

Polemarch's Welcome



To my Beloved Brothers of The New York Alumni Chapter, as Polemarch of this chapter – I greet you in great gratitude and thank you for making our 80th Anniversary Year, and our celebrations thus far, wonderful occasions in which we have had the opportunity to fellowship with our Community Partners, Family Members, IHQ and NEP Officials as well as our fellow Divine Nine Organizations, as we celebrated 80 years of service in the name of Kappa Alpha Psi!

In order to truly understand the level of pride and joy that we as members of The New York Alumni should feel during this 80th year – I would like to share with you a few historical points from our past – that have driven us this far and should continue to empower us to be a tireless advocate for change in the Harlem and Greater Manhattan Community that we have served since our chapters chartering on February 20th, 1937.

The New York Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, is the second alumni chapter to be chartered in our Northeastern Province. More telling of our chapter's rich history and of the determination of the 41 resolute men that chartered New York Alumni, is that it was done during the years of "The Great Depression".

The economic conditions of this country, had a debilitating effect on the growth of both the Fraternity and the Northeastern Province. During those difficult times for both America and Kappa – New York Alumni has the distinct honor in that it was **THE ONLY CHAPTER CHARTERED IN THE NORTHEASTERN PROVINCE DURING THE 1930's**.

Since the beginnings of the Northeastern Province back in 1930, members of New York Alumni were called to serve at its helm as Northeastern Province Polemarchs. Through these men and their association with New York Alumni, Province Council Meetings were hosted in New York City for nearly the entire decade of the thirties. New York Alumni was known for their dynamic leadership, their keen business sense and social magnetism. Our chapter's Costume Carnival, which eventually became the Annual Fall Ball and now exists as the Kasino Royale, has always been exciting and was the main vehicle for the chapter to raise the funds to purchase our fraternity home – the beloved Kappa Kastle in 1959. The Kastle, which is fully owned by us serves as one of Kappa Alpha Psi's "FRATERNAL EPICENTERS", where Brothers from all across the world have come to fellowship. Our membership rolls boast of such large and prominent figures that throughout our 80 years, have shaped the realities of not only The Northeastern Province, Kappa Alpha Psi or Harlem, but the world itself.

As we stand on the shoulders of Past Northeastern Province Polemarchs that were members of New York Alumni, such as Brothers I. Theodore Donaldson, Randolph G. Scott, Ernest L. Dimitry, Livingston Wingate, Albert G. Oliver and Melvin Taylor – we must continue to study their lessons and best practices of leadership and incorporate them into our leadership training models for our chapter.

We stand on the shoulders of our Chapter Polemarchs such as I. Theodore Donaldson, B. Adolphe Barber and Oliver W. Parson, who exemplified strong chapter leadership and were Kappa Ambassadors that developed and maintained strong ties of Fraternal and Brotherly Love between New York Alumni and our fellow chapters within the Province.

We as a chapter must honor the legacies of Brothers Percy Sutton, Donald Byrd, Dr. Billy Taylor, Jonathan P. Hicks, Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, who have through their social and civic contributions changed the landscape of Harlem artistically, socially, spiritually and through the economic empowerment of the members of our Harlem Community. We refer to them as our shining examples of forward thinking social and civic action to better the community that we serve.

Now, after all the celebrations are done and we have celebrated the occasion of our 80th Anniversary, our past must serve as prologue, as we continue to move the social action and community service agenda of Kappa and our beloved New York Alumni Chapter forward. Through our Social Action Committee – we will continue to provide programming that will more than merely engage our community but empower it as we administer our Sunday of Hope Programs, Holiday Meal Service Programs, our Homeowner Awareness Seminars and our Political Awareness Initiatives which will prove most critical during these difficult and trying times for our country.

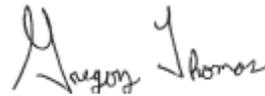
We must continue to press forward as a totally engaged chapter with our Guide Right Programs. Through Kappa League, we will train and prepare our young males to strive for excellence and better lives for themselves through attaining higher education. We must not only maintain our relationships with our fellow D9 organizations and Charter School Partnerships

and work with our EMBODI and Harlem Link Step Teams and Leadership Academy – we must strive harder to improve all areas of our focus.

We must continue our partnership with our New York Alumni Scholarship Foundation. With it serving as our philanthropic arm, we will continue to work together to provide scholarship funding for our Student of the Year, College Signing Day and Reginald F. Lewis Scholarship Luncheon.

In closing, I want to thank you all for your service thus far and I ask each of you to step forward and prepare yourselves to assume the mantles of leadership within this chapter and strive with us to keep The New York Alumni Chapter strong and relevant into our next 80 years!!!

Yours in the Bond,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brother Gregory Thomas - Polemarch
The New York Alumni Chapter
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated