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## Spotlight on Que: Brother Reverend Edward G. Venerable Jr.

By Jeffrey T. Smith

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Brother Venerable is a husband, father, brother, son, friend, and a man of the cloth. He has a captivating demeanor which matches his qualities of approachable, genuine, humility, calmness, and compassion; yet, he is bold, self-aware, and courageous too. Brother Venerable's talk provides lessons on life both biblical and secular; his walk is Christ-like while helping others to remain faithful or to find salvation. He is consistent in the application of the fraternity's motto of Friendship is essential to the soul and regularly demonstrates the four cardinal principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift for others to follow.

Brother Venerable and I met 25 years ago and we have been great friends over the years. We would get together during the Thanksgiving holiday weekend each time he visited Denver. In 2018, Brother Venerable called to inform me of his arrival in town, however, he detected from my voice that something was wrong. I shared with him that my wife was in ICU at the Medical Center of Aurora;

Brother Venerable said he would be at the hospital as soon as possible. He was shoulder-to-shoulder with me for a number of hours over a few days until his return to Kansas City. Brother Venerable's prayers and brotherly support were a godsend for my family and me during the early part of a long hospital stay for my wife. He provided me with a much needed presence, prayer, and encouragement. Brother Venerable strengthened a bond between us that was already strong. This is just one story of a Brother's brother and a venerable Omega Man!

Brother Venerable was born and raised in St. Louis, MO. He is the second youngest of six with three sisters and two brothers; both of his brothers are deceased. Brother Venerable lived within a couple of miles of the Homer G. Phillips Hospital; this hospital was named after an Omega Man, who was a civil rights attorney and philanthropist who worked untirely to advance the cause of the Negro. Brother Venerable attended Lutheran North High School where he played sports and played in the band. He was a four year letterman in baseball (pitcher, 1st baseman & outfielder) and band (percussion/drummer); three year letterman in football (linebacker, center & guard) and two year letterman in basketball (point & shooting guard). He was an Eagle Scout too. Brother Venerable's best friend in high school was his college roommate and the best man at his wedding.

Brother Venerable and his family moved back to Denver in July 2020 after living in Kansas City, MO and Toronto, Canada. He has been married for over 24 years to his wife, Shannon; she was initiated into Alpha Zeta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc. Venerable has five children: Aubree, age 27 (working on her second Masters' degree in Counseling and she is an AKA-Upsilon Rho Omega Chapter Spring '21); Richard, age 23 (a Bio-Medical Science student at Northwest Missouri University is an Omega man, Iota Theta Chapter Spring '19); Aijah, age 21 (a Bio-Medical Science/Pre-Med student at Western Illinois University is an AKA-Zeta Iota Chapter Fall '19); she competes in the 100, 200 & 4x400m relay as a scholarship athlete), Akirah, age 18 (a Pre-Med student at Northern Michigan University and she competes in the 400 hurdles and 4x400m relay as a scholarship athlete); and, Ariyah, age 13 (an 8th grader who enjoys dancing and cooking).

Reverend Venerable accepted his calling to become a minister in September 2000 and he received minister's license in April 2001. Reverend Venerable was ordained an Elder in the Church of God in Christ in June 2003. He is a very active member of Odom Memorial Church of God in Christ working in various capacities such as, Sunday School and Bible Study teacher. Reverend Venerable is an Episcopal Adjutant and member of the Jurisdiction of Colorado Adjutancy Corporation. He is a member of the Jurisdictional Prelate's Executive Team. Reverend Venerable is the Appointed Jurisdictional Operating Officer, responsible for overseeing various areas and ministries of the Colorado Jurisdiction such as, Jurisdictional Headquarters Operations, organizing and planning of Annual Convocation, Bishop's Leadership Conference and Worker's Meetings. Reverend Venerable was the Man of the Year at Mount Carmel Church of God in Christ, Kansas City, Kansas.



