



1968 GAMMA THETA



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



# Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Legendary Fifth District



**Bro. Sam McKenzie**  
5<sup>th</sup> District Representative

Greetings Brothers,

What an exciting time this is in the life of Omega! It is both exciting and challenging as we prepare a productive 2020. I charge each of you to double your efforts in the handling our Fraternity's business on both the International and District Levels. There have been numerous changes. If we are diligent in those endeavors then your chapter's local activities will be met with huge successes! I thank you for the continued support you have shown and I'm excited to serve as your 23<sup>rd</sup> District Representative.



formed a Time and Place Committee that will work closely with the DR and District Meeting Host Chapters to present a quality District Meeting. Bros. **Tony Holt** (Chair) and **Reggie McDaniel** (Co-Chair) have been working hard with Bro. **Smith Jean-Philippe** (District Marshal) to get this program going full swing!

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. It's an arduous journey and I have asked the First Vice DR 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 before we lose our non-profit tax-exempt status as a Fraternity. Additionally, the plan is to begin a revised Membership Selection Process (MSP) in the spring but it will require a lot of training and preparation!

Lastly, please keep the following dates on your Calendar: Sept 28<sup>th</sup> Undergraduate Summit in Nashville and Nov. 1-2, Fall Council Meeting and MSP Training in Nashville! I also want to reiterate the importance of getting your Chapter's records updated with the current rosters, officers and Committee Chairmen. If I can be of service do not hesitate to call or email me.

Giving honor to God, our Supreme Basileus, Humbly Submitted,

Sam

There are several important International appointments that brothers from the Fifth District have been assigned to recently and congratulations goes out to them:

- **Horace Chase** – Co-Chair, Recommendations Committee
- **Jerome Miller** – Civic and Community Affairs Committee
- **Clinton Vaughn** – Omega Psi Phi Federal Credit Union Board of Directors
- **Quincy Snider** – (new and improved) Registration Committee

There are a few more appointments that should be coming soon. This is a direct result of your efforts to push the Legendary Fifth District to its rightful position of prominence within the Fraternity.

New to some and a reminder to others, I have

# Fifth District Council



First Vice District Representative  
**Quincy Snider**



Second Vice District Representative  
**Elliott Kelly**



District Keeper of Records and Seal  
**Richard Thompson**



District Keeper of Finance  
**Erskine Oglesby**



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**



District Marshal  
**Smith Jean-Phillippe**



District Keeper of Peace  
**Dwight Jones**



Area Representative  
**Dennis Small**



Area Representative  
**Charles Duke**



Time and Place Committee Chair  
**Tony Holt**



## Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Grand Officers

**Daniel B. Jones, Sr.**  
Grand Keeper of Finance

**Alec Fitzgerald Hall**  
Grand Marshal

**Paul Leon Anderson**  
Undergraduate Representative

**Dr. David Marion**  
Grand Basileus

**Rev. Dr. Walter T. Richardson**  
Grand Chaplain

**Naarai King**  
Undergraduate Representative

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

**Ricky L. Lewis**  
1st Vice Grand Basileus

**Benjamin L. Crump**  
Grand Counselor

**Karanja N. Matory**  
Undergraduate Representative

**Mark Jackson**  
Grand Keeper of Records and Seal.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Brothers,

We learned at our 71<sup>st</sup> District Meeting that there are many great acts of Service and Uplift occurring all over our District! We need to get our service captured in words and pictures so we can share our positive stories with the world. Our Chapters are responsible for, and are leading, far too many community outreach and social action initiatives that are going unnoticed.

Please use the quick reference guide below when writing and submitting your future articles.

Ω All articles should address: Who, What, When, Why and Where.

Ω All articles that we receive are submitted to Editor of The Oracle for his consideration to be published in The Oracle.

Ω Photos of brothers throwing up the hooks or with tongues hanging out their mouths are automatically rejected by The Oracle's editorial team.

Ω Submit articles in MS Word format only.

Ω Never embed your photos in the word document.

Ω Email photos as a separate attachment in the largest available format.

Ω Include caption information for all photos submitted.

Ω Never text photos, email only.

Ω Submit interactive photos relative to the article.

Ω Invest in a basic point and shoot digital camera.

Fraternally and Respectfully,

*Irwin W. Todd, II*

Irwin W. Todd, II

5<sup>th</sup> District Director of Public Relations



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### ABOUT THE COVER:



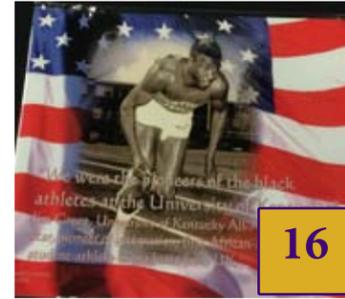
It was July 3, 1969 that Gamma Theta was chartered, becoming one of the first African American Greek Letter Organizations established at a predominately white southern institution, Western Kentucky University. This year, the Chapter celebrated 50 years of service.



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## THE STAFF

### DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Irwin Todd II

### DESIGNER

Richard Thompson

### WEBMASTER

Quinest Bishop

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

The DDPDR 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 itod-d5thd@gmail.com.

**Deadlines will be published.**

Please visit the website of The Legendary Fifth District: [omega5d.us](http://omega5d.us)



Bro. Henry Idouze of Iota Beta Chapter

# Fifth District Brothers Win \$20,000 in Scholarships

BY: Bro. Irwin Todd II

**A**tlantic City, NJ | Legendary Fifth District brothers won a total of \$20,000 in scholarships at the Inaugural Dr. Moses C. Norman Jr. Leadership Conference held in July.

fundraising, leadership, and conducting the business of Omega. These brothers will return to their chapters with this knowledge and disseminate it to the brotherhood.

Bro. **Henry Idouze** of the **Iota Beta Chapter**, the Fifth District Scholar of the Year, was recognized as the International Scholar of the Year, a \$10,000 scholarship. (Combined with the Tennessee and District awards, Idouze garnered \$16,000 toward his education.)

