

SPOTLIGHT ON QUE

By Jeffrey T. Smith, 29th Eighth District Representative



Brother John T. Jones is a Christian soldier in the Army of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and he is an honorable Omega man with 40 years in our illustrious fraternity. Brother Pete, as he is affectionately known to his family and friends, is committed to selfless service and his fervor for action and impact extend to the various community organizations, projects, and endeavors within his sphere of influence.

Brother Pete has a genuine concern for his fellow man and he goes the extra mile to ensure their needs are met whether spiritually, physically, emotionally, or financially. His words and deeds are congruent and he readily displays his values to inspire others.

A number of years ago, Brother Pete contributed immensely to my public speaking career when he recommended me as the keynote speaker for the annual AIM-IRS Southwest Region Conference in Denver. Pete gave a heartfelt and passionate introduction, raising the bar and expectations along the way; thanks be to God for a successful outcome which was mutually beneficial to AIM-IRS and my speaking career.

I am forever grateful to him for his faith in me and my abilities. This is just one story of many regarding Brother Pete's magnanimous soul. The four cardinal principles below outline a life filled with God's good providence and blessings.

Manhood. Brother Pete was born in Jacksonville, Texas, a farming community in east Texas (just south of Tyler). Pete was the youngest of three children with an older sister (Ruby) and brother (Tom). He grew up in a town known as Tomato capital largely because of the canning factory. He would later connect with his oldest sister in Denver and remain in the

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city for nearly 40 years. Pete married Sandy Johnson on December 30, 1978, the first wedding ceremony of Pastor Dr. James D. Peters of New Hope Baptist Church. To their union, one son – Brother John T. Jones II – was born.

Brother Pete was initiated into Chi Phi Chapter on January 24, 1976, the tail on a line of four. Brother Dwight Jones was his dean with Brother James Tucker serving as Basileus and Brother Spencer Terry as Keeper of Finance.

Scholarship. Brother Pete graduated from Prairie View University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration, concentration in Accounting. He is a life-long learner imparting his knowledge freely.

Perseverance. Brother Pete started working for the Montgomery Ward Department Store soon after college, serving in the Catalog Division for nine years from 1974 to 1983. He was the first African-American merchandise manager of the nine-catalog houses across the country; Denver's catalog division closed in July 1983 which ended his career with the retailer.

In September 1984, Brother Pete attributes God's divine guidance with his next job and career – working for the Internal Revenue Service. He will retire in April 2016 as a GS-13 with over 31 years of service. Pete is a senior revenue agent in the Small Business and Self-Employed Division, handling audits of individual taxpayer returns along with partnership and corporate business taxes. He has been an active member with the Denver Chapter of The Association for the Improvement of Minorities in the Internal Revenue Service (AIM-IRS). AIM-IRS has sponsored Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) programs in Aurora and Denver for 21 years, and Pete helped start the project in 1995.

Uplift. Brother Pete became a member New Hope Baptist Church in 1978 and has labored in the vineyard as a Sunday School teacher working with the youth and

adult classes over the years. He was inspired by Ms. Chapman and he uses her mantra of “Get off the shoulders of others and take up the work” to motivate people in age range of 25 to 45. Pete received the 2011 Excellence in Government Award at the 41st Anniversary of the Colorado Gospel Music Academy for his community service activities.

Fraternally, Brother Pete is a member of the Clarence F. Holmes Omega Memorial Scholarship Foundation. He is a member of the chapter’s internal audit committee, performing the task over the past few years. Previously, Pete served on Chi Phi Chapter’s 75th Anniversary and has worked extensively as the chapter’s representative on the Expanding the Vision Conference for young African-American males in the metro Denver area. In 2010, Brother Pete was the recipient of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority’s Frater of the Year Award.

In closing, Brother Pete shared with me his aspirations for Chi Phi Chapter and Omega Psi Phi. He stated that fraternity members should be a light unto the world showcasing Omega’s principles and motto for others to benefit. Pete believes we must be a cohesive group in order to make a meaningful change within our community. Last, he said Omega men must be friendly to be a friend and we are obligated to take care of worthy brothers in our ranks.

Pete is not unlike the other Omega men featured in this space; he enjoys cooking, dancing, and talking for which he is adept. Pete’s example of Christian manhood and brotherly love is honorable and in keeping with the fraternity’s tenets and traditions. May God continue to order his steps and bless his family and friends abundantly.