

By: Representatives Bell (65th), Bailey,  
Blackmon, Straughter, Taylor, Walker, Watson

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 30

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC., FOR  
2 ITS OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PHILANTHROPY AND DESIGNATING  
3 FEBRUARY 15, 2018, AS "OMEGA PSI PHI DAY" IN MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was the first  
5 international fraternal organization founded on the campus of a  
6 historically black college, Howard University in Washington, D.C.,  
7 on November 17, 1911, by three Howard University juniors, Edgar  
8 Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper and Frank Coleman, and their faculty  
9 advisor, Dr. Ernest Everett Just, and it seeks to occupy a  
10 progressive, cooperative and constructive place in the civic and  
11 political life in communities across the nation and throughout the  
12 world; and

13 WHEREAS, the founders, having lived extraordinary lives, were  
14 highly educated and had distinguished careers in their chosen  
15 fields: Dr. Ernest E. Just became a world-renowned biologist, was  
16 the first recipient of the prestigious Spingarn Medal from the  
17 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)  
18 in 1915 and was the 19th honoree in the U.S. Postal Service's



19 Black Heritage Stamp Series on February 1, 1996; Professor Frank  
20 Coleman was a professor and head of the Physics Department at  
21 Howard University and was a United States Army Officer in World  
22 War I; Dr. Oscar J. Cooper earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from  
23 Howard University in 1917 and practiced medicine for over 50 years  
24 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Bishop Edgar A. Love was a  
25 United States Army Chaplain in World War I and was a bishop in the  
26 Methodist Church for many years; and

27 WHEREAS, since its founding in 1911, Omega Psi Phi's mission  
28 has been to build a strong and effective force of men dedicated to  
29 its Cardinal Principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and  
30 Uplift, and from the initials of the Greek phrase "friendship is  
31 essential to the soul," the name Omega Psi Phi was derived and the  
32 phrase was selected as the fraternity's motto; and over 700  
33 chapters of this distinguished fraternity have been established in  
34 the United States and around the world since its inception, and in  
35 the great State of Mississippi, Omega Psi Phi operates 21 graduate  
36 chapters and nine undergraduate chapters; and

37 WHEREAS, the Omegas are tremendously involved in their  
38 communities and organize many philanthropic programs, such as the  
39 annual Achievement Week program, scholarship program, voter  
40 registration program, education and mobilization program, Talent  
41 Hunt program, National High School Essay Contest, Assault on  
42 Illiteracy program, annual Charles Drew Blood Drive, College  
43 Endowment Fund program, Domestic Abuse Awareness program,



44 Fatherhood initiative program and the National Social Action  
45 program, which aims to meet the needs of African Americans in the  
46 areas of health, housing, civil rights and education; and

47 WHEREAS, with Alvin Jackson as the current State  
48 Representative of the fraternity in Mississippi, during the fiscal  
49 year of 2016-2017, 30 Omega chapters in Mississippi volunteered  
50 over 3,000 hours and donated thousands of dollars to multiple  
51 projects with the purpose of uplifting and encouraging citizens of  
52 their communities to achieve higher social, economic and  
53 intellectual statuses; and

54 WHEREAS, since 1911, the outstanding men of Omega Psi Phi  
55 have played a vital role in our nation's illustrious history, and  
56 there are numerous remarkable and distinguished Omega men who are  
57 recognized as leaders in the arts, sciences, academics, athletics,  
58 business, civil rights, education and government at the local,  
59 national and international level; and

60 WHEREAS, in the mid-1930s, a group of exceptional Omega  
61 members, Robert C. Weaver, Lawrence Oxley, Roscoe Brown, Frank  
62 Horne, William Hastie, J. Arthur Weiseger, Ted Poston, Campbell C.  
63 Johnson and William Trent were appointed to the Federal Council of  
64 Negro Affairs or "Black Cabinet," which was an informal group  
65 created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt that was comprised of  
66 African-American public policy advisors whose mission was to help  
67 the country emerge out of the depression; and



68           WHEREAS, other fascinating Omega men in our nation's history  
69 include Charles Drew, who perfected the use of blood plasma as a  
70 life-saving tool; Spottswood Robinson, Oliver Hill and James  
71 Nabrit, who were an integral part of the inner circle for the  
72 NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and who coordinated the  
73 court battles for racial equality, with their work culminating  
74 with the landmark decision outlawing segregated public schools in  
75 *Brown v. Board of Education*; Wiley A. Branton, who served as the  
76 principal lawyer in the civil rights case that desegregated the  
77 public schools in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957; and Bayard  
78 Rustin, an outstanding activist and one of Dr. Martin Luther King,  
79 Jr.'s advisors, who helped organize the March on Washington for  
80 Jobs and Freedom that occurred in Washington, D.C., on August 28,  
81 1963, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his legendary  
82 "I Have a Dream" speech; and

83           WHEREAS, numerous Omega men have been involved in various  
84 influential and note-worthy professions, including Dr. Robert C.  
85 Weaver, the first African-American person appointed to a  
86 cabinet-level position in the United States, who was appointed as  
87 the first Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in 1966; H.  
88 Carl Moultrie, who was appointed as a judge to the Superior Court  
89 of Washington, D.C.; Clifford Alexander, who was appointed  
90 Secretary of the Army in 1976; Ronald McNair, who tragically  
91 perished during the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger on  
92 January 28, 1986; Reverend Jesse Jackson, Jr., who became a



93 candidate for the Democratic Party presidential nomination in  
94 1986; L. Douglas Wilder, the first African-American Governor  
95 elected in the history of the United States, who became Virginia's  
96 66th Governor on January 13, 1990; and David Satcher, who was  
97 appointed the 16th Surgeon General of the United States in 1998;  
98 and

99 WHEREAS, with its long list of exceptional members who have  
100 made tremendous contributions to the betterment of society through  
101 their extensive and outstanding community service for more than  
102 100 years, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., has become a pinnacle  
103 of hope within the State of Mississippi and across the globe; and

104 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
105 recognize and commend outstanding organizations such as Omega Psi  
106 Phi Fraternity, Inc., who have brought honor to their communities,  
107 the State of Mississippi and to the United States through their  
108 remarkable community service:

109 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
110 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
111 commend Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., for their outstanding  
112 community service and philanthropy and designate February 15,  
113 2018, as "Omega Psi Phi Day" in Mississippi.

114 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
115 furnished to the members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and to  
116 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

