

# Willingboro-Fort Dix-McGuire Air Force Base (NJ) Alumni

July 10, 1981

The Willingboro-Fort Dix-McGuire Air Force Base Alumni Chapter was authorized by the Grand Chapter officers at a board meeting on March 7, 1981 in Detroit, Michigan. This authorization was based on a petition of twenty-two Kappa men in the Willingboro-Fort Dix-McGuire area who saw a need for an alumni chapter. These men were Claude R. Attaway, Gorham L. Black III, Dr. William F. Duck, John Grinnage, George E. Henderson, Jr., Oliver Houston, Philip W. Houston, Edward S. James, Robert Johnson, Justin F. McNeil, Dr. Ezra A. Merritt, Roy Paige, Cleophus A. Robinson II, Cleophus A. Robinson III, Michael Robinson, Herman Robinson, Fred Rucker, Dr. George L. Sampson, Arthur L. Smith, Albert F. Washington, Henry A. Wiggins, Charles F. Williams, and James E. Williams, Sr.

The chartering of the chapter was held at the Fort Dix Officers Club on July 10, 1981. The statement on the program for the occasion of the chartering declared that *“the chapter would be committed to the high ideals and purpose of the Fraternity. We dedicate ourselves to achievement and pledge to continue the stewardship entrusted in us and to foster the dream of our Founding Fathers in 1911 at Bloomington, Indiana.”*

The first officers of the chapter were Albert F. Washington, Polemarch; Dr. Ezra A. Merritt, Vice Polemarch; Charles F. Williams, Keeper of Records; John Grinnage, Assistant Keeper of Records, Cleophus A. Robinson III, Keeper of Exchequer; James E. Williams, Sr., Assistant Keeper of Exchequer; Herman Robinson, Strategus; Claude R. Attaway, Lieutenant Strategus; and Dr. William F. Duck, Historian. The members of the Board of Directors were George E. Henderson, Jr., Oliver Houston, Robert Johnson, Justin F. McNeil, and Cleophus A. Robinson II.

Dr. William Duck was the Master of Ceremonies for the occasion, the theme of which was *“We Train for Leadership”*. Other participants were the Chapter Polemarch, Albert F. Washington, who extended the greetings; James E. Williams, Sr., who gave the invocation; musical selections by Ms. Jacqueline McNeil, and the keynote speaker, Earl A. Morris, Executive Secretary of **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated** who was introduced by Justin F. McNeil. A highlight of the event was a tribute to charter members that was given by James M. Kidd, Polemarch of the Northeastern Province. Dr. Ezra A. Merritt made a special presentation, which was followed by the *Kappa Alpha Psi Hymn* led by Philip Houston and the benediction by Charles F. Williams. Assorted hot hors d'oeuvres, coffee tea and milk were served to the accompaniment of music for listening and dancing pleasure.

Willingboro-Fort Dix-McGuire Air Force Base Alumni Chapter showed up prepared for a hot sunny September Sunday for a nice day of relaxing jazz. We were the only Greek organization with a tent set up and enough refreshments to share with well wishers and fellow Greeks, who stopped by during the day. We endeavored to show the community that the men of Kappa were in the “house”. It was another opportunity for us to be more visible in the

community. The event went flawlessly. Everything was handled in a very professional expert manner including parking, concessions, performance, sound re-enforcement, musician's courtesy tent, and layout of the stage, table, tents and concession stands. The crowd was very content to listen to great music. It was definitely a family gathering with picnics, barbecues, chairs, blankets, cotton candy, shaved ice treats, funnel cake, varied ethnic snack delights, and all that goes together for a complete soul pleasing experience... a typical backyard gathering of the clan with a mix of all kinds of people of all ages. The chartering banquet committee members were Dr. William F. Duck, General Chairman; Dr. Ezra A. Merritt, Operations; Cleophus A. Robinson III, Finance; Justin F. McNeil, Program; and Charles F. Williams, Publicity

The Willingboro-Fort. Dix/McGuire Alumni Chapter donated toys for Christmas to the Principal (Mrs. Barbara Doneghy) of the Twin Hills Elementary School of Willingboro



**Paul Huggins**  
*Senior Vice Polemarch*  
*Northeastern Province*

to be distributed children who achieved academically during the school year. The toys were donated at our first annual Fall Harvest Dance. We ask that all patrons donate a toy for the youth in our community. We received more than we anticipated and was able to donate some toys to the locate Women's shelter. This project will be an annual event for our chapter. Mrs. Doneghy is the wife of Life Member William Doneghy, who is an initiate of our chapter.

The Willingboro-Fort. Dix/McGuire Alumni Chapter distributed Thanksgiving baskets to Family services of Burlington County, the Kennedy Center of Willingboro and to individual families. Brothers Robert Glenn and LeRoy Harvey spent over six hours delivering the Thanksgiving baskets. It was quite a road trip, but it was time well spent. The appreciation displayed by the recipients of the Thanksgiving baskets proved that our efforts were not in vain.

A letter of appreciation from Family services was sent to Chapter Polemarch, Paul Huggins. The brothers of the chapter and the Kappa Foundation made this project a success through financial donations. Granted this project is nothing new to Kappas, but it is a project that is so rewarding to all — those who gave their finances and time and those who received.

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### *Founder's Day 2004*

The Willingboro-Fort. Dix-McGuire Air Force Base Alumni Chapter hosted the Greater Philadelphia Area Founders' Day Banquet. It was co-sponsored by Atlantic City, Burlington-Camden, Chester, Norristown, and Philadelphia Alumni Chapters. The largest gathering to date with 330 brothers attending made this event one to remember. The evening started with a rousing invocation by the Chapter's Past Polemarch, Tony C. Evans. Toastmaster Brother Alonzo Kittrels kept the tempo of the night. The musical selection given by Brother Charles Gamble of the Hyattsville-Landover Alumni chapter had the brothers on their feet. The keynote speech given by Grand Polemarch Samuel C. Hamilton was well received. Brothers mentioned throughout the night how pleased they were of the direction the fraternity is going. After the banquet, several chapters entertained guests into the wee hours of the morning. Put simply, fun was had by all!