

# REKINDLING YOUR ALPHA SPIRIT

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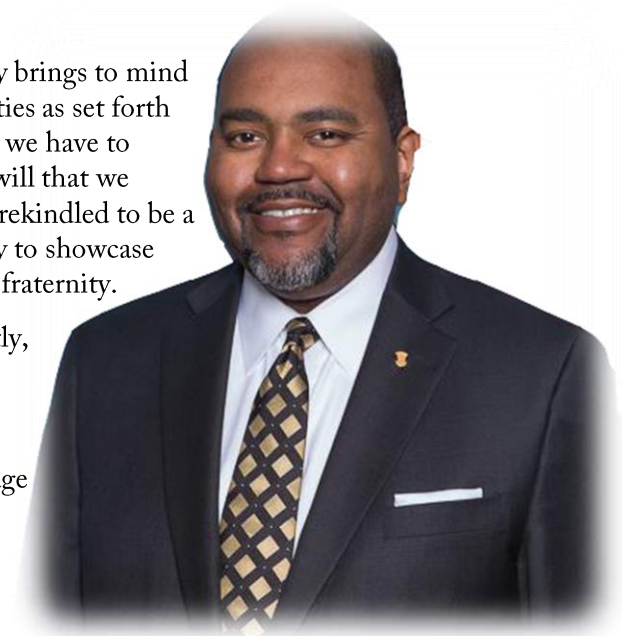
## Dear Brothers of the Mighty Midwestern Region,

The close of 2016 and the 110th anniversary of our dear fraternity brings to mind the spirit of commitment to service and the uplift of our communities as set forth by the Jewel brothers. In that very spirit, we should be mindful that we have to share the “Good news” that is associated with the service and goodwill that we spread in our communities. The Alpha Spirit Newsletter has been rekindled to be a forum that gives chapters in the Midwestern Region an opportunity to showcase the good works that Alpha Phi Alpha is doing in this region of the fraternity.

In closing, I encourage all Alpha Phi Alpha men to work diligently, to promote the broad principles of idealism associated with our fraternity and then to share that experience with other brothers. The Alpha Spirit is the newsletter of the region that captures all brothers' efforts and facilitates a forum for best practices. I encourage you to submit your individual or chapter accomplishment today! Onward and Upward!

Fraternally,

Willis L. Lonzer, III, Ph.D.  
Midwestern Regional Vice President  
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



# ALPHA SPIRIT



# IOTA PI LEAVES MARK ON ILLINOIS HIGHWAY

**RODRICK ROBINS**  
**CONTRIBUTOR, IOTA PI**

In March of 2016, the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, Iota Pi chapter met in a meeting room and posed the question, "How can we leave our mark on the city of Edwardsville?" Brothers sat and wondered for minutes in dead silence. Then, Bro. Lorato Atkins said, "Let's adopt a highway!"

The idea was birthed and voted unanimously. In the following chapter meeting, Bro. Atkins reported and presented the logistics. Four weeks later, Iota Pi had adopted a highway.

Throughout the year, the chapter was required to maintain their respective section four times a year to remain compliant. With approval from city officials, it was time to clean.

For the third time this year, Iota Pi brothers gathered at Altitude Trampoline Park, the starting point of their adopted highway located at 91 Fountain Drive in Glen Carbon, IL. Brothers gathered by the sign and took pictures for their social media accounts and the chapter archives.

After taking the picture, chapter president, Bro. Michael Peel said, "Bros, let's get to work." With that in mind, brothers began to police the half-mile stretch of highway in search of trash and debris. For about an hour, Iota Pi brothers walked up and down the highway, on the east and west side of the street looking for anything that needed policing.

"It feels good to help the city out and to have a piece of the city that we can call our own," said Bro. Rodrick Robins, chapter corresponding secretary.

Though the weather was cold and it was a lot of ground to cover, Iota Pi brothers successfully cleaned the highway and upheld the fraternity's missions statement by "...providing service and advocacy for our communities." The adoption of the highway is just the beginning for the Iota Pi. They are currently planning its Black Male Summit Conference for the Metro East area.



Brothers from Iota Pi chapter, Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, cleaning their adopted highway located at 91 Fountain Drive in Glen Carbon, IL



# Gamma Lambda Celebrates LDI with Alphas Champion Excellence

**KYLES O. HAMILTON, SR.**  
**CONTRIBUTOR, GAMMA LAMBDA**

This is another A.C.E. (Alphas Champion Excellence) program provided by the brothers of Gamma Lambda Chapter (Detroit, MI), as our community outreach extended into the summer months.

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Leadership Development Institute program.

In keeping with our mission statement of Alpha Phi Alpha, "develops leaders", 12 members of the Alpha Esquire MENTor Program spent the weekend of July 29-31 with over 120 other young men and Alpha brothers from throughout the Midwest Region of Alpha learning about manly responsibilities, federal financial aide for college, leadership, presentation planing, critical thinking skills, public speaking and other life skills.

