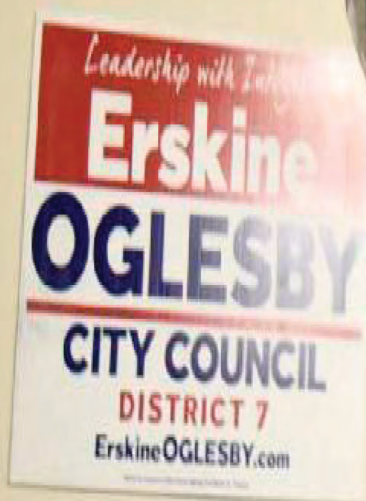


THE LEGEND



JUNE 2017



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc

Fifth District Public Relations



www.omega5d.us

Brothers,

Thank you for putting your trust in me to represent you as the Director of Public Relations for the Legendary 5th District. It is our intent to provide you with an enlightening and informative news letter as well as submit all articles to The Oracle that meet the guidelines set forth by the Editor of The Oracle. Our district is only as great as we choose to make it. We want to continue to collaborate with all chapters to archive, document, and publish the great achievements and events that are happening in the 5th. We cannot make that dream a reality without your help and are asking you to persevere and invest in the greatness of your chapters and our district by taking some great action photos, documenting who, what, when, where, and why. It is our suggestion that you submit your articles with photos to the DDPR within 2 or 3 days of completing your projects, while the details are still fresh on your mind. We are great, we are legendary and the world needs know. We can only publish our good news throughout the district and submit it to The Oracle based on what we receive from you.

Fraternally,

Irwin W. Todd, II

Irwin W. Todd, II

5th District Director of Public Relations

dpr@omges5d.us

thelegendary5th@gmail.com

Founders: Frank Coleman, Oscar J. Cooper, Ernest E. Just, Edgar A. Love (All Deceased)



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



The Legendary 5th District

From The Desk of: Bro. Sam McKenzie, 1st Vice District Representative
411 Carta Rd. Knoxville, TN 37914 (865) 382-0658

July 2017

Greetings Brothers,

I would first like to thank you for the work your chapter has done thus far, and encourage you to come out of the summer with a renewed Enthusiasm to make this coming year the best and most productive one to date! We, the Sons of Blood and Thunder, must therefore double our efforts to continue to grow our Fraternity's significance, brand and finances. It all begins with organization!

I will work diligently to maintain and/or establish connection with the committee support structure in your local chapter. I will continue to connect with the District Committee Chairs and encourage them to create excitement in their area. We currently have over way too many chapters that do not participate in our mandated programs (Essay Contest, Blood Drives, Talent Hunt etc.) chapters that do not routinely host these programs aren't truly living out our duties. This is unacceptable and I have committed myself to resolve this problem for those chapters that are willing to work with me and learn the Fraternity's systems.

Secondly, I assist the DR in conducting our monthly conference calls which allow the chapter Basilei and KRSs to provide updates and hear feedback on the activities occurring on the International and District level. Also, this is a great forum to communicate lessons learned by fellow chapters and pitfalls to which others may be exposed. This is also an opportunity to build and strengthen relationships across the Legendary Fifth District!

Finally my brothers, I want to be the "Shell Answer Man" for all questions your chapters have concerning the business of Omega. So please do not hesitate to give me a call, text or email and I will attempt to get you an answer. The answers aren't always positive, but I will assure them to be accurate. I am at your service.

Giving honor to God, our Supreme Basileus, humbly submitted,

Samuel P. McKenzie

FRIENDSHIP IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SOUL

The 69th Fifth District Meeting

The Fifth District which is comprised of the states of Kentucky and Tennessee) has come together annually since 1948 to conduct the business of Omega at the 69th Annual Fifth District Meeting. This is where the Fraternity prescribes we conduct the business of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. from a District level. It is also where Omega Men from both States as well as visiting Brothers can fellowship in the true Omega Spirit. This year was no different. Omega Men drew nigh in Oak Ridge, TN for the 69th Annual District Meeting. Brothers travelled from the various chapters throughout the District to conduct the business of Omega and to integrate and implement new ideas. The Brothers attended the Plenary Sessions, the Council Meetings, and visited with the other Brothers in attendance. The brothers were addressed by Grand



Basileus Tony Knox on the State of Fraternity, as well as we were addressed by other members of the executive leadership. The Omega Psi Phi district meeting experience is what each individual Brother makes of the time with other Omega Men while attending any events and training sessions. It is our duty to keep our motto close "Friendship is essential To The Soul". We must seek new friends, cultivate old relationships and keep them

anew and Uplift our Fraternity and community while we conduct the business of Omega and in between have fun in the true Omega Spirit.



