
Spotlight on Que: Brother Wilburn T. Boykin, Jr. (Chip)

By Jeffrey T. Smith

Brother Boykin is a gifted, compassionate, formidable, congenial, and God fearing Omega man living his creed and displaying gentleman qualities throughout his various endeavors in life. Boykin's confidence and competence will grab your attention yet his calm and magnetic personality will inspire you to remain in his company. The aforementioned attributes are contributing factors to his earnest efforts and activism in the community, education, professional, and political fields. Boykin's entrepreneur spirit and other talents are driven by a growth, thriving mindset that he uses when working with others.

I first met Chip nearly 20 years ago while returning from a business trip in New York City; we exchanged fraternal, friendly greetings in the Newark Airport. Boykin knew some of the same people I did at TIAA-CREF and in the fraternity, and he struck me quickly as man of action through the words he used. Over the years, Boykin and I have been a part of events and activities whether business, civic, or entertainment. I have gleaned from him, directly or indirectly, ideas, tips, and projects to support my professional and fraternal pursuits. Boykin doesn't hesitate to say something when something needs to be said and his candid conversation is both enlightening and renewing. This Que's story is consistent with other men presented as part of this feature, he embodies the fraternity's motto of Friendship is essential to the soul and his life is shaped by the four cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift.

Manhood: Brother Boykin was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA as an only child. Although he grew up in the 3 rivers city, Boykin roots are in La Grange, GA and Madison, VA. He graduated from the famed Peabody High School in 1973, a school known for an exceptional teaching staff holding the most Ph.D.'s in the system. Boykin, a talented high school and college athlete, participated in both track and field and football. While in high school, he was a teammate of Middle Guard Dave Logan of the University of Pittsburgh and the Tampa Bay Bucs in football; and later in college, he played against Billy "White Shoes" Johnson. Boykin remarked "White Shoes" was so fast that on the back of his helmet read 'Follow Me.' He faced "White Shoes" on the track watching him run a 9.4 in the 100 yard dash; Boykin also ran the 440 relay, 880 relay and 440 run. In football, Brother Boykin played defensive back, running back and wide receiver which accounts for his competitive and persistent style in all things.

Brother Boykin and his wife, Wendi have been married for 26+ years and they have one son, Miles, 21 years old. Boykin moved to Denver in 1999 after living in Philadelphia, PA, Trenton, NJ, Woodbridge, NJ, Teaneck, NJ and Raleigh, NC.

Brother Boykin was initiated on June 4, 1983 through the Iota Phi Chapter, Pittsburgh, PA. Boykin was the 'Deuce' on a line of three known as 'Earth, Wind and Fire.' One of his line brothers, Tom Love, was the older brother Boykin never had and he still carries strong feelings for the brother who transitioned to Omega Chapter. Brother Boykin was assistant dean of pledges and has served as a committee chair for golf, public relations, and marketing. In Chi Phi Chapter, Boykin utilized his marketing skills to help deliver a highly successful Holmes Omega Scholarship Foundation golf tournament in 2016. He assisted with the writing of a persuasive corporate sponsor letter, aided in the development of an intuitive website for donations and golfers, renamed the lunch segment to the Dr. Seymour Loftman Luncheon, and a featured article about the golf event in the Colorado Avid Golfer magazine. Finally, Brother Boykin is also responsible for incorporating a best practice from his time with the 100 Black Men of Denver; he assisted with creating the chapter's 'Committee Charter and Report Template' to provide a consistent, detailed format for ease of use and presentation.

Scholarship: Brother Boykin attained degrees from Swarthmore College (bachelors in Biology-1977), Carnegie Mellon University - Heinz School (master's in Public Administration-1985), and took courses at the University of Pennsylvania - Wharton School of Business.

Perseverance: Brother Boykin has an extensive corporate, professional, and military portfolio of assignments which enabled him to be an effective and productive contributor in the non-profit and education space. He provided a glimpse of his career which is outlined below:

- Z5 Inventory, INC.- Client Solutions Representative
- The CB Group, LLC - Managing Member and Lead Consultant
- Metropolitan State University of Denver - Affiliate Faculty in Marketing
- Allergan INC - Senior Medical Sales Consultant Botox®
- United States Navy Reserve – Lieutenant Commander, Medical Service Corps/Fleet Hospital (1986-2006)
- Bristol-Myers Squibb – Senior International Marketing Research Analyst
- Glaxo Smith Kline - Marketing Research Analyst – Infectious Disease/Hypertension

His military service started with U.S. Navy officer training class as a reservist. Boykin supported Marines as a Hospital Administrator/ Division Director at Camp Lejeune, NC and Camp Pendleton, CA. His military assignments and adventures included: Bethesda Naval Hospital, MD, Fort Sam Houston, TX, San Diego Medical Hospital, Alameda Naval Air Station, CA, BUMED, Washington DC, and a visit to Korea as part of an Admiral's staff.



Spotlight on Que: Brother Wilburn T. Boykin, Jr. (Chip) - Continued

By Jeffrey T. Smith

His good works, professionally, militarily and personally, have resulted in awards and achievements. His accomplishments are: Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal; 1st African-American to make President's Club at Allergan INC; Captain, Track team and football letterman, Swarthmore College; Alumni Council- Swarthmore College; Excellence and Mentorship Award- Cherry Creek School District (C.S.S.D) Partnership for Academically Successful Students (P.A.S.S.) Committee Chair, CCSD P.A.S.S. Steering Committee member; Bronze Medalist 880 relay, Pittsburgh High School Track championships; and Expert Marksman pistol- U.S. Navy.

Uplift: Brother Boykin is a member of the Park Hill United Methodist Church. He is dedicated and full of life when involved in photography, golf, cycling, reading, and as a lecturer on the Tuskegee Airmen and Botox®. Boykin regularly gives voice to the opportunities and challenges in our school systems and he advocates for greater participation in schools to ensure fairness and frankness when it comes to our children and students. Brother Boykin has devoted countless hours, days, weeks, months, and years to helping others with teaching, mentoring, leadership, service, direction, life skills, and a positive example to see and follow.

To finish, Brother Boykin shared his hopes for Chi Phi Chapter which is to become more technologically savvy and to fulfill its cardinal principle of Uplift through offering services and help from brother to another. Boykin's aspiration for the international fraternity and local chapters is to become more instrumental in creating buying groups (or working together financially for leverage) with Divine 9 Greeks and other organizations.

Brother Boykin exhibits the tenets of Omega throughout his life providing a forum for others to discover and discern all that he has to offer. I listed some of Boykin's undertakings earlier in this article yet I would be remiss if I didn't mention the 'fun' side of this good brother. He truly enjoys gatherings with family and friends; his family have sponsored an annual brunch since 2002. Boykin will show up to brotherhood events talking 'substance' on almost anything sports related and/or on fraternity happenings; I, for one, am glad of his presence, purpose, and participation in Omega. I pray for Brother Boykin and his family's safety, wellness, and God's good providence!