

Germany Alumni

June 3, 1964

Forty Years of Honoring and Promoting Achievement

Over the past forty years the Germany Alumni Chapter has made honoring and promoting achievement a goal of its long term action plan. The following vignettes capture the commitment to that goal.

The Germany Alumni Chapter, chartered on June 3, 1964 as the Germany Alumni Association, elevated the Northeastern Province to international Province prominence.

The Germany Alumni Association, the first outside the Continental United States, held its first Black and White Ball on May 29, 1965 at “Neuen Entracht” in Kaiserslautern, Germany. The Black and White Ball marked the conclusion of the first anniversary of the founding of the Association.

The Germany Alumni Association added another page to the history of Kappa by hosting the first official visit of a Grand Polemarch outside the United States. The highlight of the Grand Polemarch Holloway’s visit was the Thirteenth Annual Black and White Ball which was held at the 300-year old Castle at Schwetzingen. During his visit, the Grand Polemarch made a courtesy call on General George Blanchard, Commander-in-Chief, US Army Europe and Commander of the Seventh US Army. He was interviewed on AFV-TV and the telecast was aired throughout West Germany.

Founder Edward G. Irvin visited West Germany in August 1980 and spoke before the Germany Alumni Chapter’s Sixteenth Annual Black and White Ball. During his 13-day visit, the Founder toured a major German university, met the two Black generals in Europe, taped an interview for the Armed Forces Network television station, and rode a “Kappa Soul Train.”

During 1985-1987 Germany Alumni hosted several honored brothers, including the honorable Walter Fauntroy, the late and esteemed Judge George Crockett, and Congressman John Conyers.

On November 13, 1999 the Germany Alumni Chapter proudly hosted Dr. Tilghman L. Moore, Northeastern Province Polemarch. Dr. Moore was the first Northeastern Polemarch to visit the Western Europe Chapter. The highlight of the visit was when Dr. Moore pinned the Chapter’s neophytes and presented them with their membership certificates.

The same year, the Chapter hosted Brother Johnnie L. Cochran, famed O. J. Simpson defense trial lawyer. Brother Cochran visited several area high schools and conducted book signings at local PX book stores.

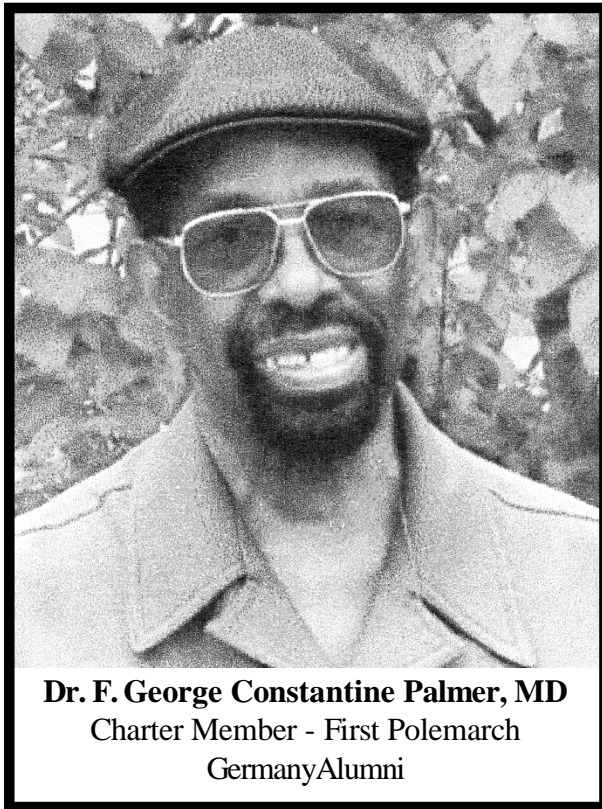
In 2004 Germany Alumni Chapter hosted Brother Bernard A. Harris, Jr., M.D. and NASA astronaut, a 1993 Achievement Award recipient and the first Black astronaut to walk

in space. He was the keynote speaker at the Annual Scholarship Ball and he made a lasting impact on all who attended.

The year 2005 was a truly memorable one for the Chapter. The Grand Polemarch, Brother Samuel Hamilton, visited the Chapter April 28 – May 1. He was accompanied by Brother Lew Moore, Past Northeastern Province Polemarch, and Brother Richard Snow, Executive Director, **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.** During the visit, in addition to area orientations, these honored guests also participated in an intake ceremony for new members with the Grand Polemarch presented the new members with their official membership certificates and signed copies of *The Story of Kappa Alpha Psi*. Our honored guests also attended the Chapter's Scholarship Ball that weekend. The Grand Polemarch was the keynote speaker at the ball and received outstanding reviews and applause from attendees for an excellent message on the merits of scholarship and education.

The Germany Alumni Chapter continues its commitment to honoring and promoting achievement in every field of human endeavor, in service to the community, our country and the Fraternity as we approach a promising future.

FIRST POLEMARCH OF GERMANY ALUMNI CHAPTER



F. George Constantine Palmer was born May 19, 1932 in Kingston, Jamaica to John Palmer and Hepzibath Palmer, both of whom preceded him in death. To this union two children were born, John (eldest) and George Palmer.

Dr. Palmer received his early education in Kingston, Jamaica at Kingston College (KC). He was educated during the time of segregation, however, this did not deter his pursuit of success and higher learning. After graduating Kingston College with honors, he received a full scholarship to Dillard University in New Orleans where he majored in Pre-medicine. He graduated from Dillard University Magna Cum Laude in May 1953. After briefly studying at the New York University, he relocated to Heidelberg, Germany where he enrolled in the Heidelberg University School of Medicine. He graduated medical school with honors in 1957 and completed residency training in General Surgery in 1962.

Dr. Palmer was a staff physician at the Heidelberg University Hospital for many years and later the Krankenhaus Hetzelstift, from where he recently retired. He received numerous recognition and service awards during his tenure on staff at both hospitals.

Dr. Palmer met the love of his life, Wanda Paula Johnson who preceded him in death. They were married in Basal, Switzerland. To this union, one child was born, F George Palmer II. Dr. and Mrs. Palmer traveled the world together. As dedicated members of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, they were both chartering members the organizations in Germany. After Mrs. Palmer's death in 1992, Dr. Palmer continued his work in the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and remained faithful until his health failed.

The Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity was the heart of Dr. Palmer. He was initiated in the Beta Gamma Chapter at Dillard University in 1949 at age 16. A visionary, Dr. Palmer was chartering member of the Germany Alumni Chapter of his beloved Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. The chapter was chartered on June 3, 1964, and Dr. Palmer served as its first Polemarch, a post he would hold for the next 14 consecutive years. Under his leadership, the Chapter hosted its first Black & White Ball in 1965. The "Kappa Soul Train" was also an idea that came to fruition under Dr. Palmer's leadership and remained popular for many years. A tireless servant of the Fraternity and tenacious fund-raiser, he was instrumental in bringing several esteemed Kappa men to Germany including the honorable Walter Fuanroy, Congressman John Conyers, famed attorney Johnnie L. Cochran, astronaut Dr. Bemard Harris, Jr, and Founder Edward G. Irvin. Dr. Palmer is a Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi (56 years) and has received numerous service and recognition awards from the Grand Chapter.