



The Phoenix



The Official Organ of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Rho Zeta Lambda Chapter

By Brother Kelly N. Merrida



President’s Message

Greetings my brothers of the 661st House of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. Thank you for the honor and privilege to serve as your Chapter President and be the guide for this part of our journey together. I appreciate the many calls of congratulations, encouragements and brothers willing to serve in any capacity to move this great chapter forward. Thank you!

This year has been filled with its share of twist and turns that at times seems daunting. It is during these times that our character is tested, and Alpha Men are men of immeasurable

character and we will rise to meet the challenges facing our families, communities, and fraternity. As many of us continue to face the reality of e-learning, working from home and a dearth of social interaction, we can rely on our bonds of brotherhood to see use through. I cannot imagine a finer group of brothers to share this journey.

This summer we welcomed two men of character and distinction to our house, and while I was not there to personally welcome them, it was a joyous occasion to get a call and be greeted as Brother Small and return the greeting with enthusiasm. That word “Brother” sounded so great to be shared between us. It is our bond of brotherhood that carries us in times of struggle and sorrow, triumph, and joy. Brotherhood will always be a hallmark of this chapter.

That is why our first priority is to “**Invest in the Brotherhood**”. For if we start with brotherhood, then we can “**Strengthen Our Chapter**”, which allows us to “**Engage Our Community**” and be the servants of all that we are called to be. The evidence of this was on full display during Operation Big Book Bag where we were able to provide over 40 back packs full of supplies to students in our community. Thank you Brothers.

I look forward to working together as we continue our chapter’s legacy of brotherhood and service to our community. Thank you and 1111119...06!

GONE FISHING.....

By Bro. Kelly Merrida



After 28 years of service, Bro James Pickett is just getting started. Initiated in Eta Eta chapter, Western Illinois University on April 19, 1987, Bro. Pickett was well prepared for

the rigors of law enforcement. As many adolescents often struggle with choosing a career path during their transition from secondary education to college, Bro. James Pickett was confident in his pursuit to have a career serving the community as a law enforcement officer. Raised in a family of law enforcement officers and military veterans, Bro. Pickett career decision was a no-brainer as he approached young adulthood. This confidence was met with Bro. Pickett's decision to join the Marine Corp Reserve immediately upon completion of high school. Bro. Pickett remained active in the Marine Corp. Reserve throughout his undergraduate years and was discharged at the rank of Staff Sergeant after serving a total of 8 years from 1985-1993. Bro. Pickett went on to earn a B.S. in Law Enforcement Administration and Sociology and a M.S. in Law Enforcement Administration from Western Illinois University.

Bro. James Pickett began his career with Evanston Police Department in February 1992. As a leader and servant to all, Bro. Pickett served the Evanston community as a patrol officer, field training officer, juvenile detective, gang enforcement officer, Sergeant, and commander. On June 26, 2020, Bro. Pickett decided to hang up his hat and retire in the role of deputy chief.

When asked what role did Alpha Phi Alpha play in his ability to transcend through the years, Bro Pickett stated that the valuable lessons he learned while becoming a member equipped him to overcome the obstacles he would face throughout his career. Poems such as Test of a Man and "If" proved to be highly significant in helping him overcome adversity.

WELCOME TO THE HOUSE OF ALPHA

S.S. A.K.O.M.A. 8-1-2020

Bro. Saint Anthony Lloyd – (Captain) – *T.H.H.O.R.* Graduate of University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Earned a B.A. in Criminal Justice and a M.A. in Physical Education with a concentration in Sports Administration. Currently serves in the role of Leisure Time Activities Supervisor & Volunteer Coordinator with Illinois Youth Center (St. Charles).



Bro. Kyle Wideman – (Anchor) – *The Negotiator* Graduate of Northern Illinois University. Earned a B.A. in Sociology with an emphasis on Criminal Justice. Currently serves the community in the role of Detective with the Evanston, IL Police Department.

HONORING THE 51ST HOUSE OF ALPHA

By Bro. Kelly Merrida

Bro. Azrael Muhammad celebrates 25 years of membership in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



3/30/1995 - Beta Eta Chapter (BH) Southern Illinois University Carbondale - U.S.S. PHARCYDE



life to service and witnessed the growth and

Bro. Roy A. Jones Jr. celebrated 50 years of excellent service as a brother of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. on February 15, 2019. Initiated in Beta Eta Chapter, Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 1969, Bro. Jones has dedicated his

development of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. for half a century.

