

1 A RESOLUTION commending Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., for their impressive
2 history of community activism and their legacy of brotherhood, and recognizing February
3 15, 2024, as Omega Psi Phi Day in Kentucky.

4 WHEREAS, the men and brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., have convened
5 at the Kentucky State Capitol on February 15, 2024, in celebration of Omega Psi Phi Day
6 in Kentucky in continuation of its legacy of occupying a progressive, cooperative and
7 constructive place in the civic and political life of communities throughout the state, the
8 nation and the world; and

9 WHEREAS, this fraternity was the first international fraternal organization founded
10 on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C., on November 17, 1911, by
11 three distinguished Howard University juniors, Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper
12 and Frank Coleman, with the assistance of their faculty advisor, Dr. Ernest Everett Just;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, from the initials of the Greek phrase "friendship is essential to the
15 soul," the name Omega Psi Phi was derived and the phrase was selected as the fraternity's
16 motto; and

17 WHEREAS, the organization's founders graduated from Howard University to
18 become distinguished professionals with stellar resumes and impressive lives; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Ernest E. Just became a world-renowned biologist who was the
20 first recipient of the prestigious Spingarn Medal from the National Association for the
21 Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1915, with a distinguished legacy that
22 earned him the honor of being the 19th historic figure celebrated in the U.S. Postal
23 Service's Black Heritage Stamp Series on February 1, 1996; and

24 WHEREAS, Professor Frank Coleman became a beloved professor and head of the
25 Physics Department at Howard University and later an officer in the United States Army
26 in World War I; Dr. Oscar J. Cooper earned a doctor of medicine degree from Howard
27 University in 1917, and practiced medicine for over 50 years in Philadelphia,

1 Pennsylvania; and Bishop Edgar A. Love was a United States Army Chaplain in World
2 War I and was a bishop in the Methodist Church for many years; and

3 WHEREAS, over 700 chapters of this distinguished fraternity have been
4 established in the United States and around the world since its inception, with 21
5 graduate chapters and nine undergraduate chapters in our great Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, the astute men of Omega Psi Phi are tremendously involved in their
7 communities and organize many philanthropic programs, including the annual
8 Achievement Week program, scholarship program, voter registration program, education
9 and mobilization program, Talent Hunt program, National High School Essay Contest,
10 Assault on Illiteracy program, annual Charles Drew Blood Drive, College Endowment
11 Fund program, Domestic Abuse Awareness program, Fatherhood Initiative program, and
12 the National Social Action program; and

13 WHEREAS, the passionate Kentucky chapters of Omega Psi Phi have dedicated
14 over 5,000 hours of community service, and donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to
15 multiple projects with the purpose of uplifting and encouraging citizens of their
16 communities to achieve higher social, economic, and intellectual statuses; and

17 WHEREAS, in the mid-1930s, a group of exceptional Omega Psi Phi members,
18 Robert C. Weaver, Lawrence Oxley, Roscoe Brown, Frank Horne, William Hastie, J.
19 Arthur Weiseger, Ted Poston, Campbell C. Johnson, and William Trent were appointed
20 to the Federal Council of Negro Affairs, or "Black Cabinet," which was an informal
21 group created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and composed of African-American
22 public policy advisors whose mission was to help the country emerge out of the
23 depression; and

24 WHEREAS, other fascinating Omega Psi Phi men in our nation's history include
25 Charles Drew, who perfected the use of blood plasma as a life-saving tool; Spottswood
26 Robinson, Oliver Hill, and James Nabrit, who were an integral part of the inner
27 leadership circle for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and who

1 coordinated the court battles for racial equality, in their work culminating with the
2 landmark decision outlawing segregated public schools in *Brown v. Board of Education*;
3 Wiley A. Branton, who served as the principal lawyer in the civil rights case that
4 desegregated the public schools in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957; and Bayard Rustin, an
5 outstanding activist and one of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s advisors, who helped
6 organize the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom that occurred in Washington,
7 D.C., on August 28, 1963, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his legendary "I
8 Have a Dream" speech; and

9 WHEREAS, numerous Omega Psi Phi men have been involved in various
10 influential and noteworthy professions, including Dr. Robert C. Weaver, the first African-
11 American person appointed to a cabinet-level position in the United States as the first
12 Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in 1966; H. Carl Moultrie, who was
13 appointed as a judge to the Superior Court of Washington, D.C.; Clifford Alexander, who
14 was appointed Secretary of the Army in 1976; Ronald McNair, who tragically perished
15 during the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger on January 28, 1986; Reverend Jesse
16 Jackson, Jr., who became a candidate for the Democratic Party presidential nomination in
17 1986; L. Douglas Wilder, the first African-American state governor elected in the history
18 of the United States, who became Virginia's 66th Governor on January 13, 1990; and
19 David Satcher, who was appointed the 16th Surgeon General of the United States in
20 1998; and

21 WHEREAS, with its long list of exceptional members who have made tremendous
22 contributions to the betterment of society through their extensive and outstanding
23 community service for more than 100 years, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., has become a
24 pinnacle of hope within the Commonwealth of Kentucky and across the globe;

25 NOW, THEREFORE,

26 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
27 ***Kentucky:***

1 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby recognize February 15, 2024, as
2 Omega Psi Phi Day to highlight the brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., for their
3 impressive history of community activism and their legacy of brotherhood.

4 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
5 Resolution to Senator Gerald Neal for presentation to the members of the Omega Psi Phi
6 Fraternity.