

## House Resolution 609

By: Representatives Smyre of the 132<sup>nd</sup>, Epps of the 128<sup>th</sup>, Heckstall of the 62<sup>nd</sup>, Dukes of the 150<sup>th</sup>, and Murphy of the 120<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and inviting them to appear before the House  
2 of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was founded at Howard University on  
4 November 17, 1911, by three students, Brother Oscar J. Cooper, M.D., Brother Frank  
5 Coleman, Ph.D., and Brother Edgar A. Love, D.D., and Brother Ernest E. Just, Ph.D., who  
6 served as their faculty advisor; and

7 WHEREAS, the Eta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was founded in Atlanta,  
8 Georgia, on December 1, 1919, by Harold H. Thomas, Horace A. Hodges, Harvey Smith, and  
9 Lawrence R. Harper with the aid of Raymond G. Robinson, the Fraternity's seventh Grand  
10 Basileus, and was chartered on December 27 of that same year, becoming the first chapter  
11 of any black Greek letter organization to be founded and chartered in the State of Georgia;  
12 it was renamed Eta Omega Chapter in 1923, "The Mother Pearl of the Seventh District" of  
13 Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; and

14 WHEREAS, many members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., have distinguished  
15 themselves in several different areas of service, to wit: Benjamin E. Mays, distinguished  
16 President of Morehouse College; Thurbert E. Baker, the first African American Attorney  
17 General in the State of Georgia; Jesse Hill, the first African American appointed to the  
18 Georgia Board of Regents; and Eldridge McMillan, the second African American appointed,  
19 the first African American to chair, and, with his service of over 30 years, the longest serving  
20 member of the Georgia Board of Regents; and

21 WHEREAS, Georgia has produced two Grand Basilei of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.,  
22 Harold Thomas and Mosses C. Norman; and three First Vice Grand Basilei, John Calhoun,  
23 Jesse O. Thomas, and Joe Brooks; and

24 WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity chapters have raised millions of dollars for  
25 scholarships granted to Georgia students; and

26 WHEREAS, there are Brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., who serve in the Georgia  
27 Legislature, including Brother Representative Carl Von Epps, (1966, Psi Chapter); Brother  
28 Representative Joe Heckstall (1967, Kappa Epsilon Chapter); Brother Representative  
29 Winfred J. Dukes (1975, Gamma Zeta Chapter); Brother Representative Calvin Smyre (1980,  
30 Lambda Iota Chapter); and Brother Representative Quincy Murphy (1976, Psi Omega  
31 Chapter); and

32 WHEREAS, the Brother Legislators were assisted in the development of this the first annual  
33 day of legislative recognition of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., in the State of Georgia by  
34 Brother Dr. H. Benjamin Williams (1962, Beta Gamma Chapter); Brother Benjamin Hill  
35 (1972, Tau Psi Chapter); Brother Jason Jackson (2001, Eta Omega Chapter); Brother  
36 Daymetrie Williams (2003, Beta Psi Chapter); Brother Royce Collins (2007, Lambda Phi  
37 Chapter); and Brother Kenneth English (2008, Eta Omega Chapter) and coordinated by  
38 Brother William S. Cannon V (1972, Eta Omega Chapter).

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
40 the members of this body recognize Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., commend the cardinal  
41 principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift endorsed by its members and  
42 their exemplary public service, and invite them to appear before this body at a date and time  
43 designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the purposes of being  
44 recognized by the House of Representatives and transmitting appropriate copies of this  
45 resolution to State Representative James Cistrunk, Seventh District Representative Keith  
46 Jackson, and Grand Basilius Warren Lee.