



IOTA MU NU CHAPTER  
OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

# Achievement Week Souvenir Booklet

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH, 2022, 6PM - 10PM  
THE PALENCIA CLUB  
600 PALENCIA CLUB DR, ST AUGUSTINE FL 32095

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

BROTHER RICKEY LEWIS

42ND GRAND BASILEUS  
THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

BROTHER KITT TOLLIVER



ALL SOUVENIR AD BOOKLET PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT:  
THE OMEGA HOPE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND | [WWW.OMEGAHOPEFOUNDATION.COM](http://WWW.OMEGAHOPEFOUNDATION.COM)

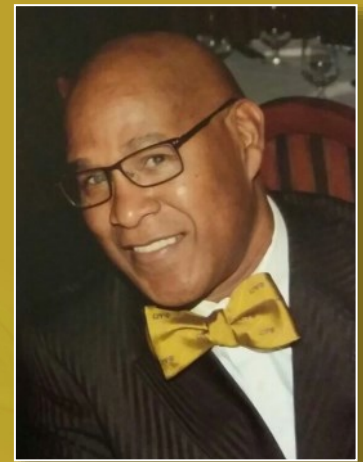




CONGRATULATIONS TO BASILEUS ELECT  
BRO. RODNEY ASHFORD AND THE MEN OF  
IOTA MU NU ON THEIR 9TH ANNUAL  
ACHIEVEMENT WEEK ANNIVERSARY.

F.I.E.T.T.S.

BRO. RANDY JOHNSON, LE "77"  
FSO VREM & NAACP CHAIRMAN  
IMN BASILEUS EMERITUS, (2015-2017)



"7 SOUTHERN KNIGHTS"





Founders: Frank Coleman, Oscar J. Cooper, Ernest E. Just, Edgar A. Love

## Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
3951 Snapfinger Parkway Decatur, GA 30035  
Telephone: (404) 284-5533 Fax: (404) 284-0333  
[www.oppf.org](http://www.oppf.org)



November 2023

Greetings Brothers of Iota Mu Nu Chapter,

Ricky L. Lewis  
Grand Basileus  
[rickylewis@earthlink.net](mailto:rickylewis@earthlink.net)

I want to first and foremost thank you for entrusting and electing me as your 42<sup>nd</sup> Grand Basileus of our beloved Fraternity. The mantra of men of strong will and Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift continue to define us and serve as our guideposts as we uphold the precepts of our founders!

Congratulations to Iota Mu Nu Chapter, as we start the Achievement Week season and your 8 years of service to the St. Jones and surrounding communities. We thank you for your continued commitment to the tenants of our beloved Founders. Our Theme: **Omega Men Promoting a Harmonious Future through Friendship and Service** is indicative to what Omega men do worldwide.

When I sought to become the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grand Basileus, I said to you that “**Excellence Is My Starting Point.**” I said that integrity and character are paramount. We are keeping that commitment.

In our communities world-wide, we have our mandated programs and we have our recently added programs. We actively do these things – Fatherhood and Mentoring is now a Mandate, searching for and Illuminating Young talent and providing scholarship support – and we do these things not for ego or personal gain – but instead because it is our duty and our charge. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is now a Mandate, teaching our young men the importance of embracing technology and innovation.

During my administration, we are here to serve you and our communities. We are asking you to serve our communities and make a difference. We shall not lose the common touch!

**Number 1.** Save Our Sons through mentoring, STEM, scholarship offerings and tutoring.

**Number 2.** Help fathers to be better fathers through our Fatherhood Initiative.

**Number 3.** Stay engaged with our brotherhood through (BYOMM): Call a brother.

**Number 4.** Save our HBCUs through regular and consistent contributions.

**Number 5.** Invest in Omega; pay your fraternity dues and reclaim just one additional brother.

If we resolve to do these five things and do them well, we will continue to see the undeniable fulfillment in our communities.

Yours in Friendship,

Ricky L. Lewis, Grand Basileus



**OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.**  
**SEVENTH DISTRICT**  
**FLORIDA STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION**  
[www.floridaque.com](http://www.floridaque.com)



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

Darron L. Toston

**FIRST VICE STATE  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Royle King II

**SECOND VICE STATE  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Fritzly Beaubrun

**STATE KRS**

Sean X. Rush

**STATE KEEPER of FINANCE**

Andre Gaines

**STATE COUNSELOR**

Michael Bostick

**STATE DIRECTOR of PR**

Michael V. Bowie

**STATE MARSHAL**

Gary Watson

**STATE CHAPLAIN**

Kim D. Yarber II

**IMMEDIATE PAST STATE  
REPRESENTATIVE**

M. Kevin Woodall, Sr.

November 11, 2023

It is a great honor and privilege to congratulate The Iota Mu Nu chapter on this year's Achievement Week Celebration on behalf of the Seventh District's, Florida Statewide Organization of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated. Throughout the year the brothers of your chapter have shown through your programs your commitment and dedication to our fraternity and your community.

In addition to welcoming our 42 Grand Basileus Brother Ricky L. Lewis to be the keynote speaker for this year's Achievement Week Banquet, your chapter has much to be proud of. Since being chartered in 2015, the brothers of the Iota Mu Nu Chapter have been impactful in the fraternity and the Saint Johns Community. The evidence of this is shown through the outstanding work you do in your community year-round.

