

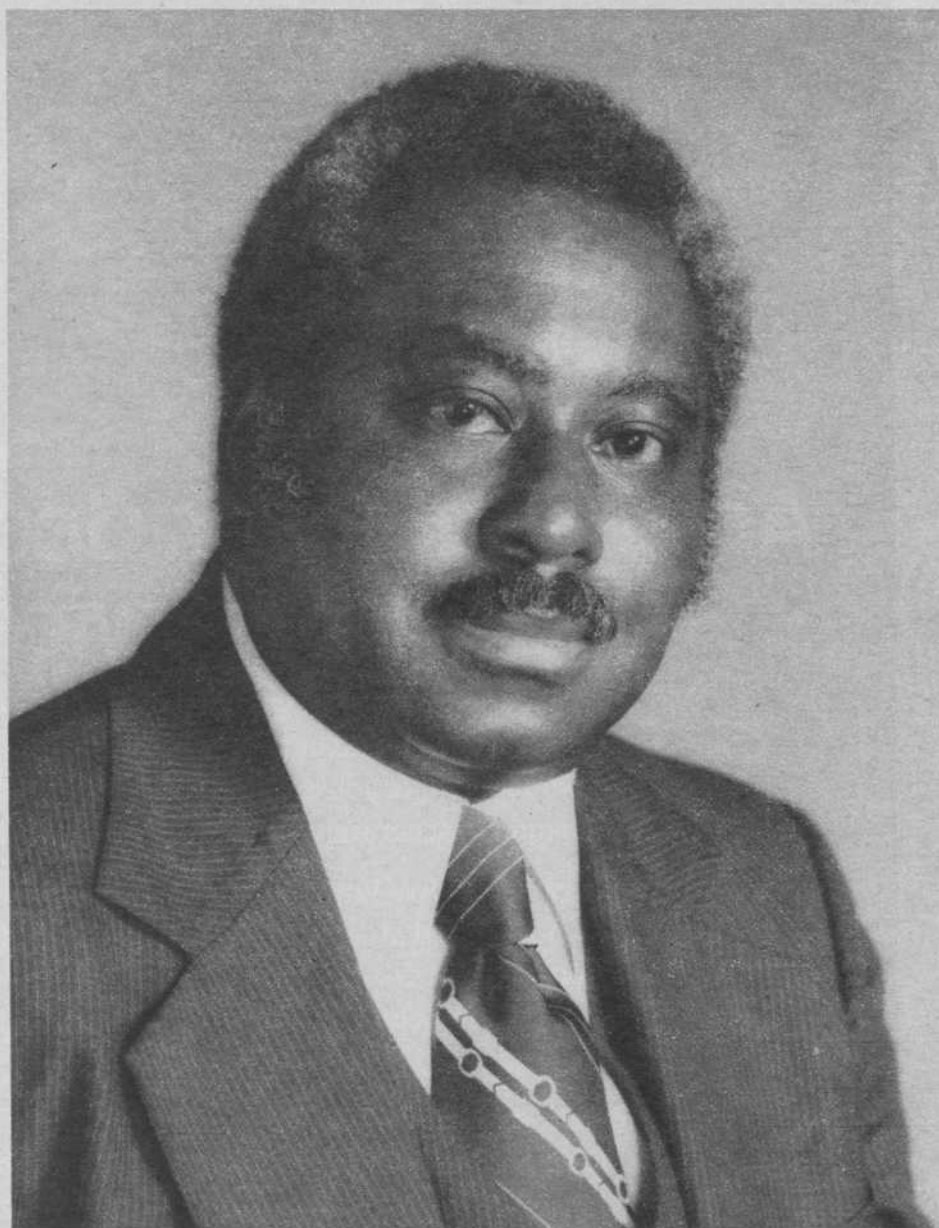
Phi Beta Sigmas – Taking Leadership To Reach Out And Reach Back

*March on, march on, ye mighty host,
Nor think the journey done;
Nor of future deeds to boast,
Till we've the victory won.
Then when we hear, from time to time:
"Phi Beta, what of the day?"
We'll thunder back along the line:
"Our cause speeds on its way."*

IN lyric beauty, these words from the closing verse of the "Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Hymn" tell the deeply-affecting saga of this remarkable Black organization. Like the other Black fraternities and sororities, Phi Beta Sigma has never been merely a social organization. According to its current national president, Attorney Demetrius Newton, "The socio-economic climate of America never has been and perhaps never will be such that Black Greek-letter organizations can afford the luxury of being what one Black author has called a 'sterile social elite'."

Black Greek-letter organizations have a long and illustrious tradition of contributing great minds and millions of hard-earned dollars to the enduring struggle of Black Americans for freedom, justice, equality and the pursuit of a good life for themselves and their children. These organizations, whose beginnings derived from "deep-seated and deeply-felt needs for systematic, intimate and formally articulated fellowship among young Black college students," constitute one of the "roots" of Black America.

Next to the Black Church, the various fraternal organizations have been the most influential associations which Blacks have invented. These organizations have utilized their often limited resources in most enterprising ways and have assumed a special kind of importance in the Black community. For 70 years Phi Beta Sigma has been an integral and pace-setting part of this historic fraternity movement of college-educated men.



Demetrius C. Newton, Esq.
National President

The Founders

"Now the Lord had said unto Abram...I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing."

[Gen. 12:2]

ANOTHER man named Abram was likewise called to establish a new people, a new family and a new nation. The dream which later became Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity did not originate on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. The dream began in

Memphis, Tennessee where Abraham Langston Taylor was born and lived. One summer day in 1910 he talked with a recent graduate of Howard University who told him about the activities of Greek-letter societies on the campus. This talk gave Taylor an idea and on that very day Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity was conceived.

That fall Taylor enrolled at Howard University as a special student and began to lay the groundwork for the establishment of the new fraternity. As he envisioned it, this organization was to be a part of the general community rather than apart from the community. In this fraternity a man would be judged on the actual contributions he made rather than on his family background or affluence.

Taylor dreamed of a society that would exclude no one regardless of race, color, skin tone or texture of hair. He wanted to form an organization which would think in terms of the inclusive "we" rather than the exclusive "we." He wanted an organization which would make his personal motto, "Service to humanity," its own. As far as Taylor could see, no such organization existed anywhere in the world. His was to be an innovation, an invention, a new creation.

As co-founders, Taylor chose Leonard Francis Morse of Bedford, Massachusetts and Charles Ignatius Brown of Topeka, Kansas.

THE founding triumverate carefully selected nine young men to be charter members—young men differing in appearance and backgrounds, diversely gifted and of varied temperaments. Phi Beta Sigma, the founders determined, was to have a broad-based representation and was to be a brotherhood that could relate to all persons. As Founder Morse said, "We felt that a fraternity composed of men who were all alike in

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