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## Spotlight on Que: Brother Jeffrey T. Smith, 29th Eighth District Representative

By Eric D. Dennis, Chi Phi Chapter Basileus

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Brother Jeffrey T. Smith aka Jeffrey T. Smith is our past 29th Eighth District Representative having served from May 2006 through May 2008. Brother Smith served as the Immediate Past Eighth District Representative from May 2008 through May 2010. Prior to Brother Smith's ascension to Eighth District Representative, he served as the 1st Vice Eighth District Representative from May 2003 through May 2006 and Eighth District Keeper of Finance May 2001 through 2003. Closer to home, Brother Smith is a past Chi Phi Chapter Basileus having served from November 1, 1999 through October 31, 2002. This article will illuminate, in small part, Brother Smith's *experiences, enthusiasm, leadership, exhortation, and example.*



By way of introduction, Jeffrey T. Smith is a husband, father, son, brother, friend, fraternity member, sought after public speaker, astute businessman, faith leader and servant, balancing each role to support positively his large sphere of influence. He is a servant leader and mentor to anyone he meets or encounters. His leadership is straightforward and insightful where he leads from a position of brotherly love by listening with an attentive ear, passion, knowledge, truth and compassion. He's straightforward, honest - to some brutally honest - but always, always with the intent to teach, mold, uplift and help motivate an individual to grow to the next level of self-awareness of themselves oftentimes using the biblical theme of Light, Life and Love. He's also funny! His humor is slow and dry but is never misunderstood because he always speaks from experience and truth. Jeffrey T. Smith displays integrity by aligning his thoughts, words, actions and deeds and he exhibits a true passion for service to all mankind.

As many have read in the past, I met Brother Smith in the late '90s on a basketball court in Commerce City, Colorado where he was busy throwing elbows and collecting fouls like it was a Kmart giveaway. At the time, I was thinking to myself, sheesh, here goes yet another '80 made brother that has only remembered the last 2 P's of the familiar 12 P's – Promotes Pain. To give a little more context to that story, when we were all in the locker room changing, I asked him across the room “Kappa Sig '80, what was your High School sport?” to which he quizzically replied “wrestling,” whereby I replied loudly “that makes sense, because midway through the 1st game I told myself you da\*n sure ain't no basketball player!” From that Saturday morning forward, a true friendship was formed as we connected immediately on all things fraternal. I was nominated and served as Jeffrey T.'s Vice Basileus during his second term in 2000 and KRS for his third term in 2001. As we traveled throughout the State of Colorado, 8th District and the nation in service to Omega, our friendship deepened as we shared our similar upbringings, life stories and fraternal experiences.

Our brotherhood was solidified when my wife, Jackie, started calling Jeffrey T. Omega, myself Psi, and Eric Allen (EA), who later joined as part of our small Que team, Phi whenever we were together. Another opportunity that further strengthened our bond was when we, the young Dennis Family of 5, stood before the Reverend Dr. Jules E. Smith in the early 2000's to join the Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church in Aurora. Pastor Smith asked of his congregation who would stand with this new family and be their prayer partners, and as my family and I turned around we heard the familiar voice of Jeffrey T. Smith standing with his wife and family proudly affirming that they would partner with the Dennis Family in prayer. At that moment Jeffrey T. and I, and our families bond became both temporal and spiritual, and our families have both been blessed by this friendship.

At this 20 plus year mark, Jeffrey T. and I have experienced the entire “lecture” twice over and I am thankful to be able to call Jeffrey T. Smith “Friend.” My Bible Scriptures for my prayer partner are Proverbs 18:24 KJV *“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother”* and Proverbs 27:17 KJV *“Iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”*

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I have outlined his journey using Omega's four cardinal principles:

**Manhood:** Brother Smith was born in Miami, FL to Walter W. and Lize E. Smith; he is the oldest of four children (one brother and two sisters). Smith grew up as an Army brat and he lived on the following military bases: Ft Hood, TX; Mannheim, Germany; Fort Benning, GA; Fort Campbell KY; and, Denver, CO. While in Denver, Smith attended Smiley Jr. High School and graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1978. Brother Smith and his wife, Shelia have been married for 38 years having met in college; they have three children (Candice, Chere & Jeffrey II) and two grandsons (Elijah and Emmanuel). Brother Smith is grateful for his family and is proud of his children's accomplishments and life's pursuits.