A southside Chicago native, Bro. Jones is a 1965 graduate of Englewood High School. In the fall of 1965, Bro. Jones decided to attend the newly built University of Illinois at Chicago Circle, known today as The University of Illinois at Chicago. During this time period, Theta chapter (1910) was the Chicago area chapter as many college chapters in the Chicago area had not been established. Bro. Jones recounts his desires and attempts to become a member of Alpha Phi Alpha through Theta chapter during the late 1960's. In the Spring of 1968, Bro. Jones would transfer to Southern Illinois University Carbondale where he would graduate with a B.A. in Secondary Education in 1970.

In 1972 Bro. Jones would join Xi Lambda chapter where he would remain until 1988. Bro. Jones has since been a member of Mu Mu Lambda chapter and Rho Zeta Lambda Chapter. Bro. Jones became a life member in 1993 and has been an active member for 50 consecutive years.

Dedicated to leadership, service and education, Bro. Jones was determined to make Alpha Phi Alpha within reach of all college men in the Chicago area seeking the light. Bro. Jones was the founding father of Nu Rho chapter at Illinois Institute of Technology on December 22, 1977 and secured the charter for Omicron Iota DePaul University October 10, 1981 and Omicron Xi Roosevelt University February 27, 1982. These three chapters came to be known respectively as the **NU RHOY** dynasty.

Bro. Jones retired from the United States Postal Service after 30 years of service in 2011. Today Bro. Jones is a Human Resource Training Specialist for City Colleges of Chicago (Malcolm X) and serves as the chairman of the undergraduate liaison committee with the National Panhellenic Council of Chicago.

MANLY DEEDS, SCHOLARSHIP & ENTREPRENEURSHIP?

By Bro. Kelly Merrida

President of Wireless Waves LLC, Bro. James Leuthe, (PZL '17), is the perfect example of a leader bridging the gap between scholarship and action. Hailing from Rochester NY, Bro. James Leuthe has planted his flag in the Chicago area. Earning a B.S. in Management from Penn State University and an MBA from DePaul University, Bro. Leuthe has used his knowledge, skills, and abilities to build a mobile phone empire throughout the Chicagoland area.



Bro. Leuthe's entrepreneurship journey began with an attempt to open a construction business in 2007 until the housing crisis of 2008 forced him to take another path. Presented with an employment opportunity, Bro. Leuthe was introduced to the mobile world with AT&T & Cricket Wireless. Bro. Leuthe initially began his career as a sales representative before being promoted to account executive where he would provide hands-on sales training and marketing. In 2010 he would receive another promotion as an account manager-district manager where he would relocate to Pittsburgh, PA. Continuing to excel as a leader in the mobile business, demand

for his expertise led to a final relocation to Chicago, IL in 2012 where he would be tasked with the revitalization of under-performing stores in the Chicagoland area.

Completing his MBA at DePaul University coupled with extensive professional experience, Bro. Leuthe resigned from Cricket Wireless in February 2018 and opened his first Boost Mobile Store under his company name Wireless Waves LLC. in September 2018. Today he has 13 Boost Mobile Stores in operation in the Chicagoland area.

When asked how Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. impacted his current success as an entrepreneur, he stated that the brotherhood of Alpha Phi Alpha has taught him perseverance, humility and tenacity, essential tools needed to be a successful entrepreneur in the 21st century. As a business owner, Bro. Leuthe is creating jobs, building generational wealth, and setting an example of black leadership within the community. Bro. James Leuthe is an example of an Alpha man who leads and a brother you can *call* on.

SERVENTS OF ALL...Rho Zeta Lambda at work



Bro. Stephen Cosey with the ladies of Sigma Gamma Rho – Theta Chi Sigma Alumnae Chapter. Operation Big Book Bag 8/29/2020.



Bro. Charles Colston and Bro. Reggie Greenwood with Village of Maywood Census team on 8/29/2020.



Men of Alpha assisting in the re-construction of Bro. James Leuthe Boost Mobile store after the Looting in Chicago.



Bro. Corey Bullock and Bro. Wonderful Watson Village of Maywood Census event 8/29/2020



Bro. Charles Colston and Bro. Jamere Newman Voter Registration Drive in front of Bro. James Leuthe's Boost Mobile store Maywood, IL 9/5/2020.



Bro. Wonderful Watson instructing a citizen on the completion of the voting registration process Maywood, IL 9/5/2020.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE KICKOFF

By Bro. Charles Colston

Welcome to another fraternal year Brothers! The Rho Zeta Lambda Chapter Alpha Quest Youth Mentoring Program kickoff will begin in September 2020. The program is aimed at mentoring young men in grades 6-9. The program is a pre-college mentoring program designed to enhance the knowledge, skills, and attitudes towards various aspects of life pertinent to African American males from middle school to high school and beyond.



Our aim is to have 30 students participate in this year's program with the expectation of the meetings to be held via Zoom for the first quarter of the program.

As we continue to expand the program, we are asking that Brothers continue to become involved with the mentoring program by volunteering your time, knowledge, and expertise.

