

SENATE RESOLUTION 11

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor the Rho Psi Affinity
Alumni Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

WHEREAS, Rho Psi Chapter #39 of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity was founded on the campus of Tennessee A & I State College, now Tennessee State University (TSU), on April 11, 1930; it was the first chapter of a Greek-letter organization established on the campus, and, later, it became the first Black Greek-lettered organization at TSU to establish an alumni affinity chapter; and

WHEREAS, this year, the Rho Psi Affinity Alumni Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity at TSU will gather for its 89th Anniversary Reunion Weekend, during which time the members will reflect on the proud history of their organization and dedicate their newly expanded monument on the campus of their alma mater; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Rho Psi Chapter became the first chapter to receive a charter as an alumni association at TSU or any Historically Black College and University; the genesis of the alumni chapter can be traced back to 2000, when Larry Brown, 5th District DR Mark Bishop, and a board of directors, including Walter Vincent, Floyd Harrison, David Saunders, Joe Emmons, Woodrow Bell, Rick Jones, Alfred Motlow, Willie Bates, Gene Robinson, and Philmore Graham founded Project Rho Psi 2000; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the Rho Psi Affinity Alumni Chapter received the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy, an honor bestowed upon individuals and organizations that have generously given resources to a TBR institution or demonstrated outstanding volunteer efforts in raising money for the institution; and

WHEREAS, the Rho Psi Affinity Chapter was the first Black Greek-letter chapter to establish an endowment; the members of the chapter raised \$103,000 to establish the Rho Psi

Affinity Chapter Endowment at TSU in support of student scholarships and academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, the Rho Psi Affinity Chapter was also the first Black Greek-letter chapter to erect a Greek monument on TSU's campus; the original monument, designed by Walter Vincent, was expanded in 2016, with the expansion designed by Josh Butler. Monument expansion was completed in 2019, and the dedication ceremony will take place on April 13, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the long and illustrious history of the Rho Psi Chapter is a great source of pride for TSU and for all the distinguished men who held membership with that fraternal order—more than 900 as of 2018; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we honor this venerable organization at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize and honor the Rho Psi Affinity Alumni Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity at Tennessee State University as the members gather for their 89th Anniversary Weekend, wishing them and the chapter continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.