddaughters.

Brother Morris served his beloved fraternity Epsilon Phi Chapter and the Fifth District faithfully for 56 years in a number of positions: Fifth District Representative, Member of the Omega Life Membership Foundation Board of Directors, Pan-Hellenic Council Representative, Audit Committee Chairman, Budget Committee, Uplift Board and chapter Parliamentarian under several administrations.