Our beloved Fraternity, the Seventh District, and the State of Florida is honored to share in this celebration. The brothers of this chapter should be proud of what has been accomplished since being chartered. Thank you for your service to your community and this great state. The Brothers of the Florida Statewide Organization wish you all the best during your Achievement Week and in all your endeavors!

Fraternally,

*Darron L. Toston*

Brother Darron L. Toston  
Seventh District  
Florida Statewide Organization  
24<sup>th</sup> State Representative





Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc ~ Iota Mu Nu Chapter  
112 Bartram Oaks Walk ~ Suite 104, #600724 ~ Saint Johns, FL 32260  
quadcountyques@gmail.com ~ www.quadcountyques.com



Brothers of Iota Mu Nu,

I greet you giving thanks to God, the Supreme Basileus who has allowed us to come together and celebrate one of our nationally mandated programs, Achievement Week. Today we recognize the community contributions and accomplishments of our distinguished guests. We also acknowledge our youth who have committed themselves to academic excellence and community service. Our chapter is proud to invest in their dreams to further their education. We are blessed to share this special occasion with our 42<sup>nd</sup> Grand Basileus, Bro. Ricky Lewis. He has truly been an inspirational leader and supporter of Iota Mu Nu.

The past 3 years has taught the Iota Mu Nu Chapter how to come to the aid of our fellow man in the height of a pandemic, think differently about how we continue the work of Omega, and most importantly think outside the box to support our cause. Let us never forget the legacy of our founders and the cardinal principals that are core to the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. The work we do is not just needed but necessary. Lifting as we climb, is reinforced with bridges we are building in the four counties we serve.

Thank you for electing me to serve as your 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> term Basileus. It has been an honor I never took lightly or for granted! As I transition to become the chapters Immediate Past-Basileus, I am comforted in knowing our chapter is committed to "Next Level" progress and growth. IMN's ability to reach and impact our counties has never been better positioned since we were founded in 2015. I feel fortunate to be associated with a group of men committed to service.

Yours in Friendship,

Bro. Tracey D. Porter

Basileus, Iota Mu Nu Chapter



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Brothers of Iota Mu Nu (IMN),

I greet you in friendship as I welcome you this evening to our 2023 Achievement Week Banquet. This evening is an opportunity for us to recognize and celebrate the servitude of those in our community as well as in our chapter. It takes an altruistic spirit to serve others; an attribute that we as men of Omega will always lead for others to follow.

As the first IMN initiated brother to take this position, I understand the additional duty and charge before me to you. It is one of my goals with your support to pave a path for those other IMN initiated brothers soon to come who will have the honor to scribe this letter. Brothers, the challenges we face in this coming year appear to contrast those we faced just a few years ago, yet they are challenges still. But with enthusiasm we shall welcome these opportunities to show our resolve and will to overcome.

Before concluding this welcome, I would like to take this moment to thank the brothers' wives, significant others, and family for their personal sacrifice of you to our fraternity and its cause. To be an "Omega Man" requires much and sometimes the biggest sacrifice asked of us is our time away from our loved ones.

Again, Thank You.

Fraternally,

Bro. Rodney C. Ashford

Basileus Elect - Iota Mu Nu Chapter





The Omega Hope Foundation  
112 Bartram Oaks Walk  
Suite 104, #600486  
Saint Johns, FL 32260  
omegahopefoundation@gmail.com  
www.omegahopefoundation.com  
TIN: #811466417

Greetings,

The Omega Hope Foundation is a Florida non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax exempt corporation, established in 2016. The three pillars of which we stand upon are Scholarships, Mentoring and Community Service.

We want to congratulate the brothers of the Iota Mu Nu Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., as you celebrate your 2022 Achievement Week slate of accomplishments, events, and activities. The partnership forged between the Iota Mu Nu Chapter and the Omega Hope Foundation continues to be invaluable as we approach the charitable and educational needs for our Northeast Florida Communities.

We are continually inspired by the dedication and consideration of our Partners and Donors who answer the call to serve. Their valued tax-deductible partnerships will continue to assist in providing important cornerstones in charting paths for our aspiring youth as they embark on their future endeavors.

Thank you to all of you that contributed to this 2022 Achievement Week Souvenir Booklet. Your contributions will be instrumental in supporting The Omega Hope Foundation Scholarship Fund. For additional information about Omega Hope, please visit us at [www.omegahopefoundation.com](http://www.omegahopefoundation.com).

Regards,

Derrick Hamilton, President



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc ~ Iota Mu Nu Chapter  
112 Bartram Oaks Walk ~ Suite 104, #601037 ~ Saint Johns, FL 32260  
quadcountyques@gmail.com ~ www.quadcountyques.com



### **National Achievement Week Program**

The National Achievement Week is a mandated program of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., that was originally designed to promote the study of African American life and history. Its beginnings date back to the 1920 Grand Conclave in Nashville. It was at this Conclave that Bro. Carter G. Woodson inspired the overall idea. In 1927, at his urging, the Fraternity made National Negro Achievement Week an annual observance. In 1976, this commemoration evolved into Black History Month. Presently, the Achievement Week Program is used to recognize those individuals at the local and national levels who have made significant contributions toward improving the quality of life for African Americans.

