



Office of the District Representative
Sixth District
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

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February 1, 2016

Swati Patel
Chief of Staff
1100 Gervais St.
Columbia, SC 29201

RE: Invitation to speak at Sixth District Annual Meeting

Dear Ms. Patel:

It is my humble privilege to serve as the 39th Sixth District Representative for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. We are in the planning stages of our 71st annual meeting to be held April 28 - May 1, 2016 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. In particular, we would be most honored if Governor Haley would consider serving as the keynote speaker during our celebrated "Sunday Morning Breakfast" on **Sunday, May 1, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.** The location is the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Hotel and Convention Center. The breakfast is the culmination of the weekend gathering. We understand that the demands on Governor Haley's time must be tremendous. However, if she is inclined to consider this invitation, we would of course be pleased to work with your office to limit the intrusion on the Governor's undoubtedly hectic schedule. Thank you in advance for the consideration.

I wanted to get to the "ask" right away to respect your time, but a little history on Omega Psi Phi and the Sixth District is probably in order. The Sixth District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is comprised of all graduate and undergraduate chapters in North Carolina and South Carolina. The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. was founded on November 17, 1911 in Washington, D.C. by three Howard University undergraduate students with the assistance of their faculty advisor. The three liberal arts students were Edgar A. Love (later a Bishop in the Methodist Church), Oscar J. Cooper (practiced medicine in Philadelphia for 50 years) and Frank Coleman (later chairman of the Physics Department at Howard University for many years). The faculty advisor was world-renowned biologist Ernest E. Just (in whose name a yearly symposium is hosted at the Medical University of South Carolina to commemorate the significance of his

work on cell research). As you can see, Omega was born of good stock. Worldwide, Omega Psi Phi has over 700 chapters throughout the United States, Canada, Bermuda, Bahamas, Virgin Islands, Korea, Japan, Liberia, Germany, Kuwait and the UK.

Omega Psi Phi was the first Black fraternity founded at a historically Black college or university. Omega's motto is "Friendship is Essential to the Soul," and her Cardinal Principles are Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift. Famous Omega Men include composer William "Count" Basie; author and poet laureate Langston Hughes; celebrated educator and Olympic coach Leroy Walker; syndicated radio hosts Steve Harvey, Tom Joyner and Rickey Smiley; professional athletes and Olympic gold medalists Michael Jordan and Shaquille O'Neal; businessman Earl Graves; civil rights icons Jesse Jackson, L. Douglas Wilder, Oliver Hill and Vernon Jordan; noted researchers/scientists Charles Drew and Percy Julian; and NASA astronaut Robert Lawrence to name a few.

Interestingly, Omega Psi Phi boasts a number of prominent members with **South Carolina** roots including NASA Astronauts Charles Bolden and Ronald McNair; noted educator Benjamin E. Mays, accomplished jurist Matthew Perry and revered Congressman James Clyburn, in addition to Founder Ernest Everett Just as noted above. So, as you can see, Omega has left an indelible mark on the Palmetto State.

Lastly, I feel compelled to mention that the Governor's response to the tragedy at Mother Emmanuel was incredibly gracious, and her subsequent handling of the flag issue was extremely admirable. I'm a resident of North Carolina, but as mentioned I represent the state of South Carolina as well for the Fraternity. We have wrestled with the flag issue for many years and we watched closely the aftermath of the unspeakable acts in Charleston. The Governor is to be applauded for her grace and steadfastness in the face of enormous pressure.

Thank you again for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to call or email me should you have questions.

Sincerely,



Brian O. Beverly

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