The Alpha Quest program will meet two Saturdays a month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 19, 2020 – 4pm-8pm – Voters Registration and Census Drive.

Location: Veterans Memorial Park 5th Avenue & Randolph St. Maywood, IL

October 3, 2020 10:00am – 12:00pm – Alpha Quest youth Mentoring Program Zoom Kickoff Event

October 3, 2020 Tour De Proviso Community-Wide Bike Event
Organizer: Bro. Miguel Jones – Village of Maywood Trustee 9:30am-12:00pm

2020 District of Illinois Virtual Conference
November 14, 2020

WALKING HISTORY

Bro. McKinley Brister turns 95

By Bro. Kelly Merrida & Dr. Marie A. Brister



Bro. McKinley H. Brister was born on September 6, 1925 in Tylertown, MS to Hilary and Sarah Brister, parents that instilled in him the importance of integrity and hard work. On December 18, 1943, prior to finishing his senior year in high school, Bro. Brister answered the call of his country and was drafted into the United States Navy during World War II. While serving, he became aware of the G.I. Bill passed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt that paid for veterans to attend college. After serving three (3) years in the Navy and traveling to Guam, Saipan, and Tinian, he was Honorably Discharged in May of 1946. Bro. Brister understood the importance of education for African American men during this time period and he knew the racial climate awaiting him in the deep South. The transition to higher education was not only a choice but a responsibility.

Bro. Brister returned to Mississippi to complete his high school education, graduating with honors in 1947. In a decision that would change his life, he enrolled in the famed Tuskegee Institute (now University) on September 6, 1947. After four (4) years of immersing himself in academics and the philosophy of Dr. Booker T. Washington, Bro. Brister graduated in May of 1951 earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Commercial Industries- Automobile Mechanics with a minor in Business Administration. He was the first in his family to receive a college degree. Bro. Brister decided to relocate to Chicago, Illinois in 1952.

Upon the move up north, Bro. Brister met the woman who would later become his wife. Mary E. Jones was the daughter of two Tuskegee Institute alums who invited McKinley to a meeting of the Chicago Tuskegee Club. Romance blossomed and the two were married in July of 1955. After being denied well deserved promotions due to his race, Bro. Brister changed his professional trajectory and decided to enter the field of education. He took education courses at Chicago Teacher's College (now Chicago State University) and the educational fire was lit. Bro Brister continued to excel and became the first African American educator at Chicago's Washburn Trade School in 1962 with the enactment of President John F. Kennedy's Manpower Development and Training Act. This program was designed to provide training in the trades with automation and technological advancement.

As an advocate for vocational education, Bro. Brister would go on to become a teacher of automobile mechanics at the infamous Edwin G. Cooley Vocational High School from 1965 to 1974. After graduating with his Master of Arts degree from Roosevelt University in Administration and Supervision in 1974, Bro. Brister was chosen to become the administrative assistant principal of the newly built, Percy L. Julian High School, named after the renowned scientist. Working on the administrative team led by the esteemed Bro.

Dr. Edward H. Oliver, they developed a high school with state of the art technological equipment, a full vocational program, and a revolutionary curriculum with a concentration on Honors level and Advanced Placement classes in nine disciplines including calculus and Latin.

Bro. Brister retired from the Chicago Board of Education in 1991 after an illustrious forty-two (42) year career.

Even in retirement his expertise was sought and he served an additional five (5) years as principal of Emmanuel Christian School on Chicago's South Side and as an Implementation Specialist for the Illinois Institute of Technology helping teachers effectively impart science curriculums at the elementary school level.

Always a believer in serving a cause greater than himself, Bro Brister has served as President of the Chicago Tuskegee Club, North Central Regional Director of the TNAA, and 2nd VP of the TNAA. He has received numerous awards including the Tuskegee University Alumni Merit Award in 1983 and he was the Chairman of the Eminent Associates of the Tuskegee National Alumni Association. The year 2021 will mark seventy (70) years of service to his Alma Mater.

Inducted into Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Xi Lambda Chapter July 1, 1982, Bro. Brister is a proud Life Member and has served as the Corresponding Secretary of Xi Lambda Chapter and was the National Pan Hellenic representative under President Bro. Milton Davis, a fellow Tuskegee University alumnus.

Bro. Brister has received numerous awards from various educational and community organizations. Strong in his faith, he has been a member of St. Dorothy's Catholic Church in Chicago, Illinois for six decades and he attends St. Peter Clever Catholic Church in Tampa, Florida where he currently resides with his family.