### **Objectives of the Observance**

- To focus attention on outstanding achievement, not only by giving appropriate recognition to those who have achieved, but also by stimulating others to gain even higher eminence.
- To implement our democratic way of life by emphasizing that all people must be judged by their accomplishments and their service to mankind, regardless of nationality, religion, or race.
- To raise the prestige of Omega by providing a worthwhile project to which our chapter may direct its energies; this united effort should stimulate and enrich the communities where Omega Psi Phi Chapters are located.

Additionally, the following awards, Omega Man of the Year, Superior Service, Founders' Lifetime Achievement, Brigadier General Charles Young Military Leadership, Citizen of the Year and IMN Chapter International Essay Contest awards are also given during the Achievement Week Observance.

Fraternally,

Bro. Kitt Tolliver

2023 Achievement Week Chair



**IOTA MU NU CHAPTER**  
**ACHIEVEMENT WEEK EVENT SCHEDULE**  
**NOVEMBER 11th - 18th, 2023**

**SATURDAY (11/11)**

Achievement Week Banquet  
The Palencia Club  
600 Palencia Club Dr  
St. Augustine, FL 32095  
6:00PM - 10:00PM

**SUNDAY (11/12)**

Church Service  
Mt. Moriah Baptist Church  
416 Daniels St  
Hastings, FL 32145  
Service starts at 11:00AM

**MONDAY (11/13)**

Monday Night Football  
Island Wing Company  
360 Bartram Market Dr  
Jax, FL 32259  
7:30PM - Until

**TUESDAY (11/14)**

Bruh Social  
Dapper D's Cigars  
150 Fountains Way Ste 1  
St. John's, FL 32259  
7:30PM - 10:30PM

**WEDNESDAY (11/15)**

Health Initiative  
Blood Drive  
Location: TBD  
Time: TBD

**THURSDAY (11/16)**

Top Golf Fellowship  
10531 Brightman Blvd  
Jax, FL 32246  
6:00PM - 8:00PM

**FRIDAY (11/17)**

Founders Day  
Rededication Ceremony  
4972 Lindion Ct  
Jax, FL 32257  
7:30PM - 10:00PM

**SATURDAY (11/18)**

McKenzie's Run 5K  
The Players Stadium Course 9am  
Start time 8:30AM

**Chapter Meeting**

Location & Time TBD



# The Origin of Achievement Week



Dr. Carter G. Woodson

The genesis behind what is now Achievement Week is found at a significant event that occurred in Omega's history at the 9th Grand Conclave held at Meharry Medical College in Nashville from December 27-29, 1920. It was at this Conclave that Dr. Carter G. Woodson gave a stirring speech during the opening session on Monday evening, December 27, 1920, on "Democracy and the Man far Down." According to a fraternal publication, in his speech, Dr. Woodson:

*"mentioned the Negro's neglect of his history, in fact, his ignorance of it, and urged the college man to give less attention to social affairs and devote more of his time to the study and dissemination of the facts of Negro life and history. Such knowledge, he maintained, would produce an increase in the number of competent Negro leaders and would inspire race pride in the masses as a whole."*

At the time of the speech, Dr. Woodson just took over as Dean of West Virginia Collegiate Institute (now West Virginia State University) in the Fall of 1920 after spending the previous two years as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Howard University. Five years earlier, he co-founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) and, in 1916, *The Journal of Negro History*. As a result of his achievement, on February 10, 1917, Dr. Woodson became an elected (honorary) member of the Fraternity through Alpha Chapter.

So moved were the Brothers of the 9th Conclave that a decision was made by the body to designate a week for a public campaign on the study of Negro Literature and History. This was entitled the Campaign for the Study of Negro Literature and History. The responsibility of executing this national campaign was given to William Stuart Nelson who was elected to the newly created national position of Director of Publicity for the Fraternity at the Nashville Conclave (Nelson was also responsible for the publishing of *The Oracle*). The campaign was held from April 24-30, 1921. Mass public meetings were held by Chapters featuring prominent speakers and pamphlets were printed and distributed to attendees, students and the community discussing the accomplishments and history of African Americans. Folders were sent to the Black press containing facts on Negro history. Reporting from Atlanta, Grand Basileus Harold H. Thomas noted:

*"The campaign has been a howling success all over the country, and more than a success in Atlanta. Eta's big mass meeting was attended by over two thousand people, and Omicron held their open meeting in a large church Friday night. Omega men during the week have spoken in every institution of learning in the city including colleges, grammar schools, and private schools."*

The campaign was renewed for 1922 and was observed from April 2-8, 1922 where colleges and universities were encouraged to participate in addition to Chapters. As the position of Director of Publicity was eliminated at the 10th Grand Conclave in Atlanta, responsibility for the sophomore year of the campaign was assigned to the Editor-to-the-Oracle, a position that was officially established at the same Conclave. This was spearheaded by William Gilbert. The campaign continued for 1923 and 1924 though with reduced attention due to the significant growth that occurred in the Fraternity from 1922-24 (the Fraternity almost doubled in size during this period).

