

By: Representative Barnett

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY,
INC., FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP
THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND AROUND THE
WORLD.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEND OMEGA PSI PHI
FRATERNITY, INC., FOR OUTSTANDING
SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP THROUGHOUT THE
STATE OF ARKANSAS AND AROUND THE WORLD.

WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was the first international African American fraternity to be founded at a historically black college when it was established on November 17, 1911, at Howard University in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was created in the office of Professor Ernest E. Just by Howard University students Edgar A. Love, Oscar J. Cooper, and Frank Coleman; and

WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was formed from the initials of the Greek phrase meaning, "friendship is essential to the soul", and that phrase was adopted as the fraternity's motto; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., has aimed to build a strong, effective, and dedicated force of African American men who are committed to the cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship,



perseverance, and uplift; and

WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., requires each of its members to exhibit the qualities of its cardinal principles:

(1) Manhood, which is being appropriate in character and marked by moral excellence;

(2) Scholarship, which is demonstrating an attitude toward education of learning and being informed by achieving or exceeding and maintaining the minimum educational requirements of the fraternity;

(3) Perseverance, which is exhibiting a spirit of brotherhood, togetherness, humility, cooperation, and a willingness to go the extra mile for the goal sought as a responsible first-class citizen; and

(4) Uplift, which is sharing one's gifts with the community in the form of verifiable aid, activism, and leadership; and

WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., has established itself as a unique group of men that encourages a standard of excellence and community service and assists in the building of character and leadership development among men; and

WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., currently has over seven hundred (700) chapters throughout the United States, including Hawaii, as well as in the Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, China, Germany, Ghana, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Panama, St. Croix and St. Thomas in the United States Virgin Islands, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom; and

WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., has twenty (20) graduate and undergraduate chapters throughout the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., actively participates in and contributes to charitable organizations including Habitat for Humanity, the American Diabetes Association, United Way, and the American Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., gives at least fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) annually to the United Negro College Fund in furtherance of

the fraternity's commitment to provide philanthropic support for and to invest in the education of future African American leaders; and

WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., consistently works to engage community youth through youth mentorship programs, annual youth talent hunt programming, and annual investments in higher education via the provision of scholarships to local community youth who are either graduating from high school or matriculating in college; and

WHEREAS, the membership legacy of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., includes Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Wiley Branton, the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., Robert C. Weaver, Dr. Charles Drew, Langston Hughes, Dr. Benjamin Mays, Dr. Lawrence Edward Carter, Sr., Governor Lawrence Douglas Wilder, United States Congressman James E. Clyburn, Sterling Brown, Keith Jackson, Corliss Williamson, Shaquille O'Neal, and Michael Jordan; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., will celebrate its one hundred fourteenth year of social action and service to the African American community,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognize and commend Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., for outstanding service and leadership throughout the State of Arkansas and around the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be presented to the leadership of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.