The 2005 Foundation Cruise

The brothers of the Omega Lambda Lambda Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc took part in a fundraising cruise June 12th - June 17th. The cruise was an effort to raise funds for the 2005 Foundation. The foundation is the Omega Lambda Lambda Chapter's 501(3)c entity that is used to solicit funds for the chapter's social action projects, administering the Virgil J. Maupin Scholarship Fund, and to inspire the community as well as mentor and set positive examples for youth. The cruise was a fundraiser for the Virgil J. Maupin Scholarship Fund.



Virgil was the son of Brother John Maupin, former President of Meharry Medical College and former President of Morehouse Medical College. Virgil was killed in a car accident 2005, at which time he was participating in the Membership Selection Process. The ship departed from Ft Lauderdale, FL on a five day cruise with had stops in Ocho Rios and Grand Cayman. The brothers, and their wives, had a great time on land and sea. The 2005 foundation plans to make this cruise a bi annual event that is held in years opposite of the Fraternity's Conclaves. The brothers are planning the 2019 cruise to Alaska.

Veterans Day Celebration



US Army Captain Eric Wilson was the keynote speaker at the Rossview HS JROTC Hawk Battalion Veterans Day Program. Captain Wilson hails from Clarksville, Tennessee and he graduated from Rossview HS in 2003. He achieved academic honors all four years that he attended and was a member of the National Honor Society. He was also a member of the Rossview HS JROTC and served as a Battalion Commander and member of the rifle team and color guard. Upon graduation from Rossview HS, Captain Wilson attended the United States Military Academy Preparatory School and the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He earned a Bachelors of Science degree in sociology and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry on May 27, 2008. Captain Wilson addressed the student body about leadership, study habits, priorities, goals, and dedication during the Veterans Day program. He explained to them how hard work and focus are necessary in order to meet and achieve your goals in life. The students were captivated by Captain Wilson's words and I'm sure they gleaned a great deal from his message. Captain Wilson embodies the spirit of what a true Omega Man should be and is a shining example for young people and his peers alike.

Founders Day Celebration



The Psi Pi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. held their annual Founders Day Banquet on at Concord Missionary Baptist Church in Clarksville, TN. The banquet celebrated several accomplishments which included the Brotherhood award, Founders Day award, Chapter Man of the Year award, Omega Man of the Year award and the Citizen of the Year award. The keynote speaker for our banquet with Sr. Pastor Vincent Windrow of Pi Gamma Gamma Chapter. Bro. Windrow delivered a dynamic message regarding voting rights and community involvement and caused all those who heard his message to reflect on what we can do better in our communities. The evening culminated with the brothers of Psi Pi Chapter singing our beloved hymn "Omega Dear." We dismissed feeling a renewed commitment to better community in the year ahead. Happy Founders Day Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Charles Drew Blood Drive

The Psi Pi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. hosted the annual Dr. Charles Drew Blood Drive at the Austin Peay University Foy Center in Clarksville, Tennessee. The event was widely publicized and because of our efforts and dedication to ensure this event was a success we exceeded our goal for donations this year. Bro. Brian Hutchenson was responsible for coordinating this event and his preparation and execution of this event was evident from the results. We are grateful to all those who participated and donated blood to give the "gift of life" to someone in need. For more information on where you can donate blood in your local community, please contact the American Red Cross at www.redcrossblood.org



National Mental Health Awareness Month

The brothers of the Psi Pi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the Clarksville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. joined together to raise awareness for National Mental Health Awareness Month at the Governor's Square Mall in Clarksville, TN. The two organizations are working with several institutes within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to implement educational outreach initiatives that raise awareness about mental health. A collaboration with the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) was formed to implement the Mental Health Across the Lifespan Initiative, which focuses on issues affecting women and their families throughout their lifespan, including mental disorders such as postpartum depression, and issues that can impact mental health, including bullying and aging. Omega Psi Phi is partnering with the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) as they focus on "Changing the Dialogue about African-American Men and Mental Health" through the initiative, "Brother You're On My Mind" (BYOMM). BYOMM seeks to raise awareness about depression and the impact of issues related to stress. Both organizations brought awareness to the signs and symptoms of mental illness, while celebrating and sharing the good news that mental illness can be treated and managed to the citizens of the Clarksville, TN community as they viewed the literature on display at the event. The representatives of Omega Psi Phi and Delta Sigma Theta provided vital information at the event that raised awareness and educated the community about mental health and also assisted in the ongoing effort to reduce the stigma of mental health in our communities. All chapters of Omega Psi Phi and Delta Sigma Theta will take the lead in communicating the importance of seeking help for mental health conditions and emphasizing that help and treatment are available so that no one has to suffer in silence. It is the goal that once this information is shared with members of the community, they will in turn become carriers of the message to their family and friends.

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Hands & Feet for Christ



The brothers of the Psi Pi Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated partnered with members of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. in a joint effort to feed and clothe the less fortunate in the Clarksville, TN community. The ministry event took place at Liberty Missionary Baptist Church in New Providence and the event was coordinated by Hands and Feet 4 Christ. There were approximately 100 men, women and children that were present to receive a hot meal, clothing and an encouraging word from the ministry leader. There's a great need for ministries such as this, because in these tough economic times people are truly struggling to survive. Whenever there's an opportunity to serve, members of Psi Pi Chapter will be present to give back to the community.

MLK Community Celebration

The brothers of the Psi Pi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. participated in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration. The title for this year's celebration was "Pursuing Liberty In The Face Of Injustice" and it was sponsored by the Clarksville branch of the NAACP and the Greater National Panhellenic Council of Clarksville. The Psi Pi Chapter was tasked to discuss key issues that affect our youth with the 8-10 year old boys at this event. Bro. Austin Wright began the discussion by talking with the youth about the importance of education and why it is imperative they strive to do their very best in every aspect of their studies. He stressed to them that in order to achieve excellent results there has to be excellent preparation and execution. The students were very engaged in this discussion and they took away valuable information from Bro. Wright's lecture. Bro. J.W. Hunt discussed having a plan for life which would include the desire, determination and the



direction needed in order to complete that plan. He also discussed abiding by the rules set forth by adults at home, at school or in any social setting. He asked each student what they aspired to be when they reached adulthood and what would be required from an educational standpoint to reach that goal in life. He discussed the "ABC's of Life" with them which covered a good ATTITUDE, good BEHAVIOR and good COMMUNICATION. Bro. George Douglas closed out the session by discussing how to dress for success with the youth. He expressed the importance of presenting a good appearance and a good first impression by ensuring they are

Operation Compassion



Brothers from Theta Alpha Alpha collaborated with Operation Compassion in Cleveland, TN to receive a shipment of disaster blankets. Operation Compassion is an international and domestic humanitarian organization which delivers critical aid assisting 25 million people every year. Through Operation Compassion we received 68 boxes of blankets which totaled 544 individual blankets. All 544 blankets were donated to HOTEL Inc., Helping Others Through Extending Love In The Name of Christ, a local agency specializing in aiding the misfortunate. They provide pathways for stable housing, community resources, relationship building, quality food and services to the neighbors. HOTEL Inc. provides hot meals to the homeless and the necessities for the homeless in the Bowling Green, KY area. Hotel Inc. partnered with a local

storage unit where they were able to store all 68 boxes of blankets for their use throughout the year. As the homeless population in Bowling Green continues to grow, in 2015 there were 72 people that were classified as homeless. These individuals live under bridges, in fields, cars, warehouses, train cars, sheds and in barns on other people's property. to Kentucky Housing Corporation, Bowling Green has the highest population of homeless in the Barren River Area of the State. Temperatures in Bowling Green can fall below 30 degrees with wind chill in the negative numbers. The blankets will be beneficial for those living in unsubstantial conditions. There have been 14 natural disasters in the county. These disasters include floods, storms, tornadoes and earthquakes. HOTEL Inc. will be prepared to assist in the event that these happen again.