The brothers welcomed a special guest, Democratic presidential candidate, Senator Kamala Harris. Senator Harris shared various components of her campaign platform with the brotherhood.

Also at the Conference, Bro. **Brandon Taylor** of the **Phi Delta Delta Chapter** was named the Founders Memorial Award winner and Bro. **Mikal Muhammad** of the **Psi Psi Chapter** was granted the Grand Basileus Award; each brother received \$5,000 in scholarships.

“We are better than this,” Harris told the crowd of hundreds as they gave her a standing ovation. “As I stand here before you today, as a serious and, as they call it, top-tier candidate to be the next president of the United States, I will tell you that we have a fight in front of us.”

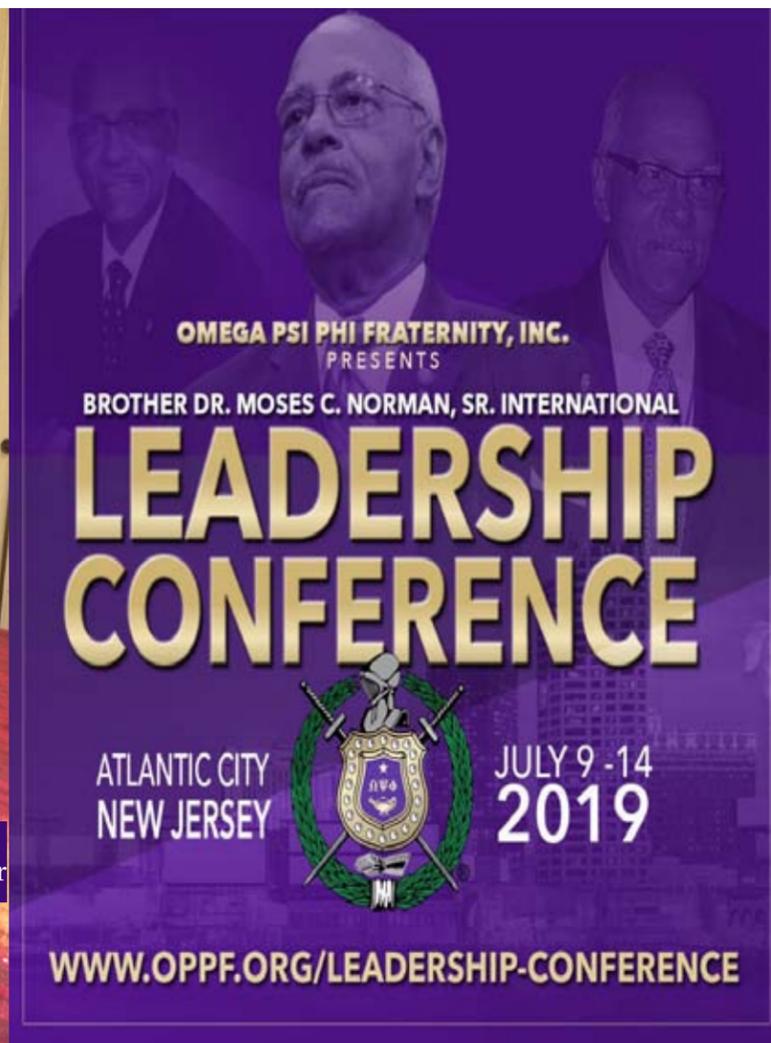
The scholarship awards were among the highlights for the 40-plus brothers of the Fifth District in attendance at the Leadership Conference at Harrah’s Casino in Atlantic City, where hundreds of brothers gathered to discuss white-hot issues as social media awareness, sexual assault and harassment, social action and other mentoring.

Harris’ plan includes changing the way credit scores are assessed to include rent, utility and other bills on time, create stronger anti-discrimination lending laws and require enforcement, and invest \$100 billion to allow 4 million families in red-lined and federally subsidized housing to cover a down payment and closing costs on a home. “By taking these steps, we could shrink the wealth gap in the United States between black households and others by at least one third,” said Senator Harris.

Brothers also received training in protocol, security,



Bro. Brandon Taylor of the Phi Delta Delta Chapter (left) and Bro. Mikal Muhammad of the Psi Psi Chapter



