

Giovanni J. Bellissimo (Kettering, Zeta Alpha 'B' '06)

Giovanni 'G' Bellissimo was born on March 10, 1986 in Au Gres, Michigan and entered Chapter Eternal August 13, 2006 as a result of a tragic motorcycle accident.



'G' was riding his dirt bike down country roads and struck a deer while returning home following a barbeque with high school friends. Bellissimo was taking a break from his job at General Motors in Flint, Michigan, where he worked as a production supervisor, to visit his family for the weekend.

'G' loved every aspect of life, and lived each moment to its fullest. He was passionate about riding motorcycles, and had been so since he was 12 years old. He was also a standout athlete at Kettering, where he participated in basketball, softball, volleyball, football, and soccer. 'G' also enjoyed spending time with his girlfriend, Mellissa.

At the time of the accident, many of Bellissimo's brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha were in-state on an annual Fraternity canoe trip. Upon hearing the news, they quickly acted to aid and offer condolences to his family. Brothers drove to Au Gres, Michigan to attend Giovanni's wake and funeral ceremony. They sympathized and shared memories with his parents, Jim and Mary, and sisters, Gabriella and Angelina. They spoke of Giovanni's enthusiasm for his first time living in the chapter house.

During the wake, members proceeded in double file to honor their brother and thank him for the cherished times they shared. Giovanni wore an open black suit, underneath, his letters in Garnet & Gold were displayed. His parents placed his Fraternity pin on his letters during the wake because they loved the passion he showed for his Fraternity.

Fraternity brothers attended the funeral at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Au Gres. Brother Giovanni Bellissimo's ashes were respectfully laid to rest with his uncle. Upon returning to school, Kettering University and the brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha held a memorial service for Giovanni on October 12, 2006.



Robert B. "R.B." Johnson (Linfield, Delta Rho '51, and Oregon, Gamma Pi)

Robert B. "R.B." Johnson entered Chapter Eternal on Monday, Aug. 21, 2006. He was 80 years old.

He served in the Army from 1944 to 1946. After his discharge, he returned to Yamhill County to earn a degree at Linfield College. He continued his academic studies through work in political science at the University of Oregon. Following that, he returned to McMinnville, Oregon and pursued a career as an accountant. He continued his military involvement through service in the National Guard and Army Reserves.

Johnson launched the R.B. Johnson Company, which was engaged in the pre-stressed concrete business, in the 1960s. He sold the concern in 2004.

An active civic and community leader, he served as mayor of McMinnville from 1965 to 1967. He sat on many committees, including the county budget and transportation committees.

He was a member of the McMinnville Elks Club, Michelbook Country Club, and the American Legion. He served as a volunteer firefighter, and was an avid reader in his free time.

Initiated into Delta Rho Chapter in 1951, Johnson also served Gamma Pi Chapter at the University of Oregon as treasurer and president while performing graduate studies.

R.B. served the Fraternity continuously from his initiation in 1951 until his death. From 1994 to 1999 he served Delta Rho Chapter as chapter advisor, and was on the Delta Rho house corporation board of directors from the inception of the house corporation in 1953.

Johnson's involvement in the Fraternity was not limited to the local chapters in Oregon. From 1964-1968 he served the Northwest Region (District at that time) as regional president (district president at that time). Immediately following his service as district president, he was elected by the undergraduate members to the position of Supreme Council vice president, a role he held from 1968-1970. One of his fondest memories is his election to the Supreme Council at the Centennial Convention in Charlottesville, Virginia in 1968.

Johnson was a member of the Educational Foundation's Lily of the Valley Society. Frequently present at Pike conventions, officers academies and conferences, R.B. received the Fraternity's Loyalty Award in 2001.

R.B. Johnson committed over 50 years



From left: R.B. Johnson received the Fraternity's 2001 Loyalty Award, presented by Jamie Wolff (Eastern Washington, Zeta Nu '67),

to supporting the mission and values of the Fraternity. Hundreds of men who were initiated at Delta Rho over the years identify a large part of their fraternity experience with R.B. Johnson.

Watson Ramsay, Jr. (Florida, Alpha Eta '37)

Watson Ramsay, Jr., a 1937 initiate of Alpha Eta Chapter at the University of Florida, entered Chapter Eternal on August 3, 2006.

An excellent athlete, Brother Watson was named to the Florida All State football team in high school, the Jacksonville Sports Hall of Fame, and an honorable mention All American in college. He joined the United States Navy in 1943 and rose to the rank of Lieutenant in just four years.

After World War II, he started a small used furniture business which grew and greatly prospered during his tenure. At his retirement in 1990, this business had branches in four Florida cities and served much of the southeastern United States.

Brother Ramsay and his wife were founding members of Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital and Community Hospice of Northeast Florida. He served on the Boards of Directors of the National Wholesale Stationers Association and the Springfield Atlantic Bank. He was a member of Gator Boosters, Grand Ole Gators, the University of Florida Alumni Association, the University Club and the River Club. He was a charter member of the South Jacksonville Kiwanis Club and two-term president of the San Jose Country Club.

Brother Ramsay is survived by his wife, Marjorie Masser Ramsay, and their three children. His son, Lyle Ramsay, is a 1964 initiate of Xi Chapter at the University of South Carolina

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ARIZONA
Gamma Delta
Schultz, William '69 8/23/05

ARKANSAS
Alpha Zeta
Allen, Edward '52 7/25/06
Cady, Jim '36 9/8/06
Jackson, Paul '53 10/3/06

ARKANSAS-LITTLE ROCK
Zeta Eta
Clark, John '71

BIRMINGHAM SOUTHERN
Delta
Stone, Frank '40 4/4/06

BOWLING GREEN STATE
Delta Beta
Davenport, Carlton '47 9/24/06

CALIFORNIA-BERKELEY
Alpha Sigma
Bell, Taylor '83 6/29/06

CARNEGIE MELLON
Beta Sigma
Breault, Dermott '54 10/20/05

COLORADO
Beta Upsilon
Fielder, William '46 11/28/05

COLORADO STATE
Epsilon Theta
Jackson, Bernard '03 9/10/06

DUKE
Alpha Alpha
Ferguson, B. Troy '37 12/31/05