First Fraternity Monument on WKU's Campus

The Gamma Theta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity hosted a monument dedication service. This event took place between the famous Kissing Bridge and Garrett Hall on the campus of Western Kentucky University. Gamma Theta is the first Historically Black Greek Letter Organization at a predominately white institution south of the Mason-Dixon Line.



Gamma Theta is also the first Fraternity on the campus of WKU to have a monument. The dedication was well attended by Fraternity leaders, city officials, and the President of WKU, Gary Ransdell. Brother Kenneth Barnes, Director of Omega Psi Phi's International Headquarters, and Brother Bryan White, 5th District Representative for Omega Psi Phi also blessed us with their presence. In addition to these elite guest others present were students, faculty and staff and a host of visitors. Theta Alpha Alpha, the graduate chapter of Omega Psi Phi in Bowling Green, KY played a key role in seeing this project to fruition. Through the vision of Brothers Andrew Jackson and Paul Duerson, Gamma Theta 2003 and Montaze Trumbo, Gamma Theta 2004, the idea of a monument was pitched to former members of Gamma Theta and current brothers of Theta Alpha Alpha at the 45th anniversary. The process was not easy, there were countless meetings and presentations and donations totaling \$50,000 from nineteen brothers of Theta Alpha Alpha. Three years later the monument was unveiled. The monument is made of black granite stone with the fraternity's cardinal principles and

escutcheon wrap around the top tier, as well as the fraternity founders with their name, birth, and death dates. Paul says "This monument represents the past, present and future of our glorious chapter and its members. Not only did we want to represent our current members, but those who have died and gone on to Omega Chapter." Duerson also stated, the monument also gives other men on the campus who may be interested in the fraternity a way to see its impact on campus, prompting them to learn more about the Omegas. Brother David Clement, Theta Alpha Alpha Keeper of Finance, was the committee chair who organized the erection of the monument. Clement said, "We are very thankful to Dr. Gary Ransdell for supporting this project from the very start. Without him this would have never been possible. It is great being the first but hopefully not the last; hopefully this will inspire others to leave their mark at WKU." The Gamma Theta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi was founded on the campus of Western Kentucky University on December 14, 1968 and granted its charter June 3, 1969. Theta Alpha Alpha was chartered on September 22, 1979 in the city of Bowling Green, KY. Many brothers who reside in the city after college transition from Gamma Theta to Theta Alpha Alpha.



dressed properly. He discussed the fashion trend of "sagging" and where that trend originated from. It was also stressed that proper hygiene is extremely important and that they should do their best to always present themselves in a positive light. The youth were very receptive to the information they received during the session and they were presented with certificates of participation after the closing remarks by Bro. John C. Howard and Bro. Damon Harris. The men of Omega believe that the information provided will have long lasting impact on the lives of the youth that participated.

State Street Baptist Church Food Pantry



State Street Baptist Church is the oldest African American church in the city of Bowling Green as it was established in 1838. The church provides several ministries to its members and its surrounding community. One of the ministries the church provides is a food ministry, in which they not only provide meals to some of their members but also to those in the community that may need assistance as well. The State Street Food Pantry has provided meals to the community for several years. They also provide baskets for families during Thanksgiving and Christmas and also serve meals weekly. To exhibit the principle of Uplift to the community and to assist them in this endeavor, the brothers of Theta Alpha Alpha donated \$177.85 to their food pantry and we are looking forward to be working with them in the future as they continue to serve and provide assistance to the community.