23<sup>rd</sup> District Representative Samuel McKenzie

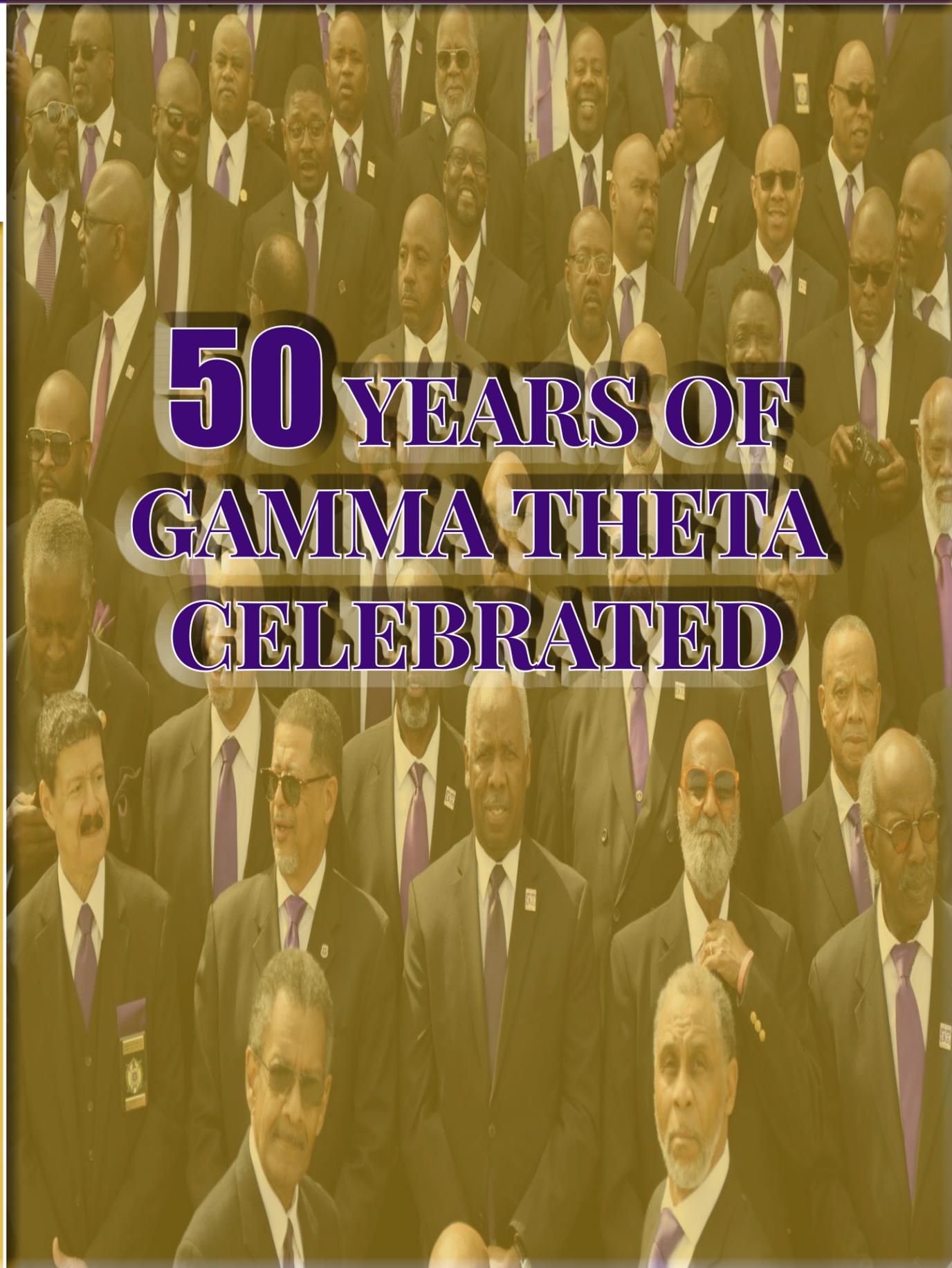


Sen. Kamala Harris



OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.  
PRESENTS  
BROTHER DR. MOSES C. NORMAN, SR. INTERNATIONAL  
**LEADERSHIP  
CONFERENCE**  
ATLANTIC CITY  
NEW JERSEY  
JULY 9 -14  
2019  
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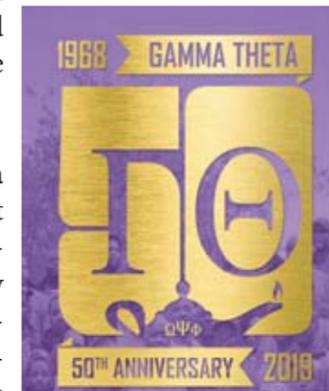


BY: Bro. Jarren Nixon

# 50 YEARS OF GAMMA THETA CELEBRATED

**B**owling Green, KY | In late April of 2019, 117 registered brothers of the **Gamma Theta Chapter** of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, celebrated a half-century of service and duty in the name of dear Omega on the campus of Western Kentucky University.

**Williams**, a life-long resident of Alabama and was the 19<sup>th</sup> Seventh District Representative.



It was July 3, 1969 that Gamma Theta was chartered, becoming one of the first African American Greek Letter Organizations established at a predominately white southern institution. And the anniversary celebration was an opportunity for brothers to reflect and listen to the trials and tribulations the brothers faced in establishing the chapter during the Civil Rights era.

Representing the Legendary Fifth District was Bro. **Quincy Snider**, 1st Vice District Representative. Bro. Snider presented a Resolution on behalf of Fifth District Representative, Bro. **Sam McKenzie**, as well as a proclamation from the 41<sup>st</sup> Grand Basileus Bro. **David. E. Marion, Ph. D.** The gifts were placed in the hands of Gamma Theta chapter founders, Bro. **Reverend Larry Ashby** and Bro. **Don C. Offutt, Sr.**

The anniversary festivities began on Friday, April 26, with a golf-outing, followed by leisure time at Bowling Green Pipe & Cigar. Later that evening, brothers gathered at the Garvin House for fellowship, food and beverage. A wide range of Gamma Theta brothers were represented, from the most recently initiated brothers (3 Unsullied Souls, 2017) to (The Tenacious 12, 1968).

For 50 years, Gamma Theta has served Western Kentucky University and the Bowling Green community. The chapter has birthed leaders in all walks of life, with each man making monumental contributions to their families, churches, associates, and communities. Service and duty will be the aim of the chapter, as it strives towards excellence for fifty more years.

Saturday morning, brothers made their way up the hill to Van Meter Auditorium for chapter photos. It was important that brothers had something tangible to take home.

After the photos, brothers recommitted themselves to Omega during the Re-dedication Ceremony. The Gamma Theta Sit Down Meeting followed and was led by Bro. **Patrick Smith**, 9th District Representative and initiate of Gamma Theta (3 Dimensions of Devastation, 1988). The keynote speaker was Bro. **Joseph T.**





## ⊖AA/Γ⊖ HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR CANCER CURE

BY: Bro. Jarren Nixon

**B**owling Green, KY | On May 31, 2019, **Theta Alpha Alpha** and **Gamma Theta Chapters** participated in the Relay for Life event.

The Relay For Life movement is American Cancer Society's signature fundraiser dedicated to helping communities attack cancer. From team members to volunteers, we all want to remember those we've lost, help those affected today, and give us a home team advantage against cancer.

Through funds donated, time given, or awareness raised, communities are teaming up to make a difference. To participate, you can simply create or join a team. From there, you and your team raise money leading up to the day of the event.

All money raised goes to American Cancer Society for cancer research and development. Each year,

the Chapters have used proceeds from both social and fundraising events to raise money, as well as selling food on event day.