It was in 1924 at the 13th Grand Conclave at Howard University, Washington, D.C., that the campaign was suspended. Two factors contributed to that decision. The expansion of the Fraternity highlighted the absence of internal policies to handle this unprecedented growth. Additionally, according to Walter Herbert Mazyck, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, in the February 1925 issue of the *Omega Bulletin*:





*"Nearly all of the Fraternities and Sororities of our group have now adopted a "week." We have "Guide Right Week" (Kappa Alpha Psi, 1922), "Bigger, Better Business Week" (Phi Beta Sigma, 1924), "Go to High School, Go to College Week" (Alpha Phi Alpha, 1919), and a "May Week" (Deltas Sigma Theta, 1920). Omega is out of the "Week" business for the present, thanks to the constructive policy of the 13th Conclave."*

It was determined at the 13th Conclave that the development of internal policies and procedures with the aim of a stronger organization should be the focus for 1925. So no campaign occurred in 1925.

It was during this lapse that Dr. Woodson decided to own his recommendation and construct an observation based on his vision. Through ASNLH, Negro History Week was launched during the second week of February 1926 (the second week was chosen since that encompass both Abraham Lincoln's and Frederick Douglass' birthdays). This was the precursor to what is now Black History Month.

Before the launch of Dr. Woodson's Negro History Week, at the 14th Grand Conclave (1925) in Tuskegee, AL, it was determined to revive the initiative under a new name: the Negro Achievement Week. John Prescott Murchison (Alpha Chapter, 1917), who was elected the 4th Editor-to-the-Oracle at the 13th Grand Conclave in 1924, added to his duties the responsibility of the Director of Negro Achievement Week. His charge from the Conclave was to construct a unique program that differed from the previous campaign and what Dr. Woodson is doing. The national and local celebration was to be held in the first or second week of November with the focus on the achievements of African-Americans not only in the past but currently across a wide diaspora of fields. The end goal was to "inject racial pride and to stimulate, enrich, and direct the innate powers of Negro youth."



**John Prescott Murchison**

At the time of his selection to the post, Murchison was Professor of Economics, History, and Political Science at Clark University (now Clark Atlanta University) in Atlanta. Before his post at Clark University, Murchison received his undergraduate degree from Howard University in 1920 and his Masters from Columbia University in 1922 where, while in NY, he served as the second Basileus of Epsilon Chapter in 1920. Murchison also served as Professor at Biddle University (now Johnson C. Smith University) in Charlotte, NC in 1922 before coming to Atlanta in 1923.

The first Negro Achievement Week was held from November 15-20, 1926. Murchison developed a day-by-day construct to help guide the implementation by Chapters and tools that they could use to supplement their week of activities. Targeting African American youth, Chapters were encouraged to canvass the local schools daily to present a different phase of the Negroes' achievement by distributing literature, donating books and pictures to libraries, engaging the Black church, and

Murchison tapped two Brothers to aid in the construction of the first Negro Achievement Week project. Henry Hudson Phillips (Rho Chapter, 1922) constructed, publicized, and implemented the National Examination in Negro Life and History. Murchison knew Phillips from his days as a Professor at Biddle University where he mentored Rho Chapter shortly after its founding. Phillips, who graduated from Biddle in 1923, was teaching at the State Normal School in Cheyney, PA (now Cheyney State University). Murchison was also active in mentoring Beta Psi Chapter which was established at Clark University during Murchison's first semester at the school in 1923 (so involved was Bro. Murchison that he was included in the Chapter picture for the 1926 Yearbook). Through that association, he selected James Ambrose Miller (Beta Psi Chapter, approx. 1925) to assist on the inaugural Achievement Week project. Miller was on the staff of the Yearbook and University magazine at Clark University. He was



charged with constructing a booklet on the achievement of African Americans for distribution to African American youth through the Chapters. Entitled "The Achievement Project," Herman Dreer, author of *The History of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity*, described the booklet as "an



attractive 28-page booklet, 7 1/2" x 5 1/4", covered in purple and gold." Sections of the booklet include achievements in Economics, Science, Education, the Arts, Politics, Inventors, and a 5-page section on the history of Omega Psi Phi including the purpose of the Achievement Week project. According to the 1926 Grand Conclave Report, over 5,000 booklets were printed with 3,000 distributed to the public through Chapters.

With the team in place, Bro. Murchison outline the template of activities for the Week in the October 1926 Omega Bulletin:

Monday, November 15, 1926:	Achievement of African Americans in Education
Tuesday, November 16, 1926:	Achievement of African Americans in Literature and Art
Wednesday, November 17, 1926:	Achievement of African Americans in Business (morning) Celebration of Omega's 15th anniversary (evening)
Thursday, November 18, 1926:	Achievements of African Americans in Science and Medicine
Friday, November 19, 1926:	Achievements of African Americans in Law and Government
Saturday, November 20, 1926:	National Examination in Negro Life and History (morning) Public meeting featuring prominent speaker (evening)

The results from this relaunch were outstanding. Murchison reported in the December 1926 Oracle that:

*"In precis vernacular, we are shouting from the temple top that the Negro Achievement Project was a screaming success, despite the fact that there were several Chapters so located that it was impossible for them to participate. From everywhere and from non-Omega men, too, comes the report that the project has done much, even in our beginning, to inspire Negro youth to greater achievement and to create a feeling of self-respect in the Negro."*

The capstone of the Week was the inaugural National Examination in Negro Life and History which was administered on Saturday, November 20, 1926. The 10-question exam was extremely challenging. For example, one of the questions asked was "Comment fully on any five of the following: Gag Rule, Missouri Compromise, Fourteenth Amendment, Northwest Ordinance, Scott vs. Sandford (the Dred Scott case), the Curtis Case, Nat Turner's Insurrection, Somerset Case." Examiners of the exam were Phillips, Dr. Robert Thomas Kerlin, noted lecturer and author of *The Voice of the Negro* and, famed intellectual Dr. Alain Leroy Locke, Rhodes Scholar, Howard University Professor and originator of the New Negro movement of the 1920s. Three students from the University of Cincinnati swept the top three prizes with scores ranging from 90 to 94. The University of Cincinnati offered a course on Negro Life and History, which was rare for any academic institution, black or white. The three top prize winners all were students in this course. The first place prize was \$20 with second and third place receiving \$10 each.

