

Celebrating Legacy and Unity: Reflections on Divine 9 Greek Founders Day

“ The Divine 9” The importance of celebrating black greek founder’s day



Divine 9 Founders Day
By Trent Patrick, Published Jan 23, 2024

We are engrossed in Divine 9 Greek Founders Day, a time that warms the soul, in the chilly January air as winter spreads its grasp. As the month progresses, we set out on a path of introspection and celebration, paying tribute to the trailblazers who established the standard for excellence in historically Black Greek-letter organizations. This January, the Divine 9's legacy lives on as a monument to the lasting power of empowerment, solidarity, and service rather than merely being a historical footnote. Although I am a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. and I celebrated founders day in November, the Brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., and Ladies of Delta Sigma Theta, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc all celebrate founders day in the month of January.

The Divine 9, comprising fraternities and sororities, each with its distinctive principles and traditions, stand as pillars of strength within the African American community. Founders Day becomes a canvas upon which we paint the portraits of our organizations' founders – individuals who dared to dream of unity, scholarship, and service in a world that often sought to diminish their voices. As we pay homage to these trailblazers, we acknowledge their enduring influence on education, civic engagement, and social progress. Black Greek-letter organizations such as the Divine Nine have played an important historical role in a number of movements, including Black Lives Matter, the Civil Rights Movement, the Black Arts Movement, and the Black Power Movement.

I've had the pleasure of conversing with numerous peers who are proud members of The Divine 9, and their enthusiasm in celebrating their organizations' Founders' Day in January was truly captivating. The jubilation surrounding this significant milestone for their esteemed organizations were evident, reflecting the deep sense of pride and community within The Divine 9. It was a great opportunity to conduct an interview with Dominique, a distinguished member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Dominique showcased great energy when approached for an interview regarding her Founders Day. As a proud member of the Alpha Chapter, established at Howard University, she graciously allowed me to join in commemorating Founders Day alongside her and her fellow sorors on January 13th. “ The best part of that night was the fact there were so many of us. Now I know we have a lot of people in our chapter but to see so many more people from different chapters and regions of the world made me smile a lot, and of course seeing a great friend did too”. Dom is from Pittsburgh, PA, much like myself, and reconnecting with her that evening was great. Our paths crossed after I became a member of Omega, and from that moment onward, it became clear to me that Dom had all the qualities to evolve into a cherished and trustworthy friend.

I had the pleasure of engaging in a great conversation with Olivia W, a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Incorporated. As we chatted, it became evident that her 1st Founders Day celebration was truly exceptional, and her profound pride in being part of the sorority showed through our conversation. The enthusiasm and passion she exuded for Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. added an extra layer of joy to our interaction being that I am almost 2 years in my organization. “ My first Founders Day was actually really fun, I had the opportunity to dwell with my lovely sisters of Zeta and we went to Howard University where we were founded. The only downfall was that the weather was very terrible and we got snowed in but of course that didn't stop anything!”

In January, Divine 9 Greek Founders Day becomes a vibrant celebration of empowerment, solidarity, and service. This legacy, set by trailblazing founders, stands as a testament to the impact of historically Black Greek-letter organizations. The shared commemoration unites fraternities and sororities, each with distinctive principles, as pillars of strength in the African American community. Conversations with members like Dominique and Olivia reveal the deep pride and joy surrounding Founders Day. This occasion not only honors the past but also acknowledges the ongoing influence of Black Greek-letter organizations in historical movements black culture. Founders Day transcends history and a commitment to excellence, service, and unity that resonates in the present and future.