This year's event was held at the Hot Rods Stadium, in downtown Bowling Green. Fifteen brothers, both graduate and undergraduate, attended and helped make it a success. This year's goal was to raise \$1,000.

The Chapters are proud to announce that they not only reached that goal but surpassed it! The Chapters donated a total of \$1,500 to Relay For Life and the American Cancer Society!

Each brother played an important role in making this happen. Whether it was promotion, facilitation or planning, brothers stepped up and answered the call.

## PROFILE: Paducah Human Rights Commissioner Kenneth B. Hurt Sr.

**P**aducah, KY | Bro. **Kenneth Hurt** graduated from Polk Clark High School in Milan, Tennessee where he was a member of the band, drama club, and football Team. After graduation in 1969, Hurt entered Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee on a band scholarship. While at Lane, he was initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the Masons Lodge. He graduated from Lane College in December 1972 with a B.S. Degree in Business and in Secondary Education with Teacher Certification. Hurt furthered his education and in 2002, received an MBA in Quantitative Financial Controls from Murray State University.

In 1973, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Union City recruited Hurt, where he worked as a supervisor. Then, in 1975, Hurt was selected by the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad in Paducah as a Computer Operator and Telecommunication Specialist in the Railroad Freight Train Movement Operations. Hurt worked for the railroad for 10 years. He also worked as a part-time Business Instructor at West Kentucky Vocational School and Draughons Junior College of Paducah in 1984 and 1985.

In 1986, Hurt joined the Navy Reserve in the Advanced Pay Grade Program as a Data Processor 3rd Class and rose to the Rank of Information System Technician Chief in 2007. Hurt was activated in 2001 and served in the 2nd Gulf War in Bahrain for about nine months on the Base Security Force Team. He partnered with the City of Cape Girardeau for its first ever Disaster Drill in 2007. After serving more than 25 years, Hurt retired from the Navy Reserve in 2011 with numerous awards and medals.

In 1987, Hurt was commissioned in the Internal Revenue Service as a Revenue Officer. At the IRS, Kenneth rose through the ranks to hold positions including



Revenue Officer Instructor, Computer Base Instructor Trainer, Facilitator, Subject Matter Expert, and Conflict Manager. Hurt was the first African-American IRS Revenue Officer and Supervisory Revenue Officer in Western Kentucky. Hurt became an Enrolled Agent and formed his own business in 2017, Hurt's Consulting.

Hurt is a Life Member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and is a driving force that keeps the **Upsilon Iota Iota Chapter** moving forward and growing. Hurt partners with Army and Navy representatives to furnish youth with pencils, pins, and other military mementos. He also partners with the Health Department and area hospitals for diabetes education and awareness and focuses on voter registration drives.

Hurt attended Harrison Street Missionary Baptist Church of Paducah. He also has served on many boards and volunteered with several organizations including Red Cross, McCracken County Juvenile Counselor, Foster Care Review Board, LBL Advisory Board, and W. C. Young Community Center Board.

# BROTHERS OF PSI TAU WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY



Lexington, KY | Bros. **Bishop Carter III** and **Leander Ridgeway** volunteer throughout the year for the Black Males Working (BMW) program at First Baptist Bracktown in Lexington. The BMW program was created in 2005 in order to assist African American males in their development into manhood. It is a Saturday program that collaborates with the Fayette County Public School System. On this day, pictured, Bro. **Bishop Carter IV** is teaching young men how to change a tire.

Brothers of the **Psi Tau Chapter** have been mentoring and tutoring children in the community at Bethsaida Baptist Church, Lexington, KY to enhance and empower them since it started in 2002. The program has had outreach to youth that are challenged throughout the Lexington, Fayette County schools and the local government social services.

Meetings occur every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. when dinner is served and then mentoring and tutoring takes place from the Omega men who attend. On this day, pictured are Bro. Dr. Bishop E. Carter III and Bro. **James Higgins** along with some of the attendees of the program.



Bro. **Louie Rivers Jr.** has been selected as an honorary nominee for the Real Black Men Recognition program of the *Louisville Defender*. This was the ninth annual program in which the newspaper recognized African-American males do great things in the community. *The Louisville Defender* is a weekly newspaper in Louisville, Kentucky serving African Americans. Bro. Rivers Jr. currently serves as the Director of County Operations with the Cooperative Extension Program at Kentucky State University. Before joining the Cooperative Extension program, he served with distinction on active duty as a regular commission officer in the United States Army for over 20 years retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.



## BRO. ROBERT JEFFERSON'S ANTI-DISCRIMINATION WORK REMEMBERED

Lexington, KY | On July 1, 2019, Lexington Mayor Linda Gorton unveiled a marker representing the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fairness Ordinance.

On July 8, 1999, the city of Lexington outlawed the discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in housing, employment and public accommodations. This groundbreaking, county-wide ordinance was the first in Kentucky to provide these protections.



During this time, Bro. **Robert Jefferson**, the eighth Fifth District Representative, was a well-respected councilman who served the city's 2nd District from 1988 until 2000 and was a part of this accomplishment.

Bro. Jefferson also was involved in getting Harry Sykes, the first black in Lexington to be elected to the city council in 1963. Bro. Jefferson is now retired and resides in Lexington.

He served in the Air Force from 1947 until 1954, has been a member of the board of the Lexington Urban League and has been involved in the Lexington community since 1957. Bro. Jefferson was initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. through the **Psi Psi Chapter** on the campus of Kentucky State University in 1955.



## BROTHER PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER GENERAL

Lexington, KY | Bro. **Colonel David Jenkins** was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General. With this promotion, this makes him the first black general from the state of South Carolina. Bro. Jenkins has served in the South Carolina National Guard for the past 26 years and held a number of positions including Platoon Leader, Company Commander, Executive Officer, and Battalion Commander of the 151st Signal Battalion.

