

Wilfred M. Krenek – 2008 Fall Pledge Class Namesake

It is with great honor that the Alpha Phi Omega National Board of Directors announces Brother Wilfred M. Krenek as the 2008 Fall Pledge Class Namesake.

Brother Krenek was initiated into Alpha Rho Chapter at the University of Texas at Austin in 1971. Over the course of his 37-year relationship with APO, Krenek has served at every level of the Fraternity, yet continues to soar as a brother, donating both his time and experience.

“In my first semester at the University of Texas as a shy and introverted freshman, I joined Alpha Rho Chapter after a friend’s brother from my high school said it was ‘fun,’” said Krenek. “It definitely has been more than that for me. Through the leadership skills learned, the friends made and the service provided, [Alpha Phi Omega] has helped shape my life and who I am today.”

Brother Krenek began his Fraternity volunteerism as Section 42 Chair (1977-1980). He then became Region VII Director (1980-1988), Member-at-Large (1988-1990) and National Finance Chair. He served as National Vice President under Brother Jerry Schroeder (1990-1994). After his term as National Vice President was complete, Brother Krenek was elected National President (1994-1998).

Since that time, Brother Krenek has continued to serve the Fraternity as a Life Member on the National Board of Directors. He is also the current chair of the Endowment Trustees and is a member of the Blue & Gold Society and a Gold Founders’ Circle Torchbearer.

Krenek chaired and served on a number of APO committees, including the National Executive Director Search Committee, the 75th Anniversary Committee and the “Target 30” Fundraising Effort for the construction of the National Office.

As a man of great passion and commitment, fellow brothers honored Krenek for his service and commitment to APO by awarding him the National Distinguished Service Award at the 2000 National Convention in Philadelphia. Brother Krenek has also received the Chapter DSK, Sectional DSK and Regional DSK.

Brother Krenek resides in Houston, Texas, with his wife, Kay Hairgrove Krenek, Beta Sigma. Kay was the first female elected to APO’s National Board of Directors. Professionally, Brother Krenek is vice president and chief financial officer of the WEDGE

Group, a Houston-based investment firm. Within his community Krenek is an advocate of blood donation and has personally donated more than 100 pints of blood. He is an active member of St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Community, where he has served on the Parish Council, and is also a member of the Supervisory Committee for Members Choice Credit Union.

Leadership, Friendship and Service are the Cardinal Principles by which all APO brothers live. However, it is Brother Krenek's constant effort to better exemplify these principles within the Fraternity and his community that made him the perfect recipient for the 2008 Fall Pledge Class Namesake. Congratulations, Brother Krenek!

A Challenge to the 2008 Fall Pledge Class ...

Early in my APO career as a young section chair, my nickname was "Yoda." Initially, I attributed it to my wide-set eyes and being a little on the short side. However, I came to realize it was more because of the "advice from an elder's perspective" that I was able to provide. Later, as a region director, it became even more clear to me the important role our chapter advisors play. The really strong chapters always have an assortment of great advisors. They provide direction, a sense of stability and maintain a historical perspective.

Advisors may represent the college administration or staff, be community leaders or even alumni. The number of advisors usually varies by the size of the chapter, but I believe every chapter should have a minimum of five to seven active advisors from varied backgrounds. Or, as Yoda would say, "Good are the advisors with experiences different have they."

My Challenge: For each pledge to get the signatures of 100 percent of your chapter's advisors. By getting to know your advisors, you are providing service to your chapter by learning from their experiences. This will make you better, more resourceful members of Alpha Phi Omega and strengthen your chapter as you become active members and officers.

The Bonus: All pledge classes that meet this challenge and their pledge trainer who submits their entry by November 1, 2008, to director.communications@apo.org will be entered into

a drawing. I look forward to attending the winning chapter's pledge class activation and/or banquet.

In Leadership, Friendship and Service,

Wilfred Krenek

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