

## Senate Resolution 727

By: Senators Anderson of the 43rd, Mangham of the 55th, Wicks of the 34th, Sims of the 12th, Harbison of the 15th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Eta Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Eta Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., was founded in  
4 Atlanta, Georgia, on December 1, 1919, and was the first chapter of any Black Greek-letter  
5 organization to be founded and chartered in the State of Georgia; and

6 WHEREAS, Eta Omega, the seventh permanent chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.,  
7 was set up upon the initiative of Brother Harold H. Thomas of Beta Chapter, and Brothers  
8 Horace A. Hodges, Harvey Smith, Lawrence R. Harper, and Clinton E. Warner, Sr., of the  
9 Camp Howard Chapter, and aided by Brother Raymond G. Robinson, the Fraternity's seventh  
10 Grand Basileus; and

11 WHEREAS, Eta Omega was comprised of Brothers upholding the principles of OMEGA at  
12 Atlanta University, Clark University, Morehouse College, Gammon Theological Seminary,  
13 and college graduates in the Atlanta area; and

14 WHEREAS, Brothers from the institutions that made up Eta Omega eventually established  
15 their own chapters consisting of Omicron at Gammon Theological Seminary, Psi at

16 Morehouse College, Tau at Atlanta University, and Beta Psi at Clark University, leaving Eta  
17 Omega for graduates; and

18 WHEREAS, under the leadership of Grand Basileus J. Alston Atkins from 1922 to 1923, the  
19 fraternity developed a new naming scheme for undergraduate and graduate chapters; thus,  
20 the original Eta Chapter has since been known as the Eta Omega Chapter; and

21 WHEREAS, throughout its over 100 years of existence, Eta Omega has been at the forefront  
22 of Omega Psi Phi's efforts in Georgia, the Seventh District, and throughout the fraternity as  
23 a whole; and

24 WHEREAS, service, individually and collectively, has always been part of Eta Omega's  
25 makeup and in 1921, when Brother Carter G. Woodson asked his Omega Psi Phi Fraternity  
26 Brothers to help mount an ambitious week-long national campaign promoting the study of  
27 Negro literature and history, the men of this small 17-month old chapter responded by  
28 sponsoring a mass meeting which attracted more than two thousand people; and

29 WHEREAS, five years later, Brother Woodson established Negro History Week, now known  
30 as Black History Month; and

31 WHEREAS, during World War II, Eta Omega Brothers served ably in the United States  
32 military, including participation in the D-Day Invasion at Normandy and in the 332nd Fighter  
33 Group known as the Tuskegee Airmen; and

34 WHEREAS, in the postwar fight for racial equality, Eta Omega Brothers helped make the  
35 ballot box a weapon by mobilizing the Black vote through the Atlanta Negro Voters League;  
36 and

37 WHEREAS, in the 1960s, Brother Clinton E. Warner, Jr., the namesake son of a chapter  
38 founder, challenged Jim Crow housing laws by integrating a Southwest Atlanta  
39 neighborhood, thus launching the modern Open Housing movement in the State of Georgia;  
40 and

41 WHEREAS, simultaneously, numerous brothers opened their wallets to bail Atlanta Student  
42 Movement protestors out of jail; and

43 WHEREAS, in the 1970s, Eta Omega men helped focus Black political power to produce  
44 Atlanta's first Black mayor and the deep south state's first Black Congressman since  
45 Reconstruction; and

46 WHEREAS, as integration took hold, Brothers were in the forefront in the fields of  
47 education, law, business, and government; and

48 WHEREAS, from the 1980s, through the 1990s, into the new millennium, and up to today,  
49 Eta Omega men have continually played active roles in Atlanta's progress, with individual  
50 Brothers and the Chapter itself being honored by groups including the Atlanta Public  
51 Schools-Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and the Boy Scouts of America; and

52 WHEREAS, the chapter has hosted or cohosted five Grand Conclaves as well as produced  
53 outstanding Fraternity leaders at the national, district, and state levels, including the 8th  
54 Grand Basileus, aforementioned Chapter founder Brother Harold H. Thomas, and the 33rd  
55 Grand Basileus, Brother Moses C. Norman; and

56 WHEREAS, Eta Omega has regularly been recognized for its community service and  
57 programs, including being named 2014 Region One Graduate Chapter of the Year by Omega

58 Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., State of Georgia and being cited by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro  
59 Atlanta for raising more than \$2,700.00 dollars during a single fundraising event; and

60 WHEREAS, under the strong leadership of Chapter Basileus, Kurt McDonald, the Eta  
61 Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., will continue to fulfill the founding  
62 fathers' motto of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift.

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
64 recognize the Eta Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; commend the chapter's  
65 long history of public service; and extend best wishes for the organization's continued  
66 success.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
68 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Eta Omega  
69 Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.