Striving to Keep The Dream Alive



The men of the Theta Alpha Alpha chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. participated an event put on by the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Planning Committee of Bowling Green, KY, Inc. The brothers were asked to be positive male role models in the presence of the youth. When asked, the brothers hopped at the opportunity. The invitation was extended to the brothers by Shannah Banks, chairperson of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration Youth Program. Brothers were asked to hold a conversation, along with the Bowling Green City Police, with the children about some of the things happening in the United States over the past few years. The main question asked to the students was, "If Martin Luther King Jr. was alive today would he be pleased with what is happening today?" In other class rooms, brothers helped younger students compose original posters for the MLK Jr. March, held the following day. The children came up

with great ideas to put on the posters that dealt with the current situations of society. Some posters boasted hashtags such as "Black Lives Matter" and "Keep the Dream Alive". Once the individual sessions were complete, all the youth were gathered back together in a gymnasium and quizzed about the life of MLK Jr. Once satisfied with the answers given, the brothers rolled up their sleeves and served the children pizza. The children were inquisitive of the fraternity and brothers answered questions as well as they could. The event was a very positive opportunity for the fraternity to show some of the things the brothers do in the community. Banks showed her gratitude for the brothers being present with a warm letter of appreciation, which is more than enough for the brothers to continue to support the event.

Men of Quality Life Style Choices Forum

The Theta Omega Chapter Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. hosted the Men of Quality program, for the twenty first consecutive year. This years theme was "Life Style Choices Forum". The forum was held on the University of Louisville campus. More than Six hundred -thirty Middle and High School male students of color came from (JCPS) Jefferson County Public Schools. The students started arrived on campus at 8:30 am where each school was photograph and directed to the great room in the student union building. The Presiding Official Brother Michael Shoulders welcomed the students to the forum. After the invocation by Rev Brother Kenneth Morton there were opening remarks by several dignitaries, Diane Porter, Jefferson County Board of Education; Brother Larry Mucker, Theta Omega Chapter, Basileus; Nathaniel Spencer, Black Media Collaborative; Norman Seawright, Jr, UPS Pilot and John Marshall, JCPS Chief Equity Officer. They all acknowledged in high regard the 21 years of service to young men, with this Forum. Before the student broke up into first of two sessions of workshops they heard from the Morning Speaker Dr. Roger Cleveland, Associate Professor, Eastern Kentucky. Dr. Cleveland spoke on closing the achievement gap, transforming school culture and among others. The two session workshops were one hour each. There were ten workshops the students could participate in. Some of the topics were "Conflicts and Resolutions", "The Power of the Dollar", "Respect and Responsibilities", "Transition from Middle to High School" and "Dealing with Opposite Sex" among others. After lunch the keynote speaker was Mr. Trabian Shorters, a New York Times bestselling author and founder and CEO of "BMe Community", a network of all races and genders who believe in valuing all members of the human family. His speech to the young men was well received. They were dismissed to head back to schools around 1:30pm. At the end of the day, 2017 was considered by all to be another very successful "Lifestyle Choices Forum"



Xi Xi Chapter Celebrates 40 Years of Service

On May 20, 2017, the brothers of the XI XI Chapter celebrated 40 years of service to the Fort Knox, Radcliff, Elizabethtown, and surrounding communities. The brothers celebrated the founding of the chapter, its history, and the tremendous body of work the that the brotherhood have done throughout the many communities they serve.



During the two day celebration the chapter held a meeting to discuss the history of the chapter, cookout, banquet, and closed with a memorial service. When the brothers looked back on their 40 years, they learned that the chapter founders recognized the

opportunity for men of like circumstance to join together and change the paradigm in which they lived. The XI XI brothers continue to live the creed and maintain the fraternity's standards.



Bowl for the Kids

The Brothers and families of the XI XI Chapter, Fort Knox, KY participated in the 2017 Big Brothers Big Sisters' Bowl for Kids' Sake to help raise money to support many young people that are struggling at school and at home. This was the Chapter's first year supporting this effort, which raised over \$600 in donations. In addition to supporting the Fraternity's traditional support to the "Big Brother Big Sister Program", a total of 10 Brothers volunteer as a "Big Brother" not only to make a positive impact in a child's life, but to help develop their potential for tomorrow. The Chapter is looking forward to making this an annual event. The community is seeking the support of Gold Vault Ques and they have initiated a Chapter effort in providing that mentorship to our Youth.



Charter School Rally

The men of Omega from the XI XI chapter supported the Hardin County Education Chair of the Elizabethtown Board of Trustees at a Charter School Rally. The purpose of the event was to protest and discuss pending legislation (HB 520) in the KY House that would have introduced charter schools in the state of Kentucky. Organizers and community allies joined together to educate the community on how charter schools would take resources away from already underfunded public schools. Some of the issues included the potential for segregation of schools, power over the schools being given to an appointed official rather than locally elected representation, and there are also concerns with who controls the money.



