

QUES ON THE HILL

JANUARY 24 – 26, 2024 ~ TALLAHASSEE, FL

MARCHING TO THE CAPITOL STEPPING UP FOR THE CAUSE

HONORARY HOSTS

Senator
Darryl
Rouson



Representative
Christopher
Benjamin



Commissioner
Bakari Burns



Commissioner
Nick Maddox



Representative
Sean Shaw



Commissioner
Joshua Simmons

Organizers:
Russell Drake
Brad Johnson
J. Randy Johnson
Sam Oliver



www.QuesOnTheHill.com

#QuesOnTheHill2024 @FloridaQues

History of Florida's Ques on the Hill

Ques on the Hill was first hosted by Omega's Florida Statewide Organization in 2003.

The Vision of Senator Tony Hill and Congressman Kendrick Meek, combined with the charge of 37th Grand Basileus, the Honorable George H. Grace and 18th Seventh District Representative Edgar L. Mathis, led to the creation of the first Omega Day at Capitol Hill. They wanted a day for Brothers to visit the State Capitol, learn about the legislative process and return home with civic knowledge to share.

Experienced with State and Federal Policy, Brother Sam Oliver of Chi Omega Chapter became the Chairman for the occasion. Connecting the dots between the 5 Brothers in the State House & Senate at the time, and leveraging their influence and resources, **Chairman Oliver architected an impactful and educational Day on the Hill that broke ground for Omega and Greek Life in Florida**, immediately dawning the nickname "Ques on the Hill".

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity was the FIRST NPHC Organization in the state to host a Day at the Capitol, paving the way for all Divine Nine groups to follow suit. It ran like a smooth train for a decade, masterfully oiled by the Conductor Brother Oliver, with rising fraternity leaders like Brother Benjamin Crump and Darron Toston working alongside. Crafting themes annually and inviting Brothers from across the state and nation to participate, Ques on the Hill became a signature event for the Florida Statewide Organization (FSO)

After 2012, Omega was down to one (1) Brother left in the State Legislature: Brother Darryl Rouson of St. Petersburg serving in the State House. Soon after, Chairman Oliver ascended to other professional roles, taking his hands off the Ques on the Hill steering wheel for the first time since its inception. There wasn't another Omega Brother to join Representative Rouson in the State House until 2015; by then resources had dwindled and our days at the capitol came to a slow halt.

In 2019, 23rd FSO State Representative M. Kevin Woodall gave the charge to reestablish a Ques on the Hill, only to be thwarted by the pandemic. In 2022, 24th State Representative Darron Toston gave a similar charge, leading to a Virtual Ques on the Hill. **In 2023 Omega returned to an in-person Ques on the Hill for the first time in a decade**; led by Chair Russell Drake and VREM Committee Chairs J. Randy Johnson and Manuel Jones, and anchored by Ques on the Hill Chairman Emeritus Sam Oliver. Persevering through years of pain to days of joy, Senator Darryl Rouson remains in the State Legislature, working alongside Brother Representative Christopher Benjamin.

Omega is Back in Tallahassee for Ques on the Hill 2024 – Chaired by Brother Drake with Co-Chair Brad Johnson and organized by a 30-man committee, **Omega has Officially Returned to the Hill – “Marching to the Capitol, Stepping up for the Cause”**.

Ques on the Hill 2024 Agenda and Mission

Mission

To have an impactful Omega Day at the Capitol that educates and mobilizes the collective of Omega Men across the State of Florida to take purposeful civic action. In doing so, build alliances and develop synergistic near- and long-term plans & solutions that elevate the communities we seek to serve

DAY 1 – Wednesday January 24th at 6:30 pm via Facebook Live Virtual Kickoff – Ques Marching to the Capitol Panel

- Darryl Rouson, State Senator District 16
- Christopher Benjamin, State Representative District 107
- Jerry Demings, Orange County Mayor
- Eric Cummings, Marion County School Board Member
- Edwin Ferguson, Palm Beach County School Board Member District 7
- Nick Maddox, Chairman Leon County Commission
- Moderator – J. Randy Johnson, FSO State VREM Chairman

DAY 2 – Thursday January 25th in Tallahassee at State Capitol Bldg.

