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House Resolution

A resolution designating November 17, 2023, as "Omega Psi Phi Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., is the first international fraternal organization founded on the campus of a historically black college, and

WHEREAS, on the evening of November 17, 1911, three Howard University undergraduate students, Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper, and Frank Coleman, with the assistance of their faculty adviser, founded Omega Psi Phi, and

WHEREAS, during the first meeting, the name of the organization was derived from the initials of the Greek phrase meaning "friendship is essential to the soul," as symbolized by three Greek letters ΩΨΦ, which are the initials of the three Greek words, "Ophelema Philia Psurkis" and the phrase was selected as the motto, and

WHEREAS, during the same meeting, Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift were adopted as the four cardinal principles of Omega Psi Phi and the founders decided on the design of the fraternity's pin and escutcheon, and

WHEREAS, over the next century, Omega Psi Phi built a strong and effective force of men dedicated to its cardinal principles, and

25 WHEREAS, in 1923, when a chapter was organized at the
 26 University of Southern California, Omega Psi Phi became the
 27 first Black Greek organization to span its membership across the
 28 United States, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and organized a
 29 chapter in Montreal, Quebec the same year, and

30 WHEREAS, in 1930, Omega Psi Phi became one of five founding
 31 members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, and

32 WHEREAS, since its humble beginnings at Howard University,
 33 Omega Psi Phi continues to be on the front line, leveraging its
 34 power, influence, and more than 100 years of commitment to
 35 elevate its people and its communities, and

36 WHEREAS, there are 45 Omega Psi Phi chapters throughout the
 37 State of Florida, including chapters in Jacksonville and
 38 Tallahassee that have charter dates as early as the 1920s, and

39 WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi continued to flourish, largely
 40 because founders Love, Cooper, Coleman, and Just were men of
 41 high ideals and intellect, and selected and attracted men of
 42 similar ideals and characteristics, and

43 WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi has a current membership that
 44 includes more than 100,000 living members, has over 700
 45 chapters, and operates in 13 countries, NOW, THEREFORE,

46
 47 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
 48 Florida:

49

HR 8013

2023

50 That the House of Representatives recognizes the deep
51 commitment of the members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., to
52 their communities, expresses special appreciation for their
53 service to the State of Florida, and gladly designates November
54 17, 2023, as "Omega Psi Phi Day" in Florida.