

## House Resolution 161

By: Representatives Crawford of the 84<sup>th</sup>, Sampson of the 153<sup>rd</sup>, Reese of the 140<sup>th</sup>, Hugley of the 141<sup>st</sup>, and Burnough of the 77<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending the State of Georgia Organization of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for their  
2 dedication and commitment to empowering youth, strengthening families, and uplifting  
3 communities across the State of Georgia; and for other purposes.
- 4 WHEREAS, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was founded on November 17, 1911, on the  
5 campus of Howard University, making it the first international fraternal organization founded  
6 at a Historically Black College or University; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the fraternity has four founders—three undergraduate students—Edgar Amos  
8 Love, Oscar James Cooper, and Frank Coleman, along with their faculty advisor, Ernest  
9 Everett Just; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the fraternity has four cardinal principles, which are Manhood, Scholarship,  
11 Perseverance, and Uplift; and
- 12 WHEREAS, the name Omega Psi Phi was derived from the initials of the Greek phrase  
13 meaning "friendship is essential to the soul," which was selected as the fraternity's motto; and

14 WHEREAS, there are over 250,000 members globally and over 750 chapters throughout the  
15 United States, Canada, Mexico, Korea, Japan, China, Ghana, United Kingdom, Bahamas, and  
16 Dominican Republic; and

17 WHEREAS, the Georgia State Organization was established in 1963 and is composed of  
18 over 10,000 members and 46 chapters; it provides service in 40 counties throughout the State  
19 of Georgia and 16 colleges and universities including Historically Black Colleges and  
20 Universities; and

21 WHEREAS, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. International Headquarters is located in  
22 DeKalb County, Georgia; and

23 WHEREAS, the fraternity has 12 mandated programs consisting of fatherhood training and  
24 youth mentoring, supporting STEM, providing scholarships to high schools seniors and  
25 college students, conducting talent hunts to showcase their talents through the arts,  
26 facilitating career development workshops, promoting medical and health awareness, and  
27 other civic programs including voter registration, education, and mobilization; and

28 WHEREAS, there are many Omega men recognized for their leadership in various industries  
29 nationally and internationally, including: The Honorable Hank Johnson, congressman of  
30 Georgia's 4th Congressional District; Dr. M. Brian Blake, president of Georgia State  
31 University; Dr. Kevin James, president of Morris Brown College; Sheriff Gregory D.  
32 Countryman, sheriff of Muscogee County; Sheriff Craig Owens, sheriff of Cobb County; Fitz  
33 Johnson, public service commissioner for District 3; Scott Hamilton, police chief of Austell,  
34 Georgia; Omari Crawford, representative of House District 84; David Sampson,  
35 representative of House District 153; and former Dean of the House and future ambassador  
36 to the Bahamas Calvin Smyre, just to name a few.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
38 the members of this body commend the State of Georgia Organization Omega Psi Phi  
39 Fraternity, Inc. for its continued commitment to public service and its work in making the  
40 State of Georgia a better place in which we live.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
42 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to  
43 members of the State of Georgia Organization of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.