Present at the ceremony were his wife Dionne, son Dillon, twin daughters, Sydney and Aubrey, his mother and father and five siblings. Bro. Jenkins currently works for Lexmark where he serves as the Senior Manager of the Strategic Program Management Office. Bro. Jenkins was initiated into the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. through the **Xi Psi Chapter** at South Carolina State University in spring 1988 and is currently an active member of the **Psi Tau Chapter** in Lexington.

# National Track and Field Invitational Renamed for Brother of Omega Psi Phi



**L**exington, KY | On January 11-12, 2019, Bro. **Jim Green** from **Theta Omega Chapter** was honored at the University of Kentucky, Nutter Field. The Kentucky National Track and Field Invitational was renamed to the "Jim Green Track and Field Invitational."



The event recognized the track and field accomplishments of the first University of Kentucky black athlete graduate, 6-time All American and NCAA champion during 1968-1971. Brother Green found the honor to be "exciting."

"And the reason why it's so exciting to me right now is because my family is going to be there. This is one of the greatest things to have happen to me to have my family be there with me and my friends and my teammates and my coach," he said.

The Invitational Track and Field event is the premier two-day annual indoor track events where nineteen small and large colleges from the states of Ohio, Indiana and Eastern Kentucky compete at the University of Kentucky-Nutter Field House. In the 2019 invitational, UK took top honors.

Bro. Green is an accomplished athlete who developed his football, basketball, track and field athletic skills while training on railroad track beds in the small city of Eminance, KY. One newspaper article of the era related one football game where Bro.

Green scored 10 touchdowns for Eminance High School.

Upon graduation from high school, UK Coach Press Whelan convinced Green to choose track and field instead of football or basketball at UK.



Bro. Green accepted the invitation and fulfilled all of the coaches' expectations at UK. Bro. Green earned All-American honors six times. He won eight Southeastern Conference individual events that included multiple wins in the 60-yard dash, the outdoor 100-yard dash, and the outdoor 200-yard dash during 1968-1971. At the NCAA, he won the 60-yard dash and 100-yard dash in 1968 and 1971, of which three records

remain today. He qualified for the Olympic Games; but a hamstring injury during the summer of 1968 prevented him from competing for the United States at the Mexico Games.

Bro. Green is a celebrated world-class sprinter. In 2005, he was inducted into the Inaugural Mason and Dixon Hall of Fame. In 2007, he was inducted into the University of Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2011, he was inducted into the KTCCCA Hall of Fame for outstanding accomplishments in high school.

Bro. Green achieved against a backdrop of civil rights strife and Jim Crow across the United States. He was the first African American athlete to graduate from UK. When recruited from high school, Jim was admonished by coaches that the road would be rough. He recalled:

"Whelan told me, 'It's not going to be easy.' You're going to go through some trials and tribulations. You're going to be called a lot of names. People ain't going to like you. People are going to tell you to 'go home, you don't belong here,' but we just had the will to win and we stayed there."

In retrospect, Bro. Green's life is the personification of the precepts that we hold dear as men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. We subscribe to a unique genetic code of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift that is transcribed and translated to a phenotype of strength, courage, high moral character, compassion, a bent toward justice, as

contributing informed and active citizenry of these United States of America. Men of Theta Omega Chapter seek to highlight the "Greatness" of Mankind in the context of what God has made. When asked in 2005 why he chose to matriculate at the University of KY, Jim replied:

"There was the chance to run track, and at the same time, open up the doors for other kids that may have wanted to go to the University of Kentucky but always said (it) was a big, white, racist institution. We kind of felt like, if we can make some headway and gains and open doors for other folks, why not take that challenge?"

Today, Bro. Green continues his efforts to open doors for others. Each year, Theta Omega Chapter and its 501(c)(3) charity conducts the Jim Green Golf Tournament. Past professional golfers, winning Kentucky derby jockeys, other celebrities, broth-



ers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and the Louisville community participate in the tournament. Proceeds from the event fuel the Omega Psi Phi scholarship program and the Theta Omega Chapter's Men of Quality program for middle and high school male students of predominantly African-American heritage. He is an advisor and frequent speaker at the annual Life Style Choices Forum (LSCF). The LSCF is a full day mentoring event for 400-600 Jefferson County Public Students that is replete with workshops on career counseling, financial planning, responsibility, fatherhood, and nuisances involved with dealing with the opposite sex and more.

Jim is married to the former Eva Kennedy. They are parents of one daughter and two grandchildren.





### Psi Pi Supports Relay for Life

**C**larksville, TN | On May 11, 2019, **Psi Pi Chapter** of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., participated in the American Cancer Society Relay for Life campaign with the Clarksville National Pan Hellenic Council (NPHC) at Governor's Square Mall. The Clarksville NPHC raised over \$900 to support finding a cure for cancer, and ranked as the number 13th team overall for funds raised out of 40 total teams. Bro. **Brian Hutchenson (Rho Kappa '02)** currently serves as President of the Clarksville NPHC and stated: "I am extremely proud of the support the NPHC provided to the community for this event and we look forward to a continued partnership in the future."

Media Group



### RESOLUTE RHO KAPPA SPR '19 PRESENTATION

**C**larksville, TN | On April 23, 2019, seven young men became men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. at Austin Peay State University. Their presentation to the Greek community was extremely well received with all seats filled in Clement Auditorium. **Rho Kappa Chapter** was founded on May 6, 1977 under the leadership of E. Hyburnia Williams, and has been a bridge builder for young men for over 40 years.



## PSI PI LENDS HELPING HANDS



(Left to right) Bro. Michael West, Bro. Brian Hutchenson, Bro. Gerrick Williams, Bro. John C. Howard, Bro. Joseph Chatman III, Bro. Reginald T. Bailey and Bro. LTC Chris Carter.

BY| Bro. Reginald T. Bailey



**C**larksville, TN | On August 9, 2019, members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. (**Psi Pi Chapter**) attended the "Helping Hands" Back To School event at Kenwood Middle School.

