

Senate Resolution 636

By: Senator Brown of the 26th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 25, 2009, as Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Day at the state capitol; and
2 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 SENATE that the members of this body
40 recognize Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and commend the cardinal principles of Manhood,
41 Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift endorsed by its members and their exemplary public
42 service.

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

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to transmit
46 appropriate copies of this resolution to State Representative James Cistrunk, Seventh District
47 Representative Keith Jackson, and Grand Basilius Warren Lee.