Lobby Day – Stepping Up for the Cause

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 8:30 am – 9:00 am | Meet Up & Breakfast |
| 9:00 am – 12:00 pm | Lobbying Our Stances |
| 9:00 am – 12:00 pm | Tours of the Capitol (Hour Long – 9 am, 10 am, 11 am) |
| 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm | Visit the House Gallery |
| 1:15 pm – 2:45 pm | Standing for the Cause – Lunch & Dialogue |
| 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm | Press Conference |
| 3:30 pm | Ques on the Hill Photo 1 |
| 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm | Community Forum & Banned Book Reception |

DAY 3 – Friday January 26th in Tallahassee at State Capitol Bldg.

Unified Hour of Action – Unity Panel

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| 8:30 am – 9:00 am | Meet Up & Breakfast |
| 8:55 am – 9:25 am | Call to Action & Takeaways |
| 9:30 am – 11:30 am | Putting it Into Action – Moment of Unity Panel |
| | • <i>Panelists: NPHC / Community Partner Representatives</i> |
| 11:35 am | Ques on the Hill Photo 2 |
| 11:35 am | Most Brothers Will Depart Tallahassee |
| 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm | Legislative Black Caucus Luncheon |
| 7:00 PM – 11:00 pm | Legislative Black Caucus Gala |

Stepping up for the Cause – 2024 Bills Stepping Up to Support

HB 3647 House Form _____, Florida Lighthouse At-Risk Mentorship Program (Funding)
Representative Christopher Benjamin, Senator Corey Simon

[SB 562 Harassment of Election Workers](#) Senator Darryl Rouson

[HB 663 Establishment of Paternity](#) Representative Christopher Benjamin

[HB 127 Paid Parental Leave](#) Representative Ashley Gantt

[HB 13 Minimum Base Salary for Full-time Teachers](#) Representative Jervonte Edmonds

[SB 24 Pub. Rec./Reform School Abuse Victims](#) Senator Darryl Rouson

[SB 164 Solutions for Mental Health Professional Shortages](#)
Senators Tina Polsky, Rosalind Osgood

[HB 249 1920 Ocoee Election Day Riots Loans and Scholarships](#)
Representative LaVon Bracy Davis (CO-SPONSORS) Anna Eskamani

[SB 300 Universal Free School Breakfast and Lunch Program](#) Senator Lori Berman

[HB 325 Task Force on Missing and Murdered African-American Women](#)
Representative Felicia Robinson

[SB 344 Required Instruction in the History of African Americans](#) Senator Shevrin Jones

[HB 361 School Readiness Program](#) Representative Ashley Gantt

[HB 417 Educational Services in Department of Juvenile Justice Programs](#)
Representative Johanna López, Susan Plasencia (CO-SPONSORS) Anna Eskamani

[SB 430 Florida High School Athletic Association](#) Senator Corey Simon

[HB 445 Water Safety](#) Representative Felicia Robinson

[HB 537 Student Achievement](#) Representative Susan Valdés

[SB 620 School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program](#) Senator Corey Simon

[HB 643 Prohibited Discrimination Based on Hairstyle in the Education System](#)
Representative Fentrice Driskell

[HB 711 Coverage for Mammograms and Supplemental Breast Cancer Screenings](#)
Representative Dianne Hart

[SB 786 Youth Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation Pilot Program](#) Senator Bobby Powell

2024 Bills Stepping Up to Support (page 2)

[HB 847 School Readiness Program](#) Representatives Robin Bartleman, Marie Woodson