This re-established effort and success laid the foundation for what Achievement Week is today. Now over 700 Chapters celebrate the achievements of local leaders in their community annually during November each year as a means of encouraging African American pride and success.



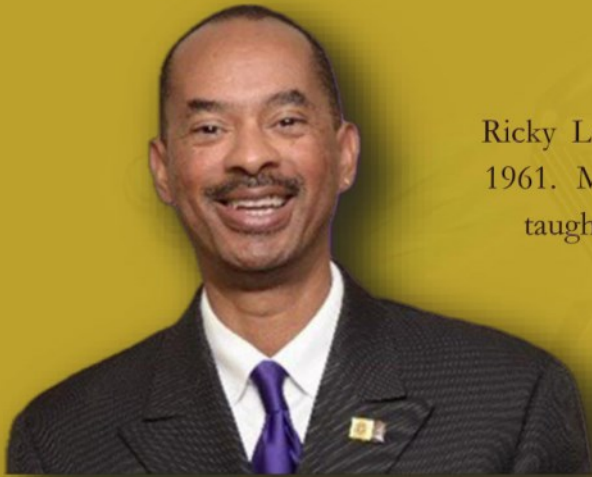


CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BROTHERS OF IOTA MU NU  
ON YOUR 9TH ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT WEEK ANNIVERSARY!

BRO. KITT & JANICE TOLLIVER



**Keynote Address:**  
**Brother Ricky L. Lewis, 42<sup>nd</sup> Grand Basileus**  
**Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**

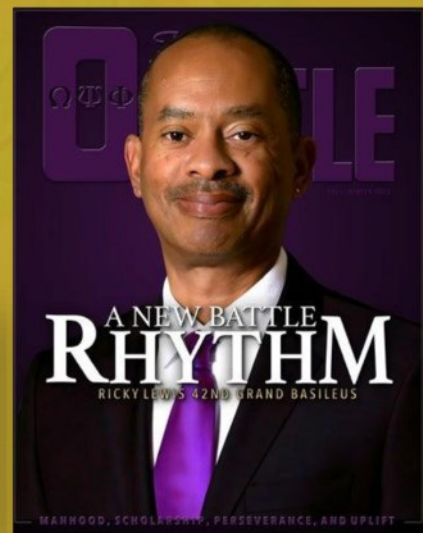


Ricky Lawrence Lewis was born in Pensacola, Florida in 1961. Moved to Los Angeles at 13 years old, where he was taught in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). A graduate of John Muir Jr. High School, Fremont High School and the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. Where he was initiated into Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. by way of Nu Mu Chapter in 1981.

Served on the Board of Directors at the Weingart Aquatic Center YMCA in South Los Angeles and served 4 consecutive years as the Chairman of the Board. He is the Executive Director of the Omega Youth Leadership Conference and Mentorship Program in Los Angeles, where he has impacted the lives of over 8,800 young men over the last 28 years. He is the 24<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> District Representative of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

He is the 11<sup>th</sup> Chairman of the Board of the Omega Life Membership Foundation, and the 35<sup>th</sup> First Vice Grand Basileus and was elected as the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grand Basileus in July 2022 in Charlotte, NC at our 83<sup>rd</sup> Grand Conclave.

He has been employed in the Aerospace industry for the past 39 years. He currently resides in Los Angeles with his wife Vicky Lewis and two sons Brother Adisa Omari Lewis, who is a Major in the US Army, and a master's degree graduate of Fresno State University and Wyatt Lawrence Lewis a 12<sup>th</sup> Grader at King Drew Medical Magnet High School, who will be attending UCLA in the Fall of 2023.







*E. Love*



*Oscar James Cooper*



*Paul Coleman*



*E. E. York*

INTERNATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST WINNER



**MR. JULIAN A. PORTER**

**BARTRAM HIGH SCHOOL, SAINT JOHNS FL**

**JULIAN WILL RECEIVE A \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD  
HE WILL ATTEND WEST POINT U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY NEXT FALL  
WHERE HE WILL BE STUDYING TO BECOME AN ANESTHESIOLOGIST.**



Essay Title:

**With Politics gaining the bulk of discussion, what can the younger generation do to ensure that elected leaders understand the impact of gaining their vote?**

I clearly remember approaching my house, almost three years ago, while my neighbors were playing a game of tag. One of the children tagged another and said, "You're it!" The other player responded with, "No, I'm not it," and the response that followed surprised me. A little girl, who was about 7 years old stated, "You are it because you voted for Biden!" The rest of the children started chanting in a teasing manner, "You voted for Biden!" The young boy had no idea to whom or what they were referring but in defense yelled, "No, I didn't!" clearly feeling like he had done something wrong. In an instant, I realized, parents are engraining in their children's heads their ideal America. Children know the candidate and party preference of their parents. It is apparent, parents are having serious conversations about politics with and around their children. How else can we explain a 7-year-old emphatically justifying her rationale for someone being "it"? With politics being the bulk of discussion, at all ages, young people need to ensure that elected leaders understand the impact of gaining our votes. Elected leaders need to understand we are not sitting by idle.

While adults may think we are idle because we are constantly on our phones, our phones are the gateway to communication. My generation is technologically savvy and creative when it comes to expression. We know how to spread information across the world quickly and in a way that garners attention. This information alone should heighten any political leader's awareness. The time has passed when going door to door resulted in increased support for a political candidate. Today, whether we are in support of or against a candidate, we can quickly influence others. Furthermore, my generation refuses to be silenced or placed in a box. We seek and voice what we want. I feel confident to say, we see America differently than our parents or older generations. We really want to love everyone, regardless of skin color, religion, or other differences. We expect equality and fairness; the best man to win. We also know in an ideal world hard work is what separates one man from the next. We know the American Dream is possible and no longer exclusive.

Any political leader that desires to receive my vote needs to know, I will not tolerate ignorant behaviors that attempt to separate us as a nation. While I will not be eligible to vote until May 2024, I filled out the voter registration paperwork last month. It caused me to feel a sense of responsibility for my country. Voting is a privilege and therefore, anyone receiving my vote should feel privileged that I believe in his/her ability to lead and unite the people. With my vote comes expectations and responsibility to all people. Drafting this essay is my first step in sharing the impact of my vote with political leaders. Additional ways my generation can get involved with the political process includes joining forces with organizations who have proven influence, participating in voter registration, watching political debates, and joining student government and other student alliances which provide a platform to educate on the importance of exercising our right to vote. Furthermore, my generation needs to show current and future elected officials, we will participate in the voting process beyond major elections like Presidential or Gubernatorial races. Our local communities have elections that have an immediate impact on us but most fail to go to the polls. We assume elections for Mayors, Sheriffs, School Board Members, and President of the Homeowners Association have no effect on us, but they do. All these people have agendas. Voting them into office allows them to pursue their agendas and politicians receive support from people who think like them. It is up to us to vote for those who support our individual or collective ideologies.

We have all heard it before, Voting is power. Power to make change, power to give the voiceless a voice. Politicians' decisions impact my life and all those they serve. Before I give any political leaders the power to impact my life, I am certainly going to impact their lives by deciding if they have earned my vote.



## ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



MS. MELINA BOWLES



MR. KYUN SESSION  
PALATKA JR./SR.  
HIGH SCHOOL  
PUTNAM COUNTY  
\$2000 AWARD



MS. AL'LEAH FORD  
Q.I.ROBERTS JR./SR.  
HIGH SCHOOL  
PUTNAM COUNTY  
\$2000 AWARD

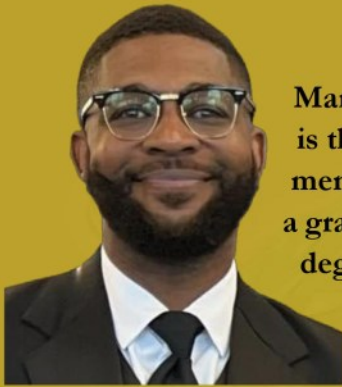


MS. MELINA BOWLES FROM RIVERSIDE HIGH SCHOOL, JACKSONVILLE  
WAS OUR 2023 TALENT HUNT WINNER. SHE RECEIVED A  
\$500 GRAND PRIZE AWARD



## 2023 Citizen of the Year Award

Mr. Mark V. James, Jr.



Mark Vernon James Jr. was born and raised in Saint Augustine, FL. He is the founder of “Nu Nation of Men, Inc., an organization designed to mentor young men. The organization was established in 2015. Mark is a graduate of St. Augustine High School and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Altierus Career College. Mark also volunteers his time with other community-based organizations; board member of the St. Johns County Black Democratic Caucus, where he serves as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, member of the North Florida Community Action Agency and recently elected member of the Prevention Coalition. Mark is an employee with the St. John’s County School Board as a behavior specialist and serves as the site director of the YMCA at James A. Webster Elementary. Mark also coaches the Lady Wolverines 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team and the 8U tackle football team.

Mark started the Nu Nation of Men mentor program with 8 young men in 2015, and since then, since then, the program has grown and diversified. Nu nation of Men currently serves approximately 50 participants of all ages, genders, and races. The motto of Nu Nation is, “It takes a village, and it starts with us.” The program was designed to advocate for students through education, social/life skills, recreation, health & nutrition, and etiquette.



The Nu Nation of Men recently establish two new programs to benefit kids in the community. “Impact Wednesday’s”, a safe haven to come and avoid the temptations of trouble, tutoring, arts and crafts, and various group activities every Wednesday from 3:30-6:30 at Remnant Ministries. “Saturday Night Live”, the last Saturday of each month, for kids to come to a local church and play games, participate in recreational activities, and hear a positive message prior to leaving. Mark is also a youth leader in his church and teaches vacation bible school each summer. Nu Nation of Men also runs an annual enrichment summer camp with a specific theme every summer. This includes guest speakers, field trips, life skills, and community service projects.



