

ALPHA BROTHER TURNS PERSONAL JOURNEY INTO LIFE-SAVING PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS EVENT

By: Brother Kyle Nixon

What began as one brother's personal battle with prostate cancer has grown into a community-wide effort to save lives. This past September, the Memphis community gathered for a powerful Men's Health Symposium – an event designed to educate, encourage, and provide free cancer screenings for men who might otherwise ignore critical signs.

The event was spearheaded by Brother Kenneth Carpenter, a prostate cancer survivor whose story of resilience has become a mission, and his wife, Dr. Terrell Carpenter. "It all started from the work we do at Carpenter Primary Healthcare," Carpenter shared. After his own diagnosis, his wife, Dr. Carpenter, would send him into medical rooms at their clinic to speak with men in denial about their health. "They'd have high PSA numbers and didn't want to follow up," he said. "I would tell them my story to encourage them. It became my purpose."

What started as one-on-one conversations has grown into a full-scale community effort. Carpenter, alongside Brother Anthony Sledge, president of the Memphis Metropolitan NPHC, worked tirelessly to make the event possible. They enlisted the help of sponsors, including Bro. Sylvester Fulton and Bro. Jonathan Watkins, and gained the support of local legislator GA Hardaway, who has championed prostate cancer awareness legislation in Tennessee.

The event wasn't just about testing. Carpenter and his team ensured attendees walked away with a broader understanding of men's health. "We had physicians speak on various topics," he said. "We wanted men to leave not only tested but also informed on how to be healthier in every aspect of their lives."



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The urgency of raising awareness cannot be overstated. “Prostate cancer often develops slowly and doesn’t show symptoms early,” Carpenter emphasized. “But early detection saves lives. Many men — especially those facing social and economic barriers — suffer in silence. We need to break that cycle.”

The impact was clear: 122 men attended the event, with 93 receiving free PSA tests — surpassing expectations. “The numbers shot up quicker than we thought,” Carpenter said with pride.

Looking ahead, the mission is far from over. Carpenter announced the upcoming launch of PEAC (Prostate Education Awareness Council), a non-profit dedicated to continuing this work. Plans are already in motion for another, even larger symposium on September 26, 2025, with the location to be determined.

In a poignant closing thought, Carpenter highlighted a void he hopes to help fill. “No fraternities have a national program related to this work. None of us are addressing it. Just as we work to preserve the lives of others, we must have a mechanism in place to preserve our own — and we don’t. PSA testing is a way of doing that.”

Brother Kenneth Carpenter is a Fall 2004 initiate of the Alpha Delta Lambda Chapter in Memphis.

