

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Craig Lowe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on Friday evening, November 17, 1911 in Washington, D.C. and on the Howard University campus, three undergraduate students and their faculty advisor gave birth to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the founders of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity consist of Dr. Ernest E. Just, Bishop Edgar A. Love, Dr. Oscar J. Cooper, and Professor Frank Coleman and today, their dream has resulted in well over 125,000 members worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the four cardinal principles consist of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift; and

WHEREAS, the motto of this Fraternity is "Friendship is Essential to the Soul"; and

WHEREAS, Beta Pi and Omicron Zeta Chapters will serve as the host chapters for the Florida Statewide Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the men of this organization have made tremendous advancements in all walks of life including:

In 1915, Founder Dr. Ernest E. Just was the first person (and first of over 20 Omega men including Colonel Charles Young, Singer Roland Hayes, Historian and Founder of Black History Month Carter G. Woodson, Chemist Percy L. Julian, Poet J. Langston Hughes, 1st African-American U.S. Secretary Robert C. Weaver, General Williams "Kip" Ward, Commander African Command, NAACP Executive Directors Roy Wilkins and Benjamin Hooks, Educator and College President Benjamin Mays, Entertainer William H. Cosby, Public Servant Vernon Jordan) to receive the prestigious Spingarn Medal, NASA Administrator, Major General Charlie Bolton; and in 1941, Brother Charles Drew, Spingarn Medalist, perfected the use of blood plasma as a life saving tool in the forties; and Brother William Hastie, Spingarn Medalist, resigned as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of War in protest against discrimination in the Armed Forces; In 1966, Brother Robert Lawrence was selected as the first Black to serve in the Astronaut Program; In 1976, Brother Jesse Jackson, Jr. (Spingarn Medalist) organized "Operation Big Vote," which was successful in getting thousands of blacks to vote in the General elections; and

WHEREAS, the Omegas committed hundreds of thousands of dollars to the United Negro College Fund for needy students to attend college and gain a quality education; and

WHEREAS, Omegas' mandated programs include an annual Achievement Week Program, Scholarship Program, National Social Action Program, voter registration, education and mobilization, support of the NAACP and the National Urban League, Talent Hunt Program, National High School Essay Contest, Assault on Illiteracy Program (AOIP), Annual Charles Drew Blood Drive, College Endowment Fund, and Domestic Abuse Awareness Program; and

WHEREAS, included in the State Meeting agenda are items addressing medical disparities, the low high school graduation rate of African American males in Florida, and the high rate of African American males in the Florida criminal/juvenile justice system,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Lowe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim September 16 – 19, 2010 as

Omega Week

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in welcoming the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity to the City of Gainesville.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this seventh day of August, A.D., 2010.

Craig Lowe
Mayor