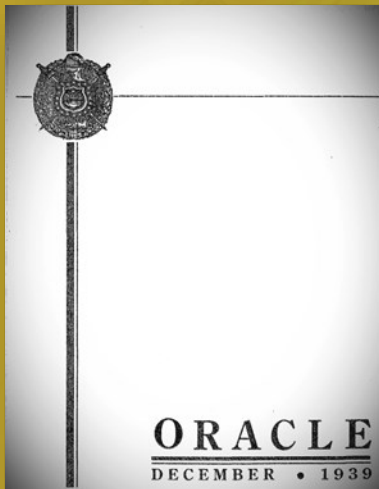
The Nu Nation of Men Mentor Program has been highly recognized for helping to influence the lives of young people in a positive way. All students who are participating in the program have seen a significant decrease in negative behavior and a promotion rate of 100% from one grade to the next. Mark has also appeared in local newspapers and the news as a featured story for his hard work, dedication and commitment to our youth and community.





# AN IMN TRADITION

**THE HISTORY:** AS A CHAPTER WE HAD A QUESTION. WHEN WAS THE FIRST OMEGA MAN OF THE YEAR AWARDED AND WHO RECEIVED IT? AFTER EVENTUALLY SPEAKING WITH THE IHQ ARCHIVIST WE WERE DIRECTED TO THE DECEMBER 1939 ORACLE.



ON PAGE 5, WE FOUND A REFERENCE TO "THE NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD". THIS AWARD WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND AND WAS AWARDED BY THE ACHIEVEMENT WEEK COMMITTEE TO BRO. WILLIAM H. HASTIE. TODAY THIS AWARD HAS EVOLVED TO BE RENAMED TO THE OMEGA MAN OF THE YEAR.

**THE AWARD:** THE NOMINEE SHOULD BE A BROTHER WHO HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHAPTER AND WHO HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS COMMUNITY. ADDITIONALLY, THE NOMINEE MUST BE FINANCIAL ON ALL

LEVELS DURING THE IMMEDIATE YEAR PRIOR TO THE AWARD AND THE YEAR OF THE AWARD. THE EXCEPTION WOULD BE IF HE WERE NOT A MEMBER OF THE FRATERNITY IN THE PRIOR YEAR. SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTION FROM LEADERSHIP POSITIONS ARE A SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT OF THE SELECTION AND SCORING CRITERIA FOR THE OMEGA MAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS.

**A (NEW) IMN TRADITION:** IN HONORING THE AWARD'S HISTORY AND NOTABLY THE EXAMPLE SET BY THE FIRST OMEGA MAN OF THE YEAR, WE WANTED TO HONOR OUR CHAPTER NOMINEE WITH SOMETHING TRULY SPECIAL. WE FELT OUR CHAPTER AWARD NEEDED TO REPRESENT THE HISTORY AND THE PRESTIGE ASSOCIATED WITH THE AWARD.

WE HOPE YOU FEEL THE SAME.

## **ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**T**HE ACHIEVEMENT WEEK committee, headed by Brother Campbell C. Johnson, has just announced that Brother William H. Hastie has been nominated for the National Achievement Award for 1939.

The nominee is well known to all of us, so it is not necessary to go into the merits of your choice. Judge William H. Hastie is a graduate of Amherst College, Phi Beta Kappa; Harvard University School of Law; formerly assistant solicitor, Interior Department; and until recently was judge of the District Court of the United States for the Virgin Islands, becoming the first Negro Federal Judge in the history of our country.

Judge Hastie resigned this post recently to accept the deanship of the School of Law, Howard University.

Because of his outstanding achievement in becoming the first Negro Federal Judge of our country and for serving in that capacity with conspicuous ability, the Achievement Committee has nominated him for our first national award.

The award will be presented to Dean Hastie in person at the Conclave, following which he will deliver the annual address to the fraternity. We congratulate Brother Hastie, and hope he will meet with the same success in his new work as he did on the Federal Bench.



# AN IMN TRADITION

(CONT.)



OUR NEWLY AWARDED  
“OMEGA MAN OF THE YEAR”  
WILL RECEIVE A “MADE TO  
MEASURE” GRAY BLAZER,  
GOLD BUTTONS, BEARING AN  
ESCUTCHEON WITH THE YEAR  
OF THEIR AWARD.

WHY GRAY? THE GRAY IS  
SYMBOLIC OF THE PEWTER  
MANY OF OUR SHIELDS ARE  
MADE.

IN OMEGA YOU WILL OFTEN  
SEE PURPLE BLAZERS AND  
SOMETIMES GOLD.

BUT FOR THESE MEN, WE  
WANTED THEIR AWARD TO  
STAND OUT EQUAL TO THAT  
OF THEIR WORK AND  
DEDICATION TO OMEGA.

WHY THIS PARTICULAR ESCUTCHEON?  
WE FELT THAT SINCE THE FIRST “OMEGA  
MAN OF THE YEAR” WAS AWARDED AT  
THE 1940 CONCLAVE, THE ONLY SHIELD  
APPROPRIATE TO THE HISTORY AND  
HONOR OF THE AWARD IS THE 1940  
ESCUTCHEON.

*Omega Man of the Year*



**Iota Mu Nu Chapter**  
- 2023 -

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AWARD RECIPIENTS



BRO. RONNIE FLORENTINO  
OMEGA MAN OF THE YEAR - 2023

Omega Man of the Year



Iota Mu Nu Chapter  
- 2023 -



BRO. MARVIN JENNINGS  
FOUNDERS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

BRO. KITT TOLLIVER  
SUPERIOR SERVICE AWARD

MR. MARK JAMES, JR.  
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

MR. JULIAN PORTER  
INTERNATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

THE BASILEUS AWARD: TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE BANQUET



FROM THE VETERANS OF THE  
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**2024**

**8th Annual**

## **CHARITY GOLF Tournament**

**4th Annual**

## **LIVE MUSIC\*** **Jazz | R&B | Neo Soul**

### **DAY 1 | GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Friday | May 3, 2024 | 1pm Start | \$125**

**4 – Man Scrambles | Par 3 Contest | Longest Drive | Best Dressed  
Closest to the Pin | Awards Banquet | Prizes | Registration 11:30am**

### **DAY 2 | LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCES**

**Saturday | May 4, 2024 | 6 - 10pm | \$75-\$125**

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# DISTINCTIVE EXPRESSIONS BY FLORENTINO



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Contratulations Iota Mu Nu on your  
2023 Achievement Week celebrations!!!

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Bro. Carl Jones  
IMN - F17



- CONGRATULATIONS IOTA MU NU -



"7 RESURRECTED SOULS | SPR17"

- #1 KARIM SHEPHERD
- #2 BRIAN HARGROVE
- #3 STEVEN BRIGGS
- #4 RONNIE FLORENTINO
- #5 KITT TOLLIVER
- #6 DONTÉ JACKSON
- #7 CURTIS DAWKINS



Iota Mu Nu Chapter of  
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc

*Congratulations On A  
Successful  
Achievement Week!*



*Palm Coast Flagler County Alumnae Chapter of  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc*



# Congratulations to the award recipients and to the Men of the Iota Mu Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. on your 9th Achievement Week Celebrations



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***Region 5***

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Chi ~ Omicron Zeta ~ Alpha Delta Mu***

---

REGION 5 REPRESENTATIVE

BRO ED DUNMORE, TS - F80



Congratulations to Iota Mu Nu Chapter on a Successful Achievement Week



*Psi Mu Nu Chapter*  
**of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.**

**2021-2022**

**FSO Youth Mentoring Graduate Chapter of the Year**  
**FSO Fatherhood Initiative Graduate Chapter of the Year**  
**FSO Retention Graduate Chapter of the Year**  
**FSO Social Action Runner-Up Graduate Chapter of the Year**  
**7TH District Youth Mentoring Graduate Chapter of the Year**

**2022-2023**

**FSO Youth Mentoring Graduate Chapter of the Year**  
**FSO Fatherhood Initiative Graduate Chapter of the Year**  
**FSO Social Action Graduate Chapter of the Year**  
**FSO Runner-Up Graduate Chapter of the Year**

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BROTHERS OF IOTA MU  
NU ON YOUR 9TH ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT WEEK

# 9 HOUNDZ FROM THE UNDERGROUND



1. CORY DANIELS - "QUE-CHALA"
2. SUANPAUL NOBLES - "EQUELIZER"
3. MARK MARSHALL - "PAPA SMURF"
4. ELYSHA CAMPBELL - "QIMBO"
5. QUENTIN BECKTON - "DEPUTY DOG"
6. CHRIS LEE - "PREACH"
7. ANTHONY BROWN - "EARTHQUAKE"
8. SAMMY GREEN - "BULL"
9. DEON SCREEN - "LANDMINE"



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE IOTA MU NU CHAPTER OF  
OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC. ON YOUR 2023  
ACHIEVEMENT WEEK CELEBRATION.

YOUR SUPPORT TO THE COMMUNITIES IN CLAY, ST. JOHN'S,  
FLAGLER AND PUTNAM COUNTIES IS VERY MUCH NEEDED  
AND APPRECIATED.

GOD BLESS YOU, IOTA MU NU, YOUR FAMILIES AND THE  
OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.



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BRO. STEVE AND TERRI COLES





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**David Sanders, DDS Notary**

**“Wishing Iota Mu Nu  
continued success!!!”**



**From LaCresha and  
Tiovanni Carter:**

**Congratulations to the  
Brothers of Iota Mu Nu  
and our father Bro. Kitt  
Tolliver on their 8th  
Annual Achievement  
Week Anniversary.**

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# BLESSINGS OF FAVOR & SUCCESS TO THE BROTHERS OF IMN ON YOUR 9TH ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENT WEEK



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**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Iota Mu Nu Chapter**

for hosting

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On Behalf of the brothers of the Iota Mu Nu Chapter, the 2023 Achievement Week Committee and eBoard, we would like to thank our friends, families and sponsors for their assistance in making this affair truly special.

Committee Members:

Bro. Kitt Tolliver - Chair

Bro. Cory Daniels

Bro. Ronnie Florentino

Bro. Tracey D. Porter

Bro. Mark Marshall

Bro. Sammy Green

Bro. Ed Dunmore

eBoard Members:

Bro. Tracey D. Porter - Basileus

Bro. Darrell Washington - Vice Basileus

Bro. Cory Daniels - Keeper of Records & Seal

Bro. Michael Cooper - Keeper of Finance

Bro. Christon Lee - Chaplain

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