

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 233

BY REPRESENTATIVE TERRY LANDRY

A RESOLUTION

To designate Tuesday, May 5, 2026, as Omega Psi Phi Day at the Capitol.

WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, was founded on November 17, 1911, at Howard University in Washington, D.C., by three visionary undergraduate students, Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper, and Frank Coleman, and their faculty advisor, Dr. Ernest Everett Just; and

WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi was the first national fraternity to be established at a historically Black university, and its name derives from the Greek phrase meaning "friendship is essential to the soul", which also serves as the fraternity's motto; and

WHEREAS, from its inception, the fraternity has worked to build a strong and effective force of men dedicated to the cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift, and has given expression to the hopes and aspirations of an unfree people in the land of the free; and

WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi has chartered more than seven hundred fifty undergraduate and graduate chapters and initiated more than two hundred fifty thousand men into its brotherhood, with chapters operating across the United States and internationally; and

WHEREAS, in 1930, Omega Psi Phi became one of five founding members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, which today is composed of nine international Black Greek-letter sororities and fraternities and promotes cooperative programming and initiatives for the benefit of African American communities; and

WHEREAS, since 1945, the fraternity has undertaken a National Social Action Program to meet the needs of African Americans in the areas of health, housing, civil rights, and education, and has been a patron of the United Negro College Fund since 1955; and

WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi men were actively involved in the fight to eliminate racial discrimination; brothers Spottswood Robinson, Oliver Hill, and James Nabrit served as part of the inner circle of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and Omega men throughout the United States participated in sit-ins and other demonstrations central to the civil rights struggle; and

WHEREAS, brother Grant Reynolds played a major role in President Truman's landmark 1948 decision to desegregate the United States Armed Forces, and Brother Bayard Rustin served as the chief organizer of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, which was one of the largest civil rights demonstrations in American history; and

WHEREAS, the roll of distinguished Omega members spans every sector of American life, including Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the "Father of Black History"; Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; Dr. Charles Drew, who revolutionized blood banking; and the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, founder of Operation PUSH and the National Rainbow Coalition; and

WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi has maintained a proud and enduring presence in Louisiana for over a century; the Rho Omega Chapter in Shreveport was established in September 1923 and stands as the oldest graduate chapter in the Ninth District; the chapter has made a tremendous impact on the social, economic, civic, and political life of its community; and

WHEREAS, the Rho Phi Chapter, which is known as the "Crescent City Ques", was established in New Orleans on October 1, 1927, and has enjoyed nearly one hundred years of dedicated service to the Greater New Orleans community; and

WHEREAS, the Lambda Alpha Chapter was organized on May 8, 1936, in Baton Rouge; in 1946, the chapter was at the forefront of forming the Baton Rouge Inter-Fraternal Council, whose initial service projects included voter registration in the community and the investigation of government housing for returning veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Theta Kappa Chapter at Louisiana State University was chartered on March 12, 1977, and became the first National Pan-Hellenic Council lettered fraternity on the LSU campus; it is the founding chapter of LSU's National Pan-Hellenic Council and stands as a trailblazer for Black Greek life in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, May 5, 2026, marks the sixty-eighth anniversary of the founding of the Delta Tau Chapter and is designated as Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, Day at the state capitol; the day serves as a tribute to the chapter's decades of faithful service to the city of Plaquemine, Iberville Parish, and the greater Baton Rouge area, and stewards the fraternity's legacy across generations of brothers who have served as beacons of hope to their community; and

WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi chapters throughout Louisiana have continuously served their communities through scholarship programs, voter registration drives, youth mentorship, health initiatives, and civic engagement, embodying the fraternity's timeless cardinal principles across generations; and

WHEREAS, the values of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, are reflected in the halls of the Legislature of Louisiana, where initiated brothers currently serve the people of this state with distinction, including Senator James Harris, Senator Larry Selders, Representative Marcus Bryant, Representative Kyle Green, Representative Rashid Young, Representative Terry Landry Jr., and Representative Stephen Jackson; they each carry the bond of brotherhood into their public service and their commitment to the betterment of all Louisianans; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, 2026, members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, from across the state of Louisiana gather at the state capitol to reaffirm their commitment to service, brotherhood, and the uplift of all Louisianans and to celebrate the sixty-eighth anniversary of the founding of the Delta Tau Chapter in Plaquemine.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Tuesday, May 5, 2026, as Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, Day at the state capitol; does hereby commend the brothers of Omega Psi Phi for more than a century of distinguished service to the people of Louisiana and the nation; and does hereby encourage the citizens of Louisiana to honor and celebrate the enduring legacy of this great fraternity.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES