

Spotlight on
Brother E.J. Wilson
By. Brother Jeffrey T. Smith

I met Brother E.J. Wilson many years ago at a chapter meeting. As I observed him that evening, his presence and purpose were vigilant and steadfast – the Brother with the white cowboy hat and attentiveness to the proceedings. Brother E.J. Wilson, the ace on a line of 12, was initiated April 1963 into Tau Epsilon Chapter, Texas Southern University. He was inducted into the Lampados Club in September 1962 while working on his major of Psychology. He would forego his college career for personal reasons; yet, his enthusiasm for the Fold of Omega would not falter throughout his life's journey. Brother Wilson has a pin representing 50 years of service in Omega and a plaque for 40 years.

Brother Wilson grew up in Silsdee, Texas which is just outside the golden triangle region in East Texas – Beaumont, Orange, and Port Arthur. His hometown was known for two industries – rail and timber – with the Sante Fe Railroad and Kirby Lumber as its two biggest employers. Brother Wilson would live briefly in his hometown after college before relocating to Denver, Colorado.

In 1964, Brother Wilson made Denver his new home and begin working for the United States Postal Service for a few years. After a couple of additional jobs over the course of several years, Wilson started his career at IBM, which would conclude with retirement 25 years later. During his tenure with IBM, Wilson was employed in Denver as a member of the Office Products Division. He held a number of positions within the unit. First, he distributed parts for copy machines and typewriters to company engineers and other businesses. Next, Wilson was in customer service responsible for interactions with company employees and business clients. Lastly, he worked in accounts receivables managing government and business accounts involving leasing, renting, and buying of IBM office machines – copiers, fax machines, typewriters, and computer processors. Wilson was the recipient of two 'IBM Means Service Awards' for exceeding goals in customer service and accounts receivables. Recipients were treated to an all-expense paid business trip extravaganza to Miami Beach. After Wilson's retirement from IBM in 1992, he returned to the United States Postal Service for a second career and retirement in 2013. Wilson was a

mail handler at the GMF facility and a member of Local 321 of the National Postal Mail Handlers Union. Brother Wilson had two distinguished careers all the while raising a family – two sons, one daughter, and seven grandchildren. He is married to Yvonne Wilson.

Brother Wilson's aspiration for Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and Chi Phi Chapter is simple and attainable. He would encourage Brothers to work together for a better Omega and community. He believes Omega men should push each the other to realize the full potential within.

Brother Wilson spoke of three Omega men whom he drew inspiration from over the years. He stated that Brother Dr. William 'Bill' Bowers was the first Omega man he met in Denver and that he was always very nice to him as a friend should be to another friend. Wilson remarked that Brother William 'Bill' Pinkett was a tough Omega man yet fair in his dealings with him and other members. Brother Wilson commented that Brother Daniel Lowman, an IRS employee and a member a ski club, exuded quiet leadership. However, he was straightforward in communications with members. The three men were stalwarts of Chi Phi Chapter and held in high esteem.

Brother Wilson's attendance and participation in chapter activities help bridge the generational gap within our ranks and supports the motto of Friendship is Essential to the Soul! His life's journey to date speaks to his application of the fraternity's values of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift. Brother E.J. Wilson is a member who sets the example for consistency, courage, confidence, and commitment. He is worthy of observation, conversation, and emulation.

