

2010 FALL PLEDGE CLASS NAMESAKE HONOREE: BROTHER JAMES CHANDLER, OMICRON TAU '65

The Fraternity is proud to announce Brother James (Jim) Chandler, Omicron Tau '65 at Alma College in Michigan, as the 2010 Fall Pledge Class Namesake Honoree.

Brother Chandler retired in 2008 as director of the executive career administrative division after 40 years with the Boy Scouts of America, including 17 years as the National BSA Liaison between BSA and the Alpha Phi Omega Board of Directors.

“Knowing that this is the 100th year of the Boy Scouts of America, the committee knew there could be no other person to be our Fall Pledge Class Namesake this year than Jim. His selection reflects his importance to and involvement in both organizations, and his unending commitment to provide Leadership, Friendship and Service of the highest order,” said National Vice President and Chair of the Fall Pledge Class Namesake Selection Committee, Brother Mark Stratton.

Chandler's relationship with APO began in 1965 when he was inducted into the Fraternity as the founding advisory chair for Omicron Tau at Alma College in Michigan. Brother Chandler served this chapter for a little over a year until he was appointed dean of students at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Brother Chandler continued to serve the Fraternity during his time in Colorado as a chapter advisor to Gamma Theta. In 1968, Brother Chandler joined the professional staff of the Boy Scouts of America, where he continued his loyalty to the Fraternity by promoting APO to local councils.

Chandler worked vigorously to ensure APO's presence in BSA publications, documents and events during his time as director of human resources administration for the BSA. His continuing efforts and close relationship with APO made him the appropriate nominee for the Board's National BSA Liaison position in 1991. Brother Chandler came to this position at a critical time.

Brother Chandler's most memorable and significant project with APO was working with Past National President Jerry Schroeder in 1992 and early 1993 to preserve the mutually supportive relationship between the Fraternity and the BSA that was first formally recognized in January 1932. In a dialogue initiated by BSA in response to perceptions of official affiliation on the part of some members of the public, BSA and APO examined the future of their relationship, particularly in light of their different membership policies.

Chandler understood that friends often find it necessary to talk about individual and mutual interests, sometimes from differing perspectives, but also strongly believed that the relationship between the two organizations that had existed for then 67 years had to continue. As formal negotiations between the National President and the Chief Scout



Brother Jim Chandler
Former BSA Liaison

Executive extended from weeks to months, Brother Chandler and Brother Schroeder established a backchannel line of communication, opening an informal yet frank exchange of views that ultimately became the basis for an agreement between the National President and the Chief Scout Executive.

This agreement confirmed APO's rich Scouting heritage, continued the relationship between the two organizations and acknowledged the right of all private, voluntary organizations to determine their own values and policies. With Brother Chandler's enthusiastic encouragement, this clarification of APO/BSA common interests also enhanced the Fraternity's ability to cooperate with other youth groups, including the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.



Chandler's impact on the relationship between BSA and the Fraternity continues to foster a stronger APO, as well as positively impact Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts all over the nation, including special needs Scouts.

"It is not possible to think of Jim Chandler and not think of the Boy Scouts of America; in many ways, they are one in the same," said Brother Stratton.

Brother Chandler was recognized by APO with the Outstanding Service Award from Gamma Theta in 1967, as well as the National Distinguished Service Award from the Fraternity in 2002. Brother Chandler is also a member of the Silver Founders' Circle.

FALL 2010 PLEDGE CHALLENGE:

I am honored and deeply humbled to serve as the 2010 Fall Pledge Class Namesake Honoree.

I began my trek with Alpha Phi Omega as a founding charter advisory chairman to Omicron Tau Chapter. At that time, I didn't have a clue that it would lead to 17 years of service on the APO Board of Directors and then to this surprising and moving recognition.

By tradition, the Fall Pledge Class Namesake Honoree bestows a challenge upon the fall 2010 pledges, so here goes...

This fall, I challenge each pledge class to plan and conduct a special service project for kids... young people. I am asking that this special project be something new. It should reach beyond the traditional, existing chapter service projects for youth. It is my wish that this fall the pledges of APO can positively impact more than 20,000 children.

This effort could be conducted through a local youth-serving organization (i.e. Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs); an effort with a local children's hospital, orphanage, or children's home; or an effort in mentoring young people in subjects like leadership, friendship, service, college life, or perhaps future APO members. Your own creativity will be your guide.

I hope to be able to read 350 reports of your success. Good luck! Editor's note: pledge classes can report their projects on the APO USA Facebook page in the discussion area. Visit www.facebook.com/AlphaPhiOmega.USA

We can all take to heart a quote from Sir Winston Churchill: "We make a living by what we get... We make a life by what we give."

Side note to all pledges, brothers and alumni:

Continue to improve the APO brand on your campus, in your community, and in the hearts of the kids and future brothers around you.