

House Resolution 610

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

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 25, 2009, as Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Day at the state capitol and
2 inviting them to appear before the House 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.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wednesday, March 25, 2009, is recognized as Omega
48 Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Day at the state capitol.