
Spotlight on Que: Brother Marion L. Ladd

By Jeffrey T. Smith

Brother Ladd is a devoted and faithful man of God with genuine feelings for his fellow man and their salvation. He is friendly, loyal, candid, intelligent, humorous, humble, and a servant leader. From my view, Ladd's walk in life is congruent with the fraternity's motto, purpose, and values and he takes his role as his brother's keeper Seriously.

I have known Brother Ladd for over 20 years through our fraternal association and church membership. He was my son's leader and teacher in youth church and we served together in the Rising Star MBC Brotherhood group. On a personal note, Brother Ladd has been present for me through some of the difficult challenges in my life. First, Ladd prayed for me and visited the rehab center when I had double knee surgery in 2002. Second, Ladd's frequent inquiries and prayers after the passing of my mother in 2012 were extremely supportive. Last, his prayers, visits, meals, and offers of assistance during my wife's extended medical episode in 2018 provided the reverence, relief, and renewal needed by my family and me. Brother Ladd is a respected and thoughtful person who allowed me to share a glimpse of his story using Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift.

Manhood: Brother Ladd is a husband, father, son, and brother. He has been married to his wife, Carla for 22 years and he has a daughter. Brother Ladd was born in Mobile, AL, the youngest son of eight children (four sisters and three brothers living with one brother deceased). Mobile is the home of fine seafood restaurants, the U.S. Navy Battleship Alabama, and 'the' city with a better and safer Mardi Gras celebration. Ladd stated that his mother loves cooking tea cakes for him; some of his other favorite foods are fish and grits, fried chicken, and collards. Ladd was the salutatorian of his graduating class in high school along with achieving the award, Who's Who in American High Students. He played football and basketball but Ladd was mostly into academics.

Brother Ladd was initiated December 1981 through the Gamma Gamma Chapter, Grambling State University as number seven on a line of nine. Ladd served the fraternity as Chaplain on two different occasions, in Gamma Gamma Chapter and Lambda Gamma Gamma Chapter (Ft. Meade, MD). In 2021, Ladd will reach an Omega Psi Phi milestone of 40 years in the Fold.

Scholarship: Brother Ladd received his Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from Grambling State University and a Master of Science from John Hopkins University.

Perseverance: Brother Ladd's professional career began with the National Security Agency (NSA). He worked as a Systems Engineer, Division Chief of Communications Branch, and Senior Software Engineer. He was assigned to Bad Aibling, Germany for five years. Ladd is fluent in German having studied the language in college; his job in Deutschland provided an opportunity to speak it daily. While in Europe, Ladd also traveled to Austria, England, France, and Italy. In the states, Ladd has worked in Maryland and Colorado.

Brother Ladd's achievements and special recognitions include: National Honor Society, Society of Physics Students, Mobil Oil CO-OP Program, and the Sustained Superior Award for Engineering, to name a few. Ladd is a sportsman too, winning tournaments and championships in golf, basketball, softball, and flag football. He has won at golf especially with a longest drive title and as a men's B league champion. Ladd is very competitive at playing cards and dominoes too.

Uplift: Brother Ladd is a member of the Rising Star MBC, serving as Deacon, Sunday School Teacher, and Brotherhood President. He has fed the homeless and is committed to helping others. Ladd regularly works out physically and he enjoys golfing.

In closing, Brother Ladd's hopes and aspirations for Omega Psi Phi is for brothers to grow closer together and to understand that we all need each other. He stated that hopefully Chi Phi can be the chapter where brotherly love and camaraderie are valued. Ladd indicated brothers working collectively will inevitably uncover the treasure that lies within each other.

Brother Ladd is an enthusiastic cook and baker. His smile is welcoming and his laugh is even more inviting both of which lay a foundation of an authentic, frank, and Godly person with a compassion for people. Ladd is a blessing to others and his brotherly love is boundless. May God continue to keep Brother Ladd and his family and may He prosper their several abilities and endeavors. John 3:16