The main purpose of the event was to encourage and motivate the students as they begin another school year in the Clarksville Montgomery County School System. The event was a major success and there was representation from various professions within our community.



As the students arrived on their buses, the participants formed two lines which allowed the students to walk down the middle of the path and receive high fives and encouragement as they entered the school.

The students seemed to be very engaged and appreciative of our efforts and it gave them a sense that the community truly cares for them.

Whenever we can motivate and encourage our young people we should jump at the opportunity to do so. They are our future and we must invest in them any way possible.

# GAMMA PHI BUILDING BRIDGES IN COMMUNITY



**N**ashville, TN | Omega Men all 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." And 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 in **Gamma Phi Chapter** that works to establish a link between Undergraduate and Graduate Brothers through the uplifting guidance and support of members who are willing to lift as they climb. Many in the world are looking out for themselves and it is refreshing to see 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. One of the successful outreach programs over the



past 2 years includes the "Suit Initiative." This initiative helps undergraduates get a new suit upon graduating from college that they can use their suit for their new job interview or worship endeavors. Last year, the Suit Initiative gave seven young men suits for graduation and for many of them it was their very first suit to own. In the Fall of 2017, a partnership with the **Rho Psi Chapter** of Nashville, provided care packages to the following chapters; **Rho Kappa, Mu Zeta, Eta Psi, and Lambda Mu.**

Another program is the "Haircuts Initiative," involving students at Cora Howe Exceptional School. In addition, the Bridge Builder program assist 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 to have a positive impact on young men and aiming to see our mentorship, guide those young men on the path to success The Bridge Builder 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.

# BROOKS NAMED 2019 MAN OF THE YEAR



**M**urfreesboro, TN | Bro. **Will Brooks**, an educator and musician, was named The Freedom Fund 2019 Man of the Year by the Murfreesboro Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at the James Union Building on August 23.

Born to two musicians, Bro. Brooks was raised in Detroit Michigan. He is a member of the **Pi Gamma Gamma Chapter** of Omega Psi Phi, Incorporated, currently serving as the Talent Hunt Chair.

He is also a member Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity, and is currently completing a Master's Degree in Music. Brooks currently plays the piano at Hickory Grove Missionary Church where he serves as the minister of music.

He also tours with his funk band "Judd Hall" playing the keyboards and trumpet. Since 2013, he has served as the Band Director at Hunters Lane High School in Nashville.



# MU ZETA'S SEASON OF AWARDS



**M**urfreesboro, TN | The 2018-19 school year was an amazingly stellar year for the men of the **Mu Zeta Chapter**. Bro. **Rakeem Murphy** (2-16-MZ) was crowned Homecoming King at Middle Tennessee State University on October 20, 2018. On March 30, 2019, the Chapter was awarded the Undergraduate Chapter of the Year at the 71<sup>st</sup> Legendary Fifth District meeting in Chattanooga, TN. On campus, the Mu Zeta Chapter continued its award-winning ways by receiving several honors at the 2019 MTSU Fraternity and Sorority Life Awards. Bro.

**Jared Leslie** (5-16-MZ), former two-time Second Vice District Representative, won the Outstanding Senior Man of the Year award. Bro. Murphy was awarded the Member of Distinction honor. Additionally, the Mu Zeta Alumni Association was awarded the Outstanding Alumni Relations Award for its efforts coupled with those of both the Mu Zeta Alumni Association and the local graduate chapter, **Pi Gamma Gamma Chapter**. Finally, the chapter received the President's Challenge Cup for being recognized as an outstanding NPHC organization.





## IOTA ALPHA AND IOTA BETA COMMIT TO MENTORING LAMPLIGHTERS IN KNOXVILLE

**K**noxville, TN | On May 17, 2019, paired with the **Iota Beta Chapter**, the **Iota Alpha Chapter** concluded the inaugural year of its Junior Lamplighters program with a cookout for the Lamplighters at Sarah Moore Greene Elementary School.

To end another successful school year, both Chapters communed together to have a cookout with the Lamp Lighters at Sarah Moore Greene Magnet Academy. The young children got to interact with the men of Omega Psi Phi and to enjoy their time. There are a few activities and most importantly a final close out session to recap what they have learned throughout the year.

The Lamplighters program in Knoxville had an auspicious beginning as a onetime donation of backpacks,

classroom supplies and school cleaning supplies as a social action endeavor on August 6, 2018. That's when the brothers of Iota Alpha recognized the void that needed to be filled and hopped into action like it has done for 84 years (April 19, 1935) within the city. Chaired by Bro. **Terry Mosley (KΦ 69')**, the Brothers of Iota Alpha established a Junior Lamplighter program within two months.

The brothers adopted and implemented this youth mentoring program for a group of 30 middle school 5<sup>th</sup> grade males at the Sarah Moore Greene, an elementary school without any male faculty and very few male staff working within the building.

Thorough the 2018–2019 academic school years, brothers of Iota Alpha and Iota Beta promoted MANHOOD and SCHOLARSHIP through monthly men-



toring sessions and other activities (Read Across America, Breakfast of Champions, Career Day, and End of the year Cookout). UPLIFT is extremely rewarding! The goal is to drill in their minds that it takes a village to help uplift them along their life journey. Both the students and the Brothers look forward to the monthly sessions.

As this inaugural group of young men heads to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and becomes middle schoolers, they will continue to be part of the Junior Lamplighters program and

eventually Lamplighters. The brothers have committed to see and mentor this inaugural group through their high school graduation. The Chapter has also committed to continue this mutual partnership with Sarah Moore Greene Elementary School and adopt the next group of 5<sup>th</sup> grade Junior Lamplighters.





## A PILLAR IN THE COMMUNITY: THETA IOTA DEDICATES NEW CENTER

BY: Bro. Darryl Wells

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 Thacker's 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, TN, 38301.



## Theta Iota Sponsors Basketball Camp

BY: Bro. Darryl Wells

Jackson, TN | The Kendall Anthony Basketball Camp ages 9-12, sponsored by the **Theta Iota Chapter** of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was held at T.R. White Sportsplex on June 30.



