

By: Senator(s) Butler, Barnett, Brumfield,
Frazier, Horhn, Thomas

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 507

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY,
2 INC., FOR ITS OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PHILANTHROPY AND
3 DESIGNATING MARCH 9, 2024, 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 became a professor
20 and head of the Physics Department at Howard University and 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 became a United States Army
25 Chaplain in World War I and a bishop in the Methodist Church for
26 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. From the initials of the Greek phrase "friendship is
31 essential to the soul," the name Omega Psi Phi was derived, and
32 the phrase was selected as the fraternity's motto. 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 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 health, housing, civil rights and education for African
46 Americans; and

47 WHEREAS, Chris Barnett serves as the current State
48 Representative of the fraternity in Mississippi, and numerous
49 Omega chapters in Mississippi have volunteered over 3,000 hours
50 and donated thousands of dollars to multiple projects with the
51 purpose of uplifting and encouraging citizens of their communities
52 to achieve 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, the following group of exceptional
60 Omega members: Robert C. Weaver, Lawrence Oxley, Roscoe Brown,
61 Frank Horne, William Hastie, J. Arthur Weiseger, Ted Poston,
62 Campbell C. Johnson and William Trent were appointed to the
63 Federal Council of Negro Affairs or "Black Cabinet," which was an
64 informal group created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt that was
65 comprised of African-American public policy advisors whose mission
66 was to help 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 were an integral part of the inner circle for the NAACP
71 Legal Defense and Educational Fund and coordinated the court
72 battles for racial equality. Their work culminated in the
73 landmark decision outlawing segregation in public schools in *Brown*
74 *v. Board of Education*. Wiley A. Branton served as the principal
75 lawyer in the civil rights case that desegregated the public
76 schools in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957; and Bayard Rustin, an
77 outstanding activist and one of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s,
78 advisors, helped organize the March on Washington, D.C., for Jobs
79 and Freedom that occurred on August 28, 1963, where Dr. Martin
80 Luther King, Jr., delivered his legendary "I Have a Dream" speech;
81 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 as the first Secretary
86 of Housing and Urban Development in 1966. H. Carl Moultrie was
87 appointed as a judge to the Superior Court of Washington, D.C.
88 Clifford Alexander was appointed Secretary of the Army in 1976.
89 Ronald McNair tragically perished during the launch of the Space
90 Shuttle Challenger on January 28, 1986. Reverend Jesse Jackson,
91 Jr., has become a revered advocate and as a candidate for the
92 Democratic Party presidential nomination in 1986. L. Douglas
93 Wilder became the first African-American governor elected in the



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

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

107 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
108 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
109 we do hereby commend the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., for their
110 outstanding community service and philanthropy and designate March
111 9, 2024, as "Omega Psi Phi Day" in Mississippi.

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