Bro Brister is a devoted family man. He has been married for sixty-five years to his beloved wife Mary J. Brister, also a retired educator. To this union two children were born, Anthony G. Brister (deceased) and Dr. Marie A Brister Brown- an alum of Percy L. Julian HS and Tuskegee University, and a Family Medicine physician in Tampa, Florida (Bro. Kelvy E Brown) Bro. Brister is the proud grandfather to Tone' B. Brister and Kelvy Noah Brown and has the additional blessing of a great granddaughter, Cassidy M. Rounds. He is a strong and loving patriarch whose example is the guiding force behind their accomplishments.



We honor Bro. McKinley H. Brister who exemplifies the ultimate Alpha Man.

IN REMEMBERANCE

Bro. Robert Goldsborough 1965-2020

By Bro. Wonderful Watson



Brother Robert Goldsborough was a brother whose infectious smile and warm disposition impacted all who had the privilege of being in his presence. Born in Chicago, Illinois on Wednesday,

September 8, 1965, Brother Goldsborough grew up in a loving home with God-fearing parents and an older sister. As a student at Roosevelt University, he was initiated into Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. on Saturday, November 29, 1986 through Omicron Xi Chapter.

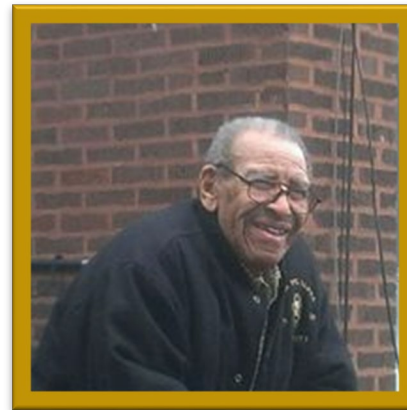
Professionally, he worked his way into management at U.S. Cellular until his health prevented him from working. Being the great Alpha man that he was, he embraced his new role as a full-time dad to his children Tyler and Danielle. His wife Erika was the absolute love of his life for the last 16 years. He LOVED the Chicago White Sox, a good book, great music and the company of his family, friends and fraternity brothers.

He entered Omega Chapter on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at the young age of 54. The void that he left is immense. Rho Zeta Lambda Chapter was fortunate and blessed to have him amongst the brotherhood. Whenever we as Alpha brothers sing "I'll be an Alpha man 'till the day I die", Brother Robert Goldsborough did exactly that! We love you and we miss you!

Bro. Floyd Russaw 1934 - 2020

By Bro. Kelly Merrida & Kelly Shelton

Bro. Floyd Russaw was born in Salem, Alabama on



May 25, 1934, to Walter and Lela Byrd Floyd Russaw, who were Alabama sharecroppers. Floyd was the youngest of five children. Bro. Russaw served his country as a

member of the military from July of 1954 through June of 1956. Russaw was honorably discharged as a Specialist, 4th Class. Bro. Russaw attended Tuskegee Institute where he would earn a B.A. in Sociology in 1965. Bro. Russaw academic credentials also consisted of a M.S. in Public Administration from Roosevelt University (Chicago, IL) a M.S. in Public Administration from Nova Southeastern University (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and a Doctor of Public Administration from Nova Southeastern University (1977). Bro. Russaw became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. on August 22, 1992 through Xi Lambda Chapter Chicago, IL. Bro. Russaw was the Regional Health Administrator for Region V (which includes the six Midwestern states of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, as well as thirty-four federally recognized Native American tribes) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where he retired in 1995. For more than 50 years, Bro. Russaw was a faithful member of Greater Institutional African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bro. Russaw served as president of the Chicago Tuskegee Alumni Club, director of the North Central Region of the alumni organization, and as 3rd Vice President of the National Tuskegee

Alumni Association. He is survived by his wife of over sixty-one years, Ethel, three daughters, Kimberly Dawn, Andria Kaye and Kelly Denise (Sean D. Shelton), and one grandson Sean William Floyd Shelton.

Bro. Theodore Merriweather 1937 - 2020

By Bro. Kenneth Booker

Brother Theodore Merriweather Sr. was born on October 21, 1937. Bro. Merriweather was married to Doretha Merriweather fathered 4 children, Danielle, Nicole, Theodore Jr, and Theodore II. Bro Ted loved anything dealing with the Black experience and enjoyed Jazz and Doo Wop music. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, retired from CTA after 20 years of service, and was a professor of African American Studies at Chicago State University. Bro. Merriweather held a B.A. in Business Administration from Chicago State University and a M.A. degree in Education from Northeastern Illinois University. He loved teaching, reading, writing, researching, playing chess and riding his



motorcycle.

Bro. Ted Merriweather lived his life HIS WAY and it was an honor entering the House of Alpha with him. Bro. Merriweather departed this life on August 9, 2020. He was 69 years old when we crossed, #2 on our line, and his line name was Nutty Professor.