**Scholarship:** Brother Smith graduated Cum Laude from Lane College, Jackson, TN with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business. While at Lane, Smith was president of the Student Government Association (1981-82) and a member of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE). Brother Smith is Life Member #107 of the Lane College National Alumni Association.

**Perseverance:** Professionally, Brother Smith retired recently from TIAA, a fortune 100 financial services company. Over his 25 year career, Smith supported customers with retirement and financial planning via phone, in person, letter, and email. He led and coached employees while serving in contact center operations, outbound sales, written (letter) correspondence, email operations, and business readiness. Smith has a vast skill-set ranging from customer service, sales, problem resolution, coaching, and lean sigma process improvement. He is the recipient of four awards at TIAA: National Contact Center (NCC) Diversity & Inclusion Manager of the Year for Denver (2016); NCC Above and Beyond Award (2011); Mass Market Star Performer Award (2005); and, TIAA-CREF Excellence in Consulting Services (2000).

Militarily, Brother Smith served in the United States Army (1LT, Field Artillery) for nearly seven years. He was stationed at the following bases: Fort Leonard Wood, MO; Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN; Fort Wainwright, AK; Fort Benning, GA; and, Fort Sill, OK. Smith completed Primary Leadership Development Course, Officer Candidate School, Airborne School, Basic Artillery Officer Course, and the Lance Missile Course. He received the Army Commendation Award, Army Achievement Medal, and the Field Artillery Association's Honorable Order of Saint Barbara Award.

**Uplift:** Personally, Brother Smith is a member of the Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church, the Reverend Dr. Jules E. Smith, Pastor; he has served in the Male Chorus and Brotherhood. Brother Smith is a Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM), Toastmasters International's highest level and recognition for leadership and communications. In 2005, he was named Area Governor of the Year in the Denver Division for exhibiting leadership, presentation skills, club coaching, and member development. In 2002, he received the Toastmaster of the Year Award for Area D4. Smith was a 20 year member of TIAA Speakers In Action Club, serving as president several times. Brother Smith is also a member and past president of the Owl Club of Denver. He is a financial member of the Aurora Branch-NAACP and the American Legion. Smith is a recipient of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.'s 2014 MODEL (Man of Distinction, Excellence and Leadership) Man of the Year Award. Through the years, Brother Smith has been a passionate advocate for community service projects, social action programs, and membership development initiatives. In 1989, he helped establish Chi Phi Chapter's participation in the Brothers Redevelopment Incorporated's Paint-a-thon, a program serving senior citizens with home painting and yard maintenance. The chapter has painted nearly 40 homes in 31 consecutive years. Smith uses the 'TRUST' axiom as one of his tools when working with others; Tell others what you know; Respect others by depending on them; Understand what others tell you; Support speaking up; and, Take responsibility for mistakes.

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In Omega Psi Phi, Brother Smith has served and led with high energy at all levels of the organization. He was initiated into the Kappa Sigma Chapter, March 27, 1980, as the ‘Ace’ on a line of four, The Horror Hill Gang. During his undergraduate years, Smith served as chapter Vice Basileus, chapter delegate and the Fifth District’s 2nd Vice District Representative under the late Brother Willie A. Smith, District Representative. In 1982, he received the 5th District Scholar of the Year Award. He credits his life’s work in Omega to several men who were advisors, mentors, and advocates; Brothers William H. Jones\*, Dr. George Thacker\*, Clifford Minor, Sr.\*, Reverend C.L. Williams\*, Alton Jarmon\*, Charles Marshall, John Henry Nelson\*, Louie Rivers, Winston Lewis, Maurice Dismukes, John H. Smith\*, Lucius Jones\*, Allen Thompson, Sr., and his uncle, Robert Smith\* to name a few. (\*Omega Chapter)

Brother Smith’s graduate record of service and accomplishments are far-reaching:

