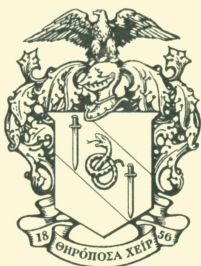


THETA CHI FRATERNITY



“Theta Chi for Life”

A Memorial Service

for

Howard R. Alter, Jr.

Omega/Penn State '41

July 17, 2009

Chapter Leadership Conference XIII

Villanova University

8:15 p.m.

The Bridge Builder

An old man, traveling a lone highway,
Came at the evening cold and gray.
To a chasm deep and wide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
For the sullen stream held no fears for him,
But he turned when he reached to other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

“Old man,” cried a fellow pilgrim near,
“You are wasting your strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day,
And you never again will pass this way.

“You have crossed the chasm deep and wide.
Why build you a bridge at eventide?”
And the builder raised his old gray head:
“Good friend, on the path I have come,” he said,
“There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet will pass this way.

“This stream, which has been as naught to me,
To that fair-haired boy may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim--
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him.”



Service Order



Processional New World Symphony, Dvorak

Welcome Jim Hardwick, National Chaplain
Phi/North Dakota State University

Call Meeting to Order Douglas Allen, National President
Delta Beta/University of Georgia

Opening Prayer Jim Hardwick

Voices of the Brotherhood

Personal Testimonies Dave DeVol, ΓΘ/San Diego State
Henry Poor, Fmr. Exec. Director, Psi Upsilon Fraternity
Bill Booth, ΘΧ; Howard's nephew
Bruce Slivinske, ΘΧ; Dale Slivinske's brother
Rev. Dr. Jack Lolla, BO/University of Cincinnati
Fr. Phil Bowers, ΑΔ/Purdue University

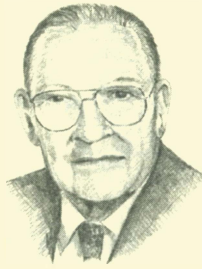
Candle Ceremony

Song “Held Fast in Friendship's Bond”

Closing of Meeting

Recessional

Immediately following the service, there will be a reception for all alumni and guests in the President's Lounge, located in the Connelley Center.



Remembering Howard R. Alter, Jr.

Born on Nov. 1, 1918, Howard Alter was the only child of Howard Sr. and Mable Alter. He was raised on Stockland Farm in Plum Township, outside of Pittsburgh, Pa. That beautiful picture postcard setting had been in his mother's family since 1878 and would prove to be Howard's home for most of his 90 years.

It is true that Howard was an only child and never married. However, he was fully a family man. As a child he was surrounded by a very large extended Presbyterian family, from which he learned the family history through stories. He gained a deep appreciation for that history and the profound life lessons that it connected. Howard cherished the people in his life as gifts and, by mastering the art of telling a story, he was able to keep those people and lessons alive for the next generations. But, Howard was more than just a storyteller. His lifelong devotion to his family and those early life lessons it taught, as well as Theta Chi Fraternity, are legendary.

Howard's "other family" developed while he was a student at Penn State University, where he joined Theta Chi Fraternity. After sorting through several bids from other fraternities and going against his father's wishes that he attend community college and live at home, Howard joined Omega Chapter as a second-semester freshman in the spring of 1937. For Howard, the bond of brotherhood and the ideal of the Helping Hand reminded him of Stockland Farm and his family. He was initiated on Dec. 18, 1938 and never forgot his roster number of 291. Howard thrived in Theta Chi serving as the chapter treasurer and later as president.

Howard recalled fondly that he knew each of the founding fathers of Omega Chapter well, including George Chapmen, who later served as the Executive Secretary for 19 very fruitful years. Those highly principled alumni mentored Howard, and Howard humbly opened himself up to being transformed by their

able hands. He loved to hear their stories and believed deeply in their vision for the Fraternity and Brotherhood. He developed a great respect for Theta Chi's history and ritual. Above all things, Howard learned that Theta Chi is for life. That conviction, along with our principle of the Helping Hand, served as a lifetime guide for Howard's worldview, relationships, and service, both within and outside the walls of Theta Chi.