Oglesby wins city council runoff

Bro Erskine Oglesby of the Kappa Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity has unseated Chris Anderson in the runoff contest for the District 7 seat on the Chattanooga City Council. Oglesby defeated Anderson, 740 votes to 628. In the city's March 7 election, Anderson fell just short of the required majority to win the seat outright in a three-way race with Oglesby and former councilman Manny Rico. The city charter called for a runoff contest between the candidates who receive the most and second-most votes to decide the issue. Oglesby said in a news release the district needs "a new voice" on the council who "brings a new vision, passion and the necessary business experience to advocate for the needs of our community while bringing people together so we can succeed together and make the progress needed to move our city forward." The candidate has worked as the associate director of corporate engagement for the United Way of Greater Chattanooga, where his job was to grow corporate giving and provide technical and marketing support to nonprofit groups in the region, the release stated. Before that, he was business services representative for the Southeast Tennessee Development District's Tennessee Career Center, where he worked with area businesses and administered training grants and economic development programs. In his statement, Oglesby said Chattanooga "should be known for its social innovations in



reducing crime, growing our workforce, [and] creating economic empowerment opportunities" in a collaboration among government, business and civic and faith-based groups. He said the district's representative should be someone who pushes the city administration for economic development and "works every day to expand the industrial footprint on our community that continues to struggle with overcoming high poverty, high crime rates, record unemployment rates and poor housing conditions."

Save our Children

The Uplift Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Epsilon Phi Chapter Fraternity, Inc. hosted a benefit concert at Berean Baptist Church. The concert was themed as the "Save Our Children" gospel concert. The goal of the concert was to increase community awareness of the youth mentoring programs supported by the Epsilon Phi Chapter and to present the 2017 college scholarship winners.



The scholarship winners competed in an essay contest and the top five were selected from hundreds of entries. The mission of the chapter is to support academic achievement and pursuits of students in the greater Memphis area. Five Memphis area high school seniors were awarded scholarships at this year's gospel concert.

A Party With a Purpose



The Brothers of the Epsilon Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc celebrated 92 years of service on Friday, April 19, 2017 at the Purple and Gold Scholarship Gala, a black tie event held at the Great Hall. The brothers and their guests were entertained by the musical styling's of Brother Gerald Richardson. The Purple and Gold Scholarship Gala is

the Epsilon Phi Chapter's premier annual fundraising event designed to close the financial gap for students aspiring toward higher education. Members of the Epsilon Phi Chapter began this event in 2001 as a way to raise funds for scholarships, build community awareness, and bring the citizens of Memphis together for a party with a purpose.



Make The Right Call

The Make the Right Call football camp not only teaches football skills, it also aims to motivate inner city youth in Memphis to achieve success. Growing up in the inner city, Memphis native Brother Gene Robinson of the Epsilon Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity used football to earn a full ride to college. A standout defensive back at Whitehaven High School, Robinson went on to the University of North Carolina and started for the Tar Heels. After college, he used that North Carolina degree to launch Genetics Sports Consulting and Events and his Make the Right Call football camp to show inner city kids they too can achieve their goals like he did. "We're talking to them about setting goals," Robinson said. "Always set five goals. Read them every morning when you brush your teeth. That way when you're going to school, beginning your day, you know how to act according to those goals. "Now in its fifth year, the football camp is completely free, which is a big deal. Every year he brings hometown friends to help with the camp and these guys aren't your average Joes. These are



NFL football players from the inner city - guys like Darren Bates of the Tennessee Titans and Dontari Poe of the Atlanta Falcons to show kids how hard work and never settling can bring them success. "To be around guys that came from where they came from and be able to make it," Bates said. "Lets them

know that they can make it out. They can do whatever they dream of." "Anytime I can get out here and show them something better," Poe said. "Show them something positive, it's a long-lasting effect on a child this age, so it's really good for me to do." This is 17-year-old Chris Witherspoon's third straight year coming to the football camp. He said he comes back every year because he's seen results from the camp and not just on the football field. "It has taught me to keep pushing," Witherspoon said. "Don't let anybody stop you. The sky's the limit. Well, there is no limit. Don't let anybody put limitations on you. Just keep pushing." As the camp grows, Gene has found new ways to inspire the inner city youth that take part. This year's it's free ACT classes to the top high school performers at the camp.



