

Brooklyn - Long Island (NY) Alumni

April 9, 1949

On April 9th, 1949 The Brooklyn-Long Island Alumni chapter was chartered as the Brooklyn Alumni Chapter, with the vision to spread the concepts and ideas of Kappa Alpha Psi in the Brooklyn community. The chapter's original title, the Brooklyn Alumni chapter, was later changed in 1960 to the Brooklyn-Long Island Alumni chapter because a number of brothers from Brooklyn moved to Long Island and brothers from Long Island joined the chapter. Brother Enos S. Andrews was the Province Polemarch who installed the chapter.

There were 14 charter members: Lewis S. Flagg III – Polemarch, Leroy A. Payne –Vice Polemarch, Clifton E. Gross – Keeper of Records, Frank C. Johnson – Keeper of the Exchequer and Claude B. Cave - Historian. The other charter members were: Elliott J. Barnett, William Brooks, William M. Chisholm, R. Risky Dent, Jr., Charles R. Joseph, Rudolph Scott, Frissell J. Smith, Austin Sobers & La Verte T. Warren.

I would like to share with you a little history of the personal background and achievements of the 14 Kappa men that came together and founded B-LI. Through they came from many walks of life, they had a desire to start an alumni chapter of their fraternity in hopes of providing service to their community and being role models to its youth,

Elliott J. Barnett was a Beta Chapter initiate and what we now call an Old School Kappa. Barney as he was known by many worked as a probation officer in the NYC system and was fiery but a good-hearted Kappa. he and his wife opened up their home to the brothers and enjoyed entertaining them.

William Brooks was an educator and a noted swimming instructor at a local Brooklyn YMCA. He had a love for traveling especially abroad.

Dr. Claude B. Cave was a medical doctor with his practice in Brooklyn. He was a warm and caring brother who opened his summer home in Massapequa up to the brothers for their June meeting and they had a good time swimming & lounging around.

BROOKLYN - LONG ISLAND ALUMNI

William M. Chisholm, Esquire was one of the most active Kappas in the greater NY area in the 50's. Brother Chisholm had been active in the Boy Scouts as a young man (Eagle Scout to be exact) and he continued his work with them as an adult. He was first employed by the NYC Fire Dept. and went to law school in his spare time. After obtaining his law degree, he and Brothers Risley Dent & Thaddus Owens founded a law firm in Brooklyn. After serving as Polemarch of Brooklyn Alumni, he later served as Province Polemarch of the Northeastern Province. He continued to distinguish himself in Kappa by serving on the Grand Board of Directors and as Senior Grand Vice Polemarch. He made an attempt to become Grand Polemarch but it was not to be. He composed the words to the Toast Song used at our Oath of Rededication. He had many more accomplishments including his involvement in Comes, the NAACP and legal counsel for the Fireman's Union.

R. Risley Dent, Jr., Esquire began his career as a court officer and went to law school at night. He was a Beta Chapter initiate and didn't let anyone forget it, He was very active in Brooklyn politics and began the 1 Black elected to the NYS Senate from Brooklyn but he passed away before he could take office. At that same time, he was being looked at by the Democratic Party to run for the Congress. The seat eventually went to Shirley Chisholm. There is a NYC Housing unit named after Brother Dent. It is located on the corner of Fulton and Sumner in Brooklyn.

Lewis S. Flagg III was also an attorney who grew up in Brooklyn. He was a Kappa legacy being the son of Judge Lewis Flagg II. Brother Flagg III was very active in the National Guard and eventually became the Commanding Officer of one of the Brooklyn Armories.

Clifton E. Gross was an Omicron initiate while attending school at St. John's University when it was still in Brooklyn. He was an educator with the Board of Education. He was a loyal member of B-LI all of his life and served the chapter in many capacities. He organized trips to football games at West Point and to the Cleveland Browns so the brothers could see the great Jim Brown play. He served the Northeastern Province as Keeper of Records and Exchequer and for his long service to the fraternity he was awarded the Northeastern Province's highest award the James M. Kidd distinguished service award. Brother Gross had many loves – two of which were his children and the game of Bridge (not to mention Tonk and Pinochle). One of his sons, Geoffrey, followed him into Kappa and was a member in B-LI.