

---

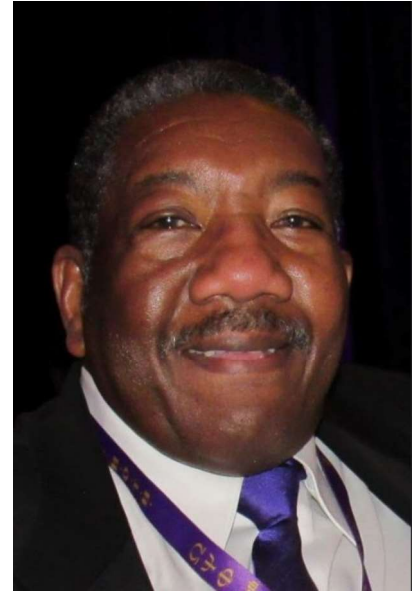
## Spotlight on Que: Brother Dr. Levester Lyons

By Jeffrey T. Smith

---

Dr. Lyons is a man of God, leadership, compassion, and excellence. He is loyal, friendly, interesting, courageous, rational, and a champion for the underserved, less fortunate, and disabled. Lyons has provided service above self as an ardent advocate, key influencer, and devoted resource in the quest for fairness, equality, and justice in Aurora and Denver. Dr. Lyons possesses several abilities that have contributed to his personal achievements, professional designations, and community accolades. His common touch is filled with thoughtfulness, hopefulness, and humor.

Dr. Lyons and I have crossed paths many times throughout the years whether on fraternity matters or in the community. One such occasion was at my church's brotherhood breakfast featuring yours truly as the speaker of the hour. I was pleased to see Brother Lyons in the audience and to receive his smile of approval after my speech. I have observed him intently while in his presence or from afar all the while listening, learning, and loving his perspective on life and society. I have found him to be a custodian to people in general and to fraternity brothers in particular; his candidness and guidance are uplifting and instructive. In preparation of this article, we had a terrific conversation linking soul to soul on a variety of topics. I have organized this segment of his story incorporating the four cardinal principles.



**Manhood:** Dr. Lyons relishes his role and duty as a husband, father, grandfather and brother. Lyons is married to his wife, Patricia and has five children (two boys and three girls), 12 grandchildren and one great grandchild. Incidentally, his son, Adrian, is an Omega man made by me in 2003. Lyons grew up in Topeka, KS and was born in Oktaha, OK; he spent summers in Oktaha which is part of a Native American reservation. Lyons is the oldest of 12 children (7 brothers and five sisters) and learned to lead, cook, and clean at an early age. Brother Lyons attended primary school (2 nd grade) where he was the only Black male in the class; there were two Black girls too. In middle school, he was a 'B or C grade' student and an athlete. His athletic skills allowed Brother Lyons to play Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) basketball and in the military at Ft. Riley, KS.

Dr. Lyons was initiated in 1983 through Chi Phi Chapter with Dr. William Bowers as his sponsor.

**Scholarship:** Dr. Lyons started college during the summer of 1970 after being drafted in 1968 and serving in the United States Army. He attained his bachelors' degree in 1974 from Washburn University in Topeka, KS; his campus job was assistant director of Upward Bound. Lyons has a masters' degree from Kansas University (Lawrence, KS) in Social Welfare Administration and a doctorate degree from LaSalle University (Mandeville, LA). Throughout his high school and college studies, Brother Lyons demonstrated high aptitude which created opportunities both academically and professionally.

**Perseverance:** Dr. Lyons provided 42 years of government service before retiring in 2012 as a senior executive in the Veterans Administration. He also served in the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. National Defense Corps. Here is a high-level view of his professional career:

- Dr. Lyons was the first manager of the newly developed Readjustment Counseling Service Combat Call Center (PTSD & sexual trauma), Department of Veterans Affairs (2009)
- Director, VA Inpatient and Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Programs (the first treatment and counseling program for African-American veterans with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and drug addiction)
- Inspector and Coordinator, VA Nursing Home and Community Home (two years) First African-American Director, U.S. Air Force Family Support Center (four years)
- Psychiatric Social Worker, Sedgwick County Mental Health Center Lieutenant Colonel (Honorary), Department of Veterans Affairs
- Captain and Director, U.S. Air Force Mental Health Services, Lowery Air Force Base (1978-1982)
- Author and Contributor, article in the American Journal on Addictions, 1993; and, A Report on African-American Veterans - Readjustment Counseling Service, 2003
- NOTE: Dr. Lyons trained and guided social workers throughout his professional journey to help veterans in need.

Dr. Lyons is the recipient of numerous professional, public service, community, and military awards. In 2013, he was nominated and selected as an outstanding African-American man by the Epsilon Nu Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. They presented him with the 2013 M.O.D.E.L Award (Men of Distinction, Excellence and Leadership).

---

## Spotlight on Que: Brother Dr. Levester Lyons - Continued

By Jeffrey T. Smith

---

**Uplift:** Dr. Lyons' community service record is impressive and illuminating. He utilized his professional training and leadership acumen to support others in the mental health and social welfare circles of life. Dr. Lyons is the immediate past president, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Aurora Branch. Other community roles include: Life Member, Disabled American Veterans; charter member of the Franklin D.B. Jackson Chapter of National Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS); member, Hubert 'Hooks' Jones Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen organization; and, a board member of the Clarence F. Holmes Omega Psi Phi Scholarship Foundation. Presently, Dr. Lyons' energy and efforts are directed as a citizen member on Arapahoe County Community Corrections Board, the city of Aurora Commission on Judicial Performance Evaluation, and the Colorado Black Leadership Coalition. Dr. Lyons has held memberships in local, state, and national level board of directors and professional organizations. He is an ordained deacon.

In closing, Dr. Lyons stated his hopes and aspirations for Chi Phi Chapter are to support fundraising for the Holmes Omega Scholarship Foundation and to generate other monies to give away to others.

Dr. Lyons is an amazing and instrumental brother who enjoys imparting knowledge on institutional and social systems in our lives. He shared that helping others is one of his primary interests of the day. There was a period in Brother Lyons' life when he engaged in tennis, basketball, running and most other sports but his time filled now with paying the piper for the joys of youth. Another current interest of Brother Lyons is working on his family's genealogy project where he has uncovered fascinating facts about his past. The words honorable, endeavor, leader, and friendship square Dr. Lyons' person and makes him an Omega man equal to other famed brothers of Chi Phi Chapter's rich legacy in Metro Denver. May God continue to bless him and his family (immediate and extended) with grace, mercy, peace, and love!