The Manhood Project

The Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Epsilon Phi Chapter, concluded a community action project titled "The Manhood Project". This project was born out of a conversation about the civil unrest surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement in the summer of 2016. Omega Brothers Irwin Todd and Quincy Snider were discussing ways to get involved with helping our youth not to fall victim to peer pressure, gang activity, and civil disobedience. Riverview Middle School K-8 was chosen because it is in the same community where the Omega Fraternity House is located. Brothers Todd and Snider approached Principle Latasha Harris with their proposal to invest time and talent into speaking with the 6th, 7th and 8th grade males about how "To Engage with Law Enforcement". The Fall 2016 speaking sessions with the young men made a larger impact than the Brothers of Omega could have imagined. The Brothers of Omega Psi Phi were asked by Riverview Middle school liaison Ms. Tamika Williams, a liaison with Communities in Schools, to come back in the spring of 2017 and continue to meet with the young men. The Brothers of the Epsilon Phi Chapter accepted the request and tailored the program to expand beyond how to interact with law enforcement. Brothers' Todd and Snider wanted to have a "real" conversation with these young men. Many of the young men do not have their fathers in the house for one reason or another and are raised by a mother or grandmother. The brothers knew they had to talk to the like young black men in their common vernacular and familiar language. At that point, Snider and Todd decided to call the next phase of the program the "Manhood Project". This name symbolized what the brothers wanted to address relative to the "real conversations" How to be a man and what is a man. The brothers also covered such topics such as gangs, personal hygiene, respect for women, careers, self-esteem, and how to start a bank account. This endeavor could not have been successful without the help of a group of Brothers that committed to the program and some of our Brothers that are members of the Memphis Fire and Police Department and the Memphis City Council who contributed their time to speak with these young men.



Moving The 5th Forward

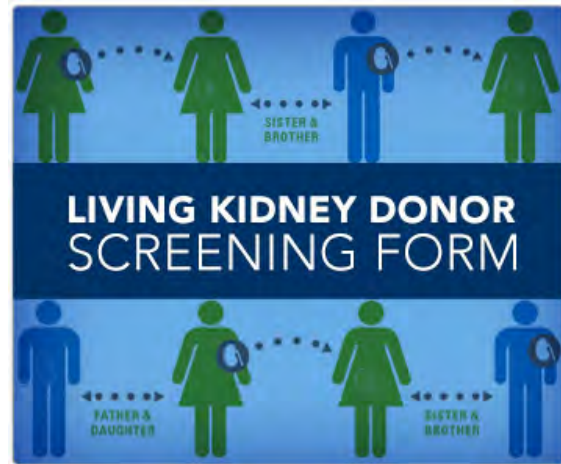
Communities In Schools Senior Day

In January of this year the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Epsilon Phi Chapter participated in 100 Men on the 100th Day of school at Riverview Elementary. This was an event where we welcomed the students to school for their 100th day. Coverage of this special day was broadcast on the local news. It then when the men of Omega caught the attention of a representative for Communities in Schools (CIS) organization. This organization focuses on dropout prevention and giving students in their program life tools to advance after graduation. They have a 90% graduation rate for seniors in the program and 92% of students in their program stay in school. As the school year draws to a close, CIS planned a celebration retreat for the graduating seniors who participated in this program from four local high schools: Melrose High, MLK Prep Academy, Hamilton High, and

Grad Academy. The retreat was held at For the Kingdom Retreat Center. Once the brothers arrived and had the opportunity to interact with the students and facilitate some of their events planned for the day such as the relay race hosting a game of Classroom Feud (like the game Family Feud). It was a good interaction with the students after the games and activities were over we had time to interact with the students to learn some of their talents and plans for after graduation. Through conversations with the student the brothers could tell that CIS has really been a strong presence in their senior year. The work this organization has been doing needs to be commended and the brothers of the Epsilon Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.