Kendall Anthony, a Jackson native, is a professional basketball player for the BCM Gravelines-Dunkerque, a French professional basketball club based in Gravelines. The team currently plays in Pro A, the highest professional league in France. Anthony is a native of

Jackson, Tennessee, where he wanted to open a basketball camp for young boys. He reached out to the Theta Iota Chapter for assistance. The Chapter—led by Bro. **Sonny Phillips**, Bro. **Tony Black**, and the Friends of Omega—sponsored the building, food, snacks, assistance, and mentoring throughout the event.

"It's been a great experience for me," Anthony said. "I've enjoyed playing basketball, and I want to give kids the opportunity to learn and try to go my path."

Anthony says he wants the Jackson youth to leave camp with key aspects of life and the skills needed to play basketball. "They can learn the fundamentals of being a good teammate, having fun and learning just the fundamentals of basketball and the things they need to motivate them to be better basketball player and a better person," Anthony said.



"We believe in giving back. One of our principles is to uplift, so we always look for opportunities to uplift our community," said Bro. Phillips. "When we were asked to partner with Kendall and to sponsor this camp, we said, 'yes.'"

"This is great for kids to get up this early on a Saturday morning," Theta Iota Basileus Bro. **Dwight Jones** said. "It shows their dedication."

## Local Student Essay Picked For Anti-Violence Campaign

BY: Bro. Darryl Wells

Jackson, TN | Milani Washington, a middle schooler at Jackson Career and Technology, which is sponsored the **Theta Iota Chapter** of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was one of 50 winners nationwide of the Do the Write Thing Challenge.

The Do the Write Thing Challenge is an expressive writing contest that engages participants in thoughtful classroom discussions about bullying, youth violence and family abuse and its impact on their lives. Milani, the district representative for the Jackson Madison County School District, wrote an essay that chronicled her struggles as young African-American woman and received an all-expense paid trip to

Washington, D.C.

"Black women need to get in the habit of fixing each other's crowns instead of knocking them down, we come from kings and queens," Milani wrote in her essay. Milani's essay is included in a book entitled, *National Campaign to Stop Violence 2019*.

Her mother, Melody Phelps, teacher, Bro. **Darryl Wells**, and Jackson Councilman Earnest Brooks also joined her on the trip. The group toured the U.S. Capitol, where they engaged in conversations about combatting youth violence with Tennessee Senators Marsha Blackburn and Lamar Alexander, and Representative David Kustoff.

Do the Write Thing Challenge winners toured the U.S. Supreme Court and also had a dinner hosted by the Kuwait American Foundation, where the students, parents, and teachers met and discussed their essays with the Kuwaiti Ambassador Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



## EPSILON PHI HELPS STUDENTS DRESS FOR SUCCESS

**M**emphis, TN | On Friday, February 22, 2019, several brothers of the **Epsilon Phi Chapter** of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc participated in a student intervention session called Straight Talk.

The brothers were tasked with providing insight on the principles of “Dressing for Success” with 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys at Riverview K8 School. During the forum, students were asked to explain what dressing for success means to them and give examples. Several of the young men voiced their thoughts and opinions on the subject. The men of Omega candidly discussed the pros and cons of dressing properly at school and home.

The brothers emphasized to the young men how their outward appearance assists them in making a good first impression along with speaking clearly, appropriate diction, and using the proper tone. The brothers provided the students with examples of how to properly dress for school, work, job interviews, church, and other events.

The brothers closed the session by presenting each student with a striped necktie in the school’s colors; royal blue and orange, then taking the time to teach the students how to properly tie their new neckties.



## Omega Fan-A-Thon

BY: Bro. Joel Weathers

**M**emphis, TN | On Friday June 14, 2019, brothers of the **Epsilon Phi Chapter** of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in conjunction with the Commission on Aging of the Mid-South, gathered in front the Walmart Store, 7525 Winchester Road, to solicit funds in order to purchase fans for elderly citizens in Memphis.

In the summer of 1998, the City of Memphis experienced a rash of heat related deaths to our elderly community. Bros. **Joel Weathers** and **Commodore Pri-mous** presented the brotherhood with a plan to raise money for the sole purpose of purchasing fans to help give some relief from the oppressive Memphis summer heat. That year, the Chapter collected enough money to purchase 50 box fans.

This year, WHBQ Fox 13 TV News provided coverage of this event during the early morning, mid-morning, and evening newscasts. In addition, the Mid-South Commission on Aging provided two employees from their office to assist the brothers.

Each Brother was asked to purchase one box fan. The Chapter was able to collect enough donations to purchase all of the 20” box fans that Walmart had in stock; Epsilon Phi purchased a total of 400 fans.

The Fan-A-Thon committee thanked the brothers that volunteered to work in the summer heat to help solicit funds from the public and also thanked the citizens for their generous donations of fans and money to help the most vulnerable in our community.



## Memphis Lamplighters Shine In Community

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

The Memphis Omega Lamplighters started in 2015, serving young men in 5<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grades, helping them 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 in Undergraduate and Graduate Chapters

The Memphis Omega Lamplighter

program is not just a mentoring program; it is a fellowship quarter and brotherhood bond that these youth have created amongst each other. 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 area.

In June 2019, The Memphis Omega Lamplighters joined with 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. We also participated as escorts with the Just Be You Foundations Purity Ball in January of 2019.

Also, the Memphis Omega Lamplighters 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. The Lamplighters have performed at different events in the Memphis area such as the Southern Heritage Classic, Whitehaven Christmas Parade, Bridge Build Youth Summer Festival and local step shows.

The Members of the Memphis Omega Lamplighters, including the directors and the parents, are all in agreement to upholding a standard for these incredible young men to not only produce men of great caliber but to develop men that will be successful members of society.



