

By: Representatives Hines, Bell (65th),
Bailey, Blackmon, Straughter, Taylor, Walker,
Watson, Brown (70th)

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 14

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC., FOR
2 ITS OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PHILANTHROPY AND DESIGNATING
3 FEBRUARY 5, 2020, 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,



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

WHEREAS, with Alvin Jackson as the current State Representative of the fraternity in Mississippi, numerous Omega chapters in Mississippi volunteered over 3,000 hours and donated thousands of dollars to multiple projects with the purpose of uplifting and encouraging citizens of their communities to achieve higher social, economic and intellectual statuses; and

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

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

WHEREAS, other fascinating Omega men in our nation's history include Charles Drew, who perfected the use of blood plasma as a



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

82 WHEREAS, numerous Omega men have been involved in various
83 influential and note-worthy professions, including Dr. Robert C.
84 Weaver, the first African-American person appointed to a
85 cabinet-level position in the United States, who was appointed as
86 the first Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in 1966; H.
87 Carl Moultrie, who was appointed as a judge to the Superior Court
88 of Washington, D.C.; Clifford Alexander, who was appointed
89 Secretary of the Army in 1976; Ronald McNair, who tragically
90 perished during the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger on
91 January 28, 1986; Reverend Jesse Jackson, Jr., who became a
92 candidate for the Democratic Party presidential nomination in
93 1986; L. Douglas Wilder, the first African-American Governor



94 elected in the history of the United States, who became Virginia's
95 66th Governor on January 13, 1990; and David Satcher, who was
96 appointed the 16th Surgeon General of the United States in 1998;
97 and

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

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

108 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
109 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
110 commend the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., for their outstanding
111 community service and philanthropy and designate February 5, 2020,
112 as "Omega Psi Phi Day" in Mississippi.

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