*Psi Upsilon Chapter, Lawton/Fort Sill, Oklahoma, 1986 – 1989*

- Vice Basileus, 1987 – 1988
- Omega Man of the Year, 1988

*Chi Phi Chapter, Denver, Colorado, 1989 – Present*

- Basileus, 1999 – 2002
- Vice Basileus, 1992 – 1993 & 1997 – 1998
- Keeper of Records and Seal, 1990 – 1992
- Chairman, Achievement Week Committee, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998 & 2020
- Chairman, 75th Anniversary Committee, 2003
- Chairman, 100th Centennial Celebration Committee, 2011
- Board Member, Dr. Clarence F. Holmes/Omega Scholarship Foundation, 2003 – 2005 & 2010 – 2013
- Delegate/Registered Attendee, Grand Conclaves: 71st (Indianapolis, IN); 72nd (Charlotte, NC); 73 rd (St. Louis, MO); 74th (Little Rock, AR); 75th (Birmingham, AL); 76th (Raleigh, NC); 78th (Philadelphia, PA)\* & 80th (Las Vegas, NV)\*. \*Registered attendee only
- Delegate, National Undergraduate Summit in Atlanta, GA: 2003, 2004, 2005, & 2006
- Delegate/Registered Attendee, Omega Leadership Conference: Memphis, TN (1999), Richmond, VA (2001), Philadelphia, PA (2007) & Kansas City, MO (2013)
- Delegate/Registered Attendee, Eighth District Meeting: 1995 – 1997, 1999 – 2001, & 2003 – 2021
- Omega Man of the Year, 1993, 1998 & 2000
- Superior Service Award, 1992
- Founders’ Award, 1996, 2003 & 2011
- Colonel Charles Young Military Award, 2014
- Basileus Award, 1998, 2009, 2010, 2011 & 2020
- Chapter Appreciation Award, 1995, 1996, 2004, 2009, & 2010
- Chairman, Colorado Regional Intake Team, 1994 – 1999 & Membership Selection Process, 2001 – 2003
- Chairman, Paint-a-Thon (1989 – 2001), Chapter BBQ (1994), MLK Parade (1995), Founders’ Observance (1994 – 1998), Voter Registration & Mobilization (1997 – 2000), Chi Phi University (2011 & 2014) & Black History Month (2021)

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### *Eighth District, 1994 - Present*

- 29th Eighth District Representative, 2006 – 2008
- 1st Vice District Representative, 2003 – 2006
- District Keeper of Finance, 2001 – 2003
- 8th District Intake Chairman & Trainer, 1994 – 1999
- 8th District Representative Service Recognition, 1995, 1996, 1999 – 2005 & 2009
- 8th District Founders' Award, 2012

### *International Fraternity, 1994 - Present*

- Member, International Membership Intake Committee, 1994 – 1996
- Member, Supreme Council, 2006 – 2008
- Member, Dr. Charles R. Drew National Scholarship Commission, 2011 – 2012
- Life Member #6794, 2014

Brother Smith's aspirations and hopes for Omega Psi Phi and Chi Phi Chapter are for its members to increase greatly their knowledge on the history, traditions, programs, and procedures of the fraternity. He would like to see better participation on chapter committees, more engagement on service projects with D9 organizations, and an intense focus on voter education and registration efforts nationally and locally.

He remains a vital member of his family, church, fraternity, business and the Denver community at large because of his experience, keen insight, thought leadership, strategic planning and timely execution of tasks. It has been my experience and observation, that if asked, Brother Smith would schedule and make time available to meet with you individually and/or collectively. I know my own personal growth in Omega has been enhanced by Brother Smith's influence, public speaking observations and tips, mentorship and leadership. And there are many others that have enjoyed his wise counsel as they have ascended to active leadership at International and District level as well as the Basileus roles here in Denver CO, Charlotte NC, Pittsburgh PA, Burlington NJ, Dallas/Arlington TX and Nashville TN, to name a few. Lastly, my friend **Jeffrey T. Smith** exemplifies the very words of my maternal grandfather's favorite testimonial song "*May the Work I've Done Speak for Me!*"

In closing, Brother Smith enjoys golf, board games, playing cards, sending hallmark cards, cooking, and line dancing. One of his favorite sayings is 'Do thy duty, that is best, leave unto the Lord the rest.' May God continue to bless him, his family, and the several endeavors in his life.

## Birthdays & Congratulations

- Joshay Ford - 8/4
- Marcus Gipson - 8/8
- Vernon Tabor - 8/14
- Daoud Hadee - 8/18
- Walter Lee - 8/24

## Sick, Shut-In & Health Challenges

- Bro. Ronaldo Babb - Prayer for wife and family
- Bro. Daoud Hadee - Thanks for Brothers
- Bro. Calvin Taylor - Prayer for Chemotherapy
- Bro. Jeff Young - Covid-19 health concerns
- Bro. Ron Reeves - Kidney surgery recovery
- Bro. Jimmy Alexander - Son headed to college

## Spiritual Warfare

### Psalm 147:11

"The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love."