Howard graduated with a degree in Engineering Architecture in 1941, and with World War II came service in the U.S. Navy – more specifically, with the Seabees, the Navy's version of combat engineers. Howard honorably served in the South Pacific campaign in New Guinea, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

After the war, Howard returned home to Stockland Farm, where he worked in the family business—the Hamilton-Alter Feed Store in Parnassus, Pa.—and became a quiet leader in his community and church.

Most importantly for us, Howard became reconnected with the Fraternity. In 1955, he was appointed a Regional Counselor and served in that capacity until his election to the Grand Chapter in 1960. He was twice elected as National President, in 1962 and again in 1964. Following his service on the Grand Chapter, he was appointed as Executive Director of Theta Chi on January 1, 1968, leading the Fraternity through perhaps the most difficult period in our history. In June of 1984, Howard retired and was appointed Executive Director Emeritus.

In 1984, the Howard R. Alter Award for Chapter Excellence was created by past Field Representatives to commemorate Brother's Alter's retirement as Executive Director. First awarded in 1985, the award remains the highest honor that can be bestowed on a chapter of Theta Chi.

Following retirement, Howard continued his service to the Fraternity by serving on the National Board of Trustees from 1984-1994. He also served on the boards of both foundations in our Fraternity: the Foundation Chapter and Theta Chi Funds for Leadership and Education, Inc.

Brother Alter has been honored with every award in Theta Chi Fraternity, including the Distinguished Service Award, the Fraternity's highest honor, and the Theta Chi for Life Award. However, his service to Greek life extended beyond the bounds of Theta Chi. In 1993, the North American Inter-Fraternity Conference (NIC) bestowed upon Howard Alter the NIC Gold Medal, the highest honor in the fraternity world, for his inter-fraternal service. That inter-fraternal leadership

included serving on the NIC Board of Directors from 1985-1993, and serving as president for the Fraternity Executives Association (1978-1979). In addition, Howard was honored by eight men's national fraternities with their highest award for inter-fraternal service, including: Zeta Beta Tau, Phi Kappa Psi, Lambda Chi Alpha, Sigma Nu, Alpha Kappa Lambda, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Kappa Delta Rho, and Alpha Chi Rho.

The years of Howard's leadership as Executive Director were perhaps the most difficult in the 154 year history of Theta Chi. He inspired Theta Chi when fraternal living became passé amid America's adoration of individualism. But, Howard's understanding of fraternal brotherhood reached its zenith when his dear friend and hand-picked successor, Dale Slivinske, became gravely ill and died. Truly, Howard Alter understood brotherhood in a way that transcended campus trends, subtly leading the undergraduates to restore Theta Chi's fraternal oath and the inter-fraternity world to the roots of their origins.

Howard Alter formally served Theta Chi for 54 years before his death. He entered the Chapter Eternal on May 9, 2009, at his home on Stockland Farm. His lifelong and selfless work on behalf of Theta Chi Fraternity and the inter-fraternity world serves now, and will continue to serve, as an example for all to follow.

If we practice what Howard taught by the way he lived, we will offer our helping hands to each other with grace and deep brotherly love. There is no greater legacy for any of us to leave.

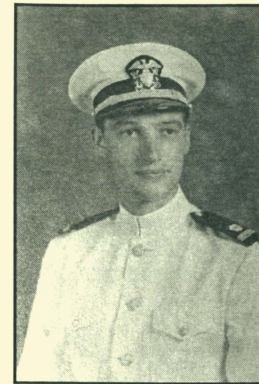
We the men of Theta Chi thank you, Howard Alter, for all you have done to make our Fraternity such an outstanding brotherhood and for demonstrating for those who will follow that Theta Chi is for Life.

We love you and will miss you.

“Held Fast in Friendship’s Bond”

*Held fast in friendship's bond, brothers we stand
Of one Fraternity, our Helping Hand
Strong is the tender tie wrought by our Theta Chi
True, earnest, faithful band, our Helping Hand*

A Lifetime of Brotherhood



**“A glorious past is ever telling
of friendships that shall never die;
Within us peace and union dwelling,
while honor crowns the Theta Chi.”**

~Howard R. Alter, Jr.