## OMEGA SUPPORTS NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION KIDNEY WALKS

**M**emphis, TN – On Saturday, June 1, 2019, the **Epsilon Phi** and **Sigma Lambda Lambda** Chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity participated in the West Tennessee Kidney Walk on the Campus of Rhodes College.

The brothers walked in support of E Phi Bros. **Earnest Weathersby** and **Travis Smith**, current dialysis patients on the kidney transplant list, and SLL Bro. **Quiley Cox**, a former NKF spokesman. The one-mile fun/walk around the Rhodes campus helped to raise nearly \$50,000 to support the efforts of the National Kidney Foundation (NKF).

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Greater Memphis-area Chapters were recognized by the Memphis Kidney Foundation for the consistent participation and support of the kidney walk throughout the years.

The walkers were a very diverse group; that included parents with babies in strollers, teenagers, persons using scooters and wheelchairs.

The Kidney Walk is the nation's largest walk to fight kidney disease. Held in nearly 100 communities, the event raises awareness and funds lifesaving programs that educate and support patients, their families and those at risk. The positive energy of thousands of people at the Kidney Walk is invigorating, inspiring and amazing.

That's because the Kidney Walk is not just about kidney disease. It's about people. It's about the patients, families, and people at risk. It's about individuals walking to help improve and extend people's lives. It's about people from across the country raising vital funds and helping the National Kidney Foundation expand the public conversation from kidney disease to kidney health.



# Sundresses & Linen Returns To Pink Palace: A Night Of Scholarship And Entertainment

**M**emphis, TN | Sundresses & Linen returned to the historic Pink Palace Museum this year and the brothers of **Sigma Lambda Lambda Chapter** marked the sixth annual event with the award of seven \$1,000 scholarships on a great night of entertainment.

The 2019 awardees of the Wilfred "Omaha" Fisher BridgeBuilder Scholarship are deserving young men from Shelby County who demonstrated their ability to be academically astute, communally conscious and socially sentient.

The scholarship is named for one of the great men of our fraternity, Wilfred Fisher, a 1975 initiate of **Chi Psi Chapter** at Lemoyne-Owen College in Memphis. He was a strong advocate of our second Cardinal and ensured that young men and young Omega men were putting Scholarship at the forefront of its chapter ideals.

To that end, the criteria listed below for this scholarship is hard but fair and gives us the chance to choose the best possible candidates for the award. The criteria is as follows:

- 1) Must be an African American male high school senior
- 2) Admitted to 4 year accredited institution
- 3) Minimum of 3.0 (unweighted)
- 4) Must do 4 hours of SLL approved community service
- 5) Must complete SLL essay to be eligible for scholarship
- 6) Student must be registered in accredited 4-year institution to receive monies

These young men will represent us well as four of them had 30 or above on the ACT and their average score was a 29. Additionally, they had an average grade point average of 4.0 and were involved in extracurricular activities as well as governance of the student body.

We are also proud to say that three of the scholarship awardees are the sons of Omega Men: Bros. **Isaac Green Jr., Alton Taylor Jr. and Irwin Todd III.**

In its sixth year, Sundresses & Linen is the official start of summer in the Greater Memphis Area More than 1,000 patrons enjoyed a night of entertainment at the Pink Palace, featuring live entertainment, food trucks and an amazing museum experience.



# SLL IN THE COMMUNITY



**G**ermantown, TN | Throughout the year, the **Sigma Lambda Lambda Chapter** held consistent blood drives in honor of Bro. **Dr. Charles Drew**. Charles Drew was an African-American doctor and scientist in the early 1900's. His work on blood storage and blood banks helped to save thousands of lives during World War II. We do our Duty by giving blood to help maintain human life in our communities. The Outstanding Sigma Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated were joined in this by fellow Chapters **Xi Zeta** (University of Memphis) and **Kappa Sigma** (Lane College).

**M**emphis, TN | To show appreciation for a great 2018-19 school year, the men of Sigma Lambda Lambda Chapter saluted teachers and staff at Manassas High School with a cookout. The brothers recognize that teachers are doing everything they can to educate our youth in preparation for the future. The hard work and steadfast diligence at Manassas High does not go unnoticed. The Chapter provided laughs, support and a meal for the teachers and staff during this event.



**M**emphis, TN | The Hope Center at Grace, Aspera Inc., Sigma Lambda Lambda Chapter and partners hosted its 6th Annual Favorite Fathers Celebration Breakfast at The Hollywood Community Center, 1560 N. Hollywood.. The annual event celebrated men who motivate and inspire others through their vision and leadership, exceptional achievements, and participation in community service as a father/mentor.

"Fatherhood is a journey without a finish line. We try our best to prevent harm or injury to the next generation," said Oliver Williams, executive director of the Hope Center at Grace. "Men can join the effort to ensure success no matter the opponent. Families today are diverse. Single, married, blended and all will develop to increase capacity. Fatherhood has no shelf life."

Fathers honored were: Keelon Lawson, Bros. **Randy Irving, Lloyd Stovall, John Green, Carlton McClelland, Christopher Taylor, Dameon Banks and Reginald Clark.**



**Bro. Theodore "Lamar" Sherman** passed away at his home in Lilburn, Ga. on August 26, 2019. He was 57. A native of Greer, SC, he was the son of the late Theodore "Felt" and Yvonne Wood Sherman. Bro., Sherman crossed at **Theta Zeta Chapter** at East Tennessee State University in 1984; he was a member of **Phi Tau Chapter** in Jonesboro, TN.



**Bro. Gene A. Fentress**, born July 22, 1939, was initiated at **Rho Psi Chapter** (Tennessee State University) in 1958. He passed away quietly on Monday, July 1, 2019, at his home. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife of 58 years, Ruby, one daughter Lorri, and one grandson Austin, and several very close relatives and friends.

IN MEMORIAM



# SAVE THE DATES

**Sept. 28, Fifth District Undergraduate Summit,  
Nashville, TN**

**Nov. 2, Fifth District Fall Council Meeting,  
Nashville, TN**

**[omega5d.us](http://omega5d.us)**