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Professionally, Brother Venerable is a skilled JD Edwards Business Analyst and Developer with over 25 years of combined World, One World and EnterpriseOne experiences. He has focused on the JD Edwards Finance module and Interoperability process with a business analyst level understanding of a wide range of processes and JD Edwards toolset. Currently, Brother Venerable is a Senior Systems Analyst at Martin Marietta in Lakewood, CO. His employer is a leading supplier of building materials, producing the highest quality products, including aggregates, cement, Ready Mixed Concrete, Asphalt and magnesia specialties with 400+ locations. Brother Venerable has the responsibility for providing project management, business analysis expertise, technical support, and serves as a liaison between Martin Marietta's Corporate IT Department and the West Division. Previously, Brother Venerable has worked for JD Edwards (Program Analyst) and he was the owner and consultant for Venerable Software Consulting Inc., managing his business in Toronto, Ontario Canada.

Scholastically, Brother Venerable graduated in 1992 with a B.S. degree in Electronic Technology from Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, MO and he graduated in 2011 with academic honors and a M.A. degree in Christian Studies, emphasis in Pastoral Ministry from Grand Canyon University (GCU), Phoenix, AZ. Brother Venerable was inducted into the Alpha Chi National Honor Society while attending GCU.

In Omega, Brother Venerable was initiated on March 18, 1994 into Eta Alpha Chapter, Jefferson City, MO as an 'Ace' on the USS 4Ever line of four. Brother Venerable has always supported the nationally mandated programs and community service projects. He has held the following leadership positions in the fraternity:

- Chaplain, Eighth District
- Missouri State Representative, Eighth District
- Chaplain, Beta Omega Chapter
- Basileus, Beta Omega Chapter
- Keeper of Records and Seal, Beta Omega and Chi Phi Chapters
- Chairman, Omega Ball, Beta Omega Chapter
- Assistant MSP Chairman, Beta Omega Chapter
- Vice Chairman, Secretary and Member, Astral Scholarship 501(c) (3) Foundation, Beta Omega Chapter
- Organizer and Creator, Astral Scholarship 501(c) (3) Foundation, Beta Omega Chapter
- Chairman, International Leadership Conference Praise & Worship Committee
- Chairman, Northern Colorado Regional Intake Team, Chi Phi Chapter
- Chairman, 8th District African American History & Artifacts
- Member, 8th District Achievement Week Committee
- Member, 8th District Stop the Violence Committee
- Member, 8th District Scholarship Committee
- Trainer and Member, 8th District Regional Intake Team
- Member, 50th Annual Eighth District Meeting Planning Committee, Chi Phi Chapter

His awards and accomplishments include:

- Life Member #7346, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity
- Omega Man of the Year, Beta Omega Chapter

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- Chapter Basileus Award, Chi Phi Chapter
- Basileus Award for Outstanding Service, Chi Phi Chapter
- Service Recognition Award, Beta Omega Chapter
- Founders' Award, Beta Omega Chapter
- 8th District Founders' Lifetime Achievement Award
- 8th District Outstanding Service Award
- 8th District Service Recognition Award

Brother Venerable's aspirations and hopes for Omega Psi Phi and Chi Phi Chapter are for Brothers to return to the core principle and foundation of the Fraternity... 'Friendship.' There are some members who know and understand the true meaning of 'Friendship' however, the numbers are not great enough in his humble opinion. Brothers are becoming unrecognizable to each other. Friendship is what set us apart from all of the other Divine Nine Fraternities. Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift are the tenants by which Omega men live and represents with dignity and honor. Unfortunately, Brothers cannot right every wrong, but what Omega men can do is forgive much, forget much and forebear much to allow members to move forward helping to turn the fraternity in the right direction. Friendship is Essential to the Soul!

In closing, Brother Venerable enjoys golf and going to the gun range; he has a decent golf game and shoots a Springfield Armory 9MM Hellcat. Brother Venerable is an avid fan of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team and Pittsburgh Steelers. He is well-versed in God's word, family oriented, an IT professional, steeped in fraternal literacy and lore, and accustomed to helping others unconditionally. May God continue to richly bless the several endeavors of Brother Venerable and his family.