

By: Senator(s) Butler (36th), Barnett,
Butler (38th), Horhn

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 36

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC., FOR
2 ITS OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PHILANTHROPY AND DESIGNATING
3 MARCH 9, 2023, 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 were highly educated and went on to
14 have distinguished careers in their chosen fields: Dr. Ernest E.
15 Just became a world-renowned biologist, was the first recipient of
16 the prestigious Spingarn Medal from the National Association for
17 the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1915 and was the 19th
18 honoree in the U.S. Postal Service's Black Heritage Stamp Series



19 on February 1, 1996; Professor Frank Coleman was a professor and
20 head of the Physics Department at Howard University and was a
21 United States Army Officer in World War I; Dr. Oscar J. Cooper
22 earned a doctorate of medicine degree from Howard University in
23 1917 and practiced medicine for over 50 years in Philadelphia,
24 Pennsylvania; and Bishop Edgar A. Love was a United States Army
25 Chaplain in World War I and was a bishop in the Methodist Church
26 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. Over 700 chapters
33 of this distinguished fraternity have been established in the
34 United States and around the world since its inception, and in the
35 great State of Mississippi, Omega Psi Phi operates 21 graduate
36 chapters and nine undergraduate chapters; and

37 WHEREAS, the Omegas are involved in their communities and
38 organize many philanthropic programs, such as the annual
39 Achievement Week Program; Scholarship Program; Voter Registration
40 Program; Education and Mobilization Program; Talent Hunt Program;
41 National High School Essay Contest; Assault on Illiteracy Program;
42 Annual Charles Drew Blood Drive; College Endowment Fund Program;
43 Domestic Abuse Awareness Program; Fatherhood Initiative Program



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

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

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

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

67 WHEREAS, other fascinating Omega men in our nation's history
68 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 with great pride that we recognize and commend
104 this outstanding organization which has brought honor to its
105 communities and the State of Mississippi through remarkable
106 community service:

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

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