Alpha Esquire MENTor Program co-chair Bro. Quentin Lott, Sr. and Bro. Kyles Hamilton, Sr. proudly



The young men involved in the Alpha Esquire MENTor Program Gamma Lambda has implemented to develop the future generation of leaders.

represented Gamma Lambda Chapter as LDI chaperones. To attend LDI, brothers drove a total of 17 hours (8 and 1/2 hours both ways) to Carbondale, IL.

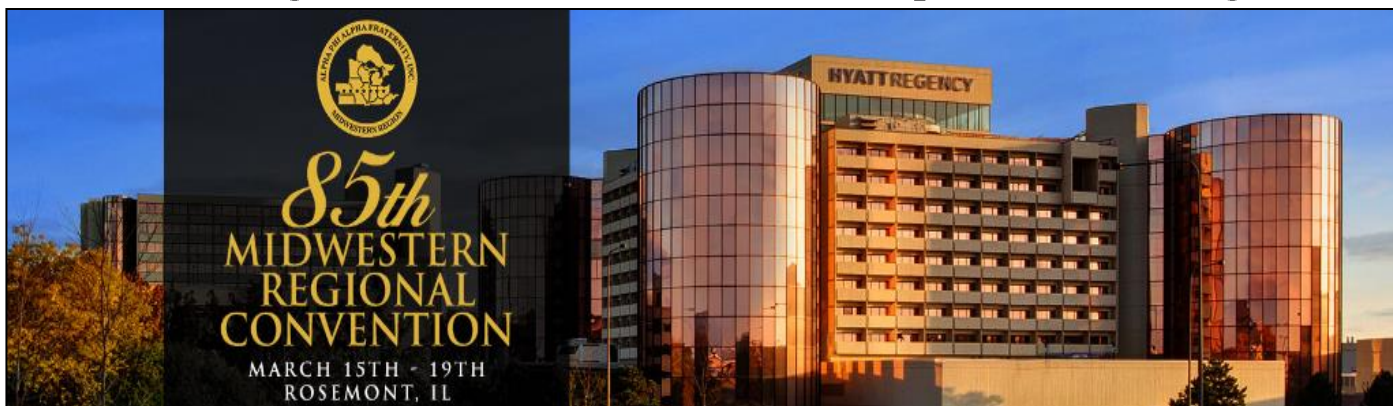
All 12 of the Alpha Esquires' LDI registration fees were paid for in full out of the funds received from the US Department of Justice/Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.'s "Go To

High School; Go to College" grant awarded to the Alpha Esquire MENTorProgram in January of 2016.

Gamma Lambda Chapter's Alpha Esquire MENTor Program has the honor and distinction of currently being the only program in the Michigan District awarded grant funding.

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**There's still time to register for the 85<sup>th</sup> Midwestern Regional Convention.**  
**Standard registration ends March 4. Click the photo below to register.**



# Chicago's 2016 Hometown Hero Hails from Xi Lambda

**ROYCE STRAHAN**

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, ALPHA SPIRIT**

Amidst the turmoil that often rears its head in Chicago, a positive story recently caught the eye of several media outlets with the focus being an Alpha man.

Lt. Ernest Spradley (Xi Lambda) was recently recognized by his peers for bringing dozens of fellow officers to the bedside of Madison Pruitt, a dying 6-year-old girl from the South Side of Chicago who dreamed of one day being a Chicago Police officer.

Spradley and dozens of officers, some on horseback, lined up outside of Madison's home to honor her as an honorary junior police officer just four days before she passed as a result of a rare form of cancer.

"When a little 6-year-old girl says she wants to be police that kind of restores faith, even in our profession, because there are little boys and girls who want to grow up and who want to do what I do because it's a noble profession," Spradley told the Chicago Tribune.

As a result of Bro. Spradley's efforts, he was recognized by the city as the 2016 Hometown Hero. Spradley was also given the opportunity to fly in the cockpit of an F-16 jet during the popular Chicago Air and Water Show.

"I just really thought, 'Wow! That must be really cool to be able to fly that thing,'" Spradley said to the Tribune. "Never in a million years did I think that I was going to be in the cockpit of one of those planes riding it myself."



*Some photos courtesy of Chicago Tribune*

Sgt. Ernest Spradley is a veteran of the Chicago Police Department and a Spring 2012 initiate of Xi Lambda Chapter in Chicago, IL.

The city nominated Spradley for the 'Thunderbirds' Hometown Hero, which was started in 2009 to recognize local heroes who have made a difference in their community. Those who are selected are given the opportunity participate in the Air & Water Show. City officials describe the honor as being for the brave men and women of the Chicago Police Department who go the extra distance to support the community.







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