

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING the Epsilon Chapter - New York City of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. upon the occasion of celebrating its 100th Anniversary on April 18, 2019

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and pay tribute to organizations of true purpose and worthy accomplishment which are dedicated to serving their community and to celebrating and preserving their rich ethnic heritage; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Epsilon Chapter - New York City of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. upon the occasion of celebrating its 100th Anniversary with a myriad of events culminating with a Gala "Omegas On Broadway" on Thursday, April 18, 2019, at The Ziegfeld Ballroom in New York, New York; and

WHEREAS, The first international fraternal organization to be established on the campus of a historically black college, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was founded on November 17, 1911, at Howard University in Washington, D.C. by three of the University's undergraduates, Edgar Amos Love, Oscar James Cooper and Frank Coleman, as well as their faculty adviser, Dr. Ernest Everett Just; and

WHEREAS, The name Omega Psi Phi was derived from the initials of the Greek phrase meaning, "friendship is essential to the soul" which was selected as the fraternity's motto; Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift were adopted as Cardinal Principles; and

WHEREAS, On April 18, 1919, at the home of Brother A. Merral Willis, nine Omega men gathered, and chartered the "Mighty" Epsilon Chapter for students attending Columbia University, New York University, City College of New York, and other institutions of higher learning in New York City; and

WHEREAS, The charter members of Epsilon Chapter included Brothers A. Merral Willis, Raymond George Robinson, Hastings E. Tompkins, John Gordon Dingle, James Burnett Ford, Osceola E. McKaine, Henry M. Marlowe, W. P. Stanley, and J. Herd Huddleson; and

WHEREAS, For the last 100 years, the Epsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity has stayed true to its core tenet, "The value of our Fraternity is not in numbers, but in men, in real Brotherhood. Eight men thoroughly immersed in the true Omega Spirit are far greater than eighty with luke-warm enthusiasm"; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, the Epsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity has strived to uplift and support its community through numerous economic, international, scholarship, and other philanthropic programs; and

WHEREAS, The success of the Epsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is in direct correlation to the efforts of its Basileus Samuel I. Ryan and its members, whose involvement is, and always has been, characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence in all endeavors on behalf of the organization and the community it serves; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized and celebrated by all the citizens of the great State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Epsilon Chapter - New York City of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. upon the occasion of celebrating its 100th Anniversary on April 18, 2019; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Samuel I. Ryan, Basileus, Epsilon Chapter - New York City of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.