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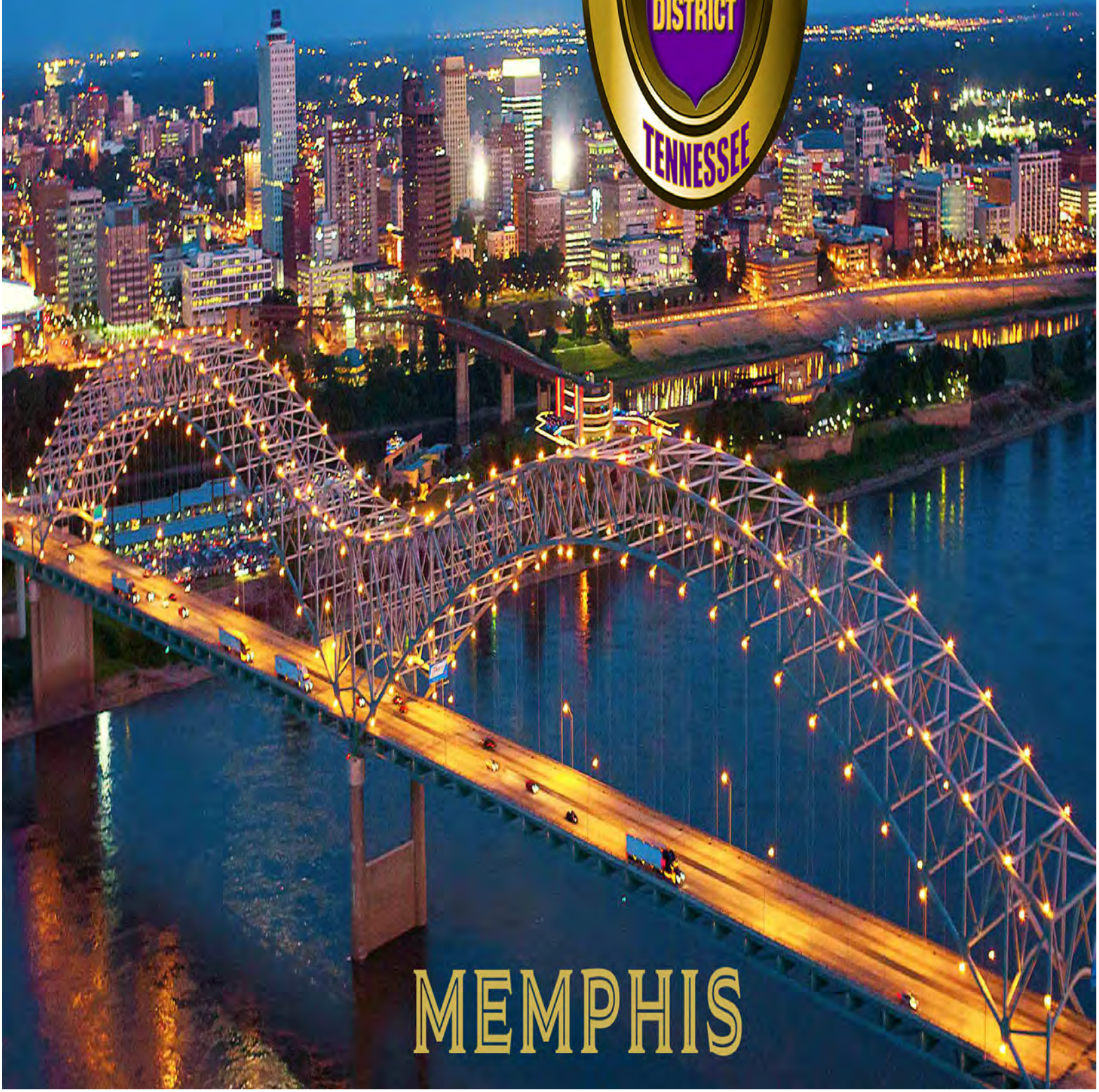
AUGUST 12
6PM - 11PM

THE GROVE AT WILLIAMSONPLACE, 3250 WILKINSON PIKE, MURFREESBORO

70TH DISTRICT
MEETING



MARCH
2018



MEMPHIS