

By: Representative Rosebud

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 49

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC., FOR
2 ITS IMPRESSIVE HISTORY OF COMMUNITY ACTIVISM, ITS LEGACY OF
3 BROTHERHOOD AND ITS CELEBRATION OF MARCH 9, 2023, AS "OMEGA PSI
4 PHI DAY" IN MISSISSIPPI.

5 WHEREAS, the men and brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity,
6 Inc., have convened at the Mississippi State Capitol on March 9,
7 2023, in celebration of "Omega Psi Phi Day" in Mississippi in
8 continuation of its legacy of occupying a progressive, cooperative
9 and constructive place in the civic and political life of
10 communities throughout the state, the nation and the world; and

11 WHEREAS, this fraternity was the first international
12 fraternal organization founded on the campus of Howard University
13 in Washington, D.C., on November 17, 1911, by three distinguished
14 Howard University juniors, Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper and
15 Frank Coleman, with the assistance of their faculty advisor, Dr.
16 Ernest Everett Just, and from the initials of the Greek phrase
17 "friendship is essential to the soul," the name Omega Psi Phi was
18 derived and the phrase was selected as the fraternity's motto; and



19 WHEREAS, the organization's distinguished founders graduated
20 from Howard University to become distinguished professionals with
21 stellar resumes and impressive lives; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Ernest E. Just became a world-renowned biologist
23 who was the first recipient of the prestigious Spingarn Medal from
24 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
25 (NAACP) in 1915, with a distinguished legacy that earned him the
26 honor of being the 19th historic figure celebrated in the U.S.
27 Postal Service's Black Heritage Stamp Series on February 1, 1996;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Professor Frank Coleman became a beloved professor
30 and head of the Physics Department at Howard University and later
31 an Officer in the United States Army in World War I; Dr. Oscar J.
32 Cooper earned a doctor of medicine degree from Howard University
33 in 1917, and practiced medicine for over 50 years in Philadelphia,
34 Pennsylvania; and Bishop Edgar A. Love was a United States Army
35 Chaplain in World War I and was a bishop in the Methodist Church
36 for many years; and

37 WHEREAS, over 700 chapters of this distinguished fraternity
38 have been established in the United States and around the world
39 since its inception, with 21 graduate chapters and nine
40 undergraduate chapters in the great State of Mississippi; and

41 WHEREAS, the astute men of Omega Psi Phi are tremendously
42 involved in their communities and organize many philanthropic
43 programs, including the annual Achievement Week program,



44 scholarship program, voter registration program, education and
45 mobilization program, Talent Hunt program, National High School
46 Essay Contest, Assault on Illiteracy program, annual Charles Drew
47 Blood Drive, College Endowment Fund program, Domestic Abuse
48 Awareness program, Fatherhood Initiative program and the National
49 Social Action program; and

50 WHEREAS, the passionate Mississippi chapters of Omega Psi Phi
51 Fraternity have dedicated over 5,000 hours of community service,
52 and donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to multiple projects
53 with the purpose of uplifting and encouraging citizens of their
54 communities to achieve higher social, economic and intellectual
55 statuses; and

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

64 WHEREAS, other fascinating Omega men in our nation's history
65 include Charles Drew, who perfected the use of blood plasma as a
66 life-saving tool; Spottswood Robinson, Oliver Hill and James
67 Nabrit, who were an integral part of the inner circle for the
68 NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and who coordinated the



69 court battles for racial equality, with their work culminating
70 with the landmark decision outlawing segregated public schools in
71 *Brown v. Board of Education*; Wiley A. Branton, who served as the
72 principal lawyer in the civil rights case that desegregated the
73 public schools in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957; and Bayard
74 Rustin, an outstanding activist and one of Dr. Martin Luther King,
75 Jr.'s advisors, who helped organize the March on Washington for
76 Jobs and Freedom that occurred in Washington, D.C., on August 28,
77 1963, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his legendary
78 "I Have a Dream" speech; and

79 WHEREAS, numerous Omega men have been involved in various
80 influential and note worthy professions, including Dr. Robert C.
81 Weaver, the first African-American person appointed to a
82 cabinet-level position in the United States, who was appointed as
83 the first Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in 1966; H.
84 Carl Moultrie, who was appointed as a judge to the Superior Court
85 of Washington, D.C.; Clifford Alexander, who was appointed
86 Secretary of the Army in 1976; Ronald McNair, who tragically
87 perished during the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger on
88 January 28, 1986; Reverend Jesse Jackson, Jr., who became a
89 candidate for the Democratic Party presidential nomination in
90 1986; L. Douglas Wilder, the first African-American Governor
91 elected in the history of the United States, who became Virginia's
92 66th Governor on January 13, 1990; and David Satcher, who was



93 appointed the 16th Surgeon General of the United States in 1998;
94 and

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

100 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
101 recognize and commend outstanding organizations such as Omega Psi
102 Phi Fraternity, Inc., who have improved the quality of life for
103 communities throughout the State of Mississippi and the United
104 States through their remarkable community service:

105 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
106 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
107 commend the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., for their outstanding
108 community service and philanthropy and designate March 9, 2023, as
109 "Omega Psi Phi Day" in Mississippi.

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