[HB 859 Grandparent Visitation](#) Representative Johanna López

[SB 970 Education](#) Senator Geraldine Thompson

[SB 948 Divine Nine Specialty License Plate](#) Senator Geraldine Thompson

[HB 1085 Required Life Skills Instruction](#) Representatives Daryl Campbell, Dan Daley

[HB 1197 Early Child Care Universal Voucher Program](#) Representative Angela Nixon

[HB 1227 Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day](#) Representative Bruce Antone

[HB 1357 Mental Health Education and Training](#) Representative Michele Rayner

[HB 1399 Historically Black Colleges and Universities](#)

Representative Dianne Hart (CO-SPONSORS) Christine Hunschofsky

[HB 1383 Reduction in Black Female and Women's Maternal Mortality Grant Program](#)

Representative Bruce Antone and Marie Woodson

[SB 1414 Education](#) Senator Tracie Davis

[HB 1463 Grounds for Termination of Parental Rights](#) Representative Fentrice Driskell

[SB 1610 Financial Accountability in Publicly Funded Education](#) Senator Rosalind Osgood

[SB 1614 High School Graduation Requirements](#) Senator Bobby Powell

[HB 1667 Florida Academic Scholars Award](#) Representatives Kevin Chambliss, Dan Daley

Omega Men in Florida State Legislature

Senator James T. "Jim" Hargrett Jr. – Tampa, FL

- **Florida Senate, District 21 (1993 to 2000)**
- **Florida House of Representatives, District 63 (1982 -1992)**

Senator Anthony C. "Tony" Hill – Jacksonville, FL

- **Florida Senate, District 1 (2002 to 2011)**
- **Florida House of Representatives, District 14 (1992 to 2000)**

Congressman Kendrick B. Meek – Miami, FL

- **United States House of Representatives, FL District 17 (2003 to 2011)**
- **Florida Senate, District 70 (1998-2002)**
- **Florida House of Representatives, District 104 (1994-1998)**

Representative Wilbert T. "Tee" Holloway – Miami, FL

- **Florida House of Representatives, District 103 (2000-2007)**

Senator Gary A. Siplin – Orlando, FL

- **Florida Senate, District 19 (2002 to 2012)**
- **Florida House of Representatives, District 39 (2000-2002)**

Representative Frank W. Peterman, Jr. – St. Petersburg, FL

- **Florida House of Representatives, District 55 (2000-2008)**

Senator Darryl E. Rouson – St. Petersburg, FL

- **Florida Senate, District 19 & 16 (2016 to 2026)**
- **Florida House of Representatives, District 55 & 70 (2008-2016)**

Representative Kionne L. McGhee – Miami, FL

- **Florida House of Representatives, District 117 (2012-2020)**

Representative Sean M. Shaw – Tampa, FL

- **Florida House of Representatives, District 61 (2016-2018)**

Representative Christopher E. Benjamin – Miami, FL

- **Florida House of Representatives, District 107 (2020-2024)**

Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame Inductees

Mary McLeod Bethune 2012
Claude Denson Pepper 2012
Charles Kenzie (C.K.) Steele 2012

Harry T. and Harriette Moore 2013
Margarita Romo 2013
James B. Sanderlin 2013

Dr. Robert B. Hayling 2014
James Weldon Johnson 2014
Asa Philip Randolph 2014

Reubin O'Donovan Askew 2015
Edward Daniel Davis 2015
Sallye Brooks Mathis 2015

Earl M. Johnson 2016
Jesse McCrary Jr. 2016
Rutledge Henry Pearson 2016

Patricia Stephens Due 2017
Dr. Arnett Elyus Girardeau Jr. 2017
Willie H. Williams* 2017

Marvin Davies 2018
John Dorsey Due, Jr. 2018
Reverend Dr. Willie Oliver Wells, Sr. 2018

Henry "Hank" James Thomas 2019
Charles Ullman Smith 2019
Daniel Webster Perkins 2019

* *Omega Men*

www.FICivilRightsHallOfFame.org

Omegas in Elected Office in Florida 2024

| County | Name | Office | Chapter |
|---------------|--------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Alachua | Charles Chestnut IV* | Alachua County Commissioner | Beta Pi |
| Brevard | Michael Blake* | City of Cocoa Mayor | Gamma Nu |
| | Kenny Johnson | Palm Bay City Councilman | Gamma Nu |
| Broward | Lawrence Martin* | Lauder Hill City Commissioner & Vice Mayor | Zeta Chi |
| | Sarai Martin* | Lauder Hill City Commissioner | Zeta Chi |
| | Robert McKinzie | Broward County Commissioner | Zeta Chi |
| | Joshua Simmons | Coral Springs City Commissioner | Lambda Alpha Huncovsky |
| | Ken Thurston | City of Lauder Hill Mayor | Zeta Chi |
| | Gordon Weekes* | Broward County Public Defender | Zeta Chi |
| Gadsden | Kimblin NeSmith* | Gadsden County Commissioner | Chi Omega |
| Leon | Nicholas Maddox | Leon County Commissioner | Chi Omega |
| Marion | Eric Cummings | Marion County School Board Member | Psi Chi |
| Miami-Dade | Christopher Benjamin* | FL State Representative District 107 | Sigma Alpha |
| | Oliver Gilbert, III* | Miami-Dade County Commissioner & Chairman | Sigma Alpha |
| | Reggie Leon | Miami Gardens City Councilman | Sigma Alpha |
| | Kionne McGhee* | Miami-Dade County Commissioner | Pi Nu |
| | Otis Wallace | City of Florida City Mayor | Pi Nu |
| Orange | Bakari Burns | Orlando City Commissioner | Chi Tau |
| | Jerry Demings | Orange County Mayor | Chi Tau |
| | Alexander Smith | Apopka City Commissioner | Chi Tau |
| Palm Beach | Edwin Ferguson | Palm Beach County School Board Member | Kappa Upsilon |
| Pinellas | Darryl Rouson | FL State Senator District 16 | Eta Rho |
| | Kenneth Welch* | City of St Petersburg Mayor | Eta Rho |
| Polk | Nathaniel Birdsong, Jr. | Winter Haven City Commissioner & Mayor Pro-Tem | Upsilon Xi |
| | Leo Longworth | Bartow City Commissioner & Mayor | Upsilon Xi |
| Putnam | Will Jones* | Palatka City Commissioner | Iota Mu Nu |
| St. Lucie | Arnold Gaines | Fort Pierce City Commissioner | Omicron Tau |

** Has an election in 2024*

Ques on the Hill 2024 Committee Members

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Christian Baker | Tierney Bell | Christopher Benjamin |
| Russell Drake | Derrick Dudley | Tony Greene |
| Tony Hill | Brad Johnson | J. Randy Johnson |
| Manuel Jones | Kionne McGhee | Kendall Moore |
| Money Monroe | Frank Peterman, III | Samuel Oliver |
| Rodney Rocker | Darryl Rouson | Curtis Rush |
| Sean Shaw | Joshua Simmons | Gary Siplin |
| Ja’Vonta Swinton | Latif Taylor | Akhenaton Thomas |
| Willie Vann | Andre Young | Chi Omega Chapter |

Omega Florida Statewide Organization Officers

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| State Representative | Darron L. Toston |
| 1 st Vice State Representative | Royle King II |
| 2 nd Vice State Representative | Fritzly Beaubrun |
| State Keeper of Records & Seal | Sean Rush |
| State Keeper of Finance | Andre Gaines |
| State Counselor | Michael Bostick |
| State Director of Public Relations | Michael V. Bowie |
| State Marshall | Gary Watson |
| State Chaplain | Kim D. Yarber II |
| Immediate Past State Representative | M. Kevin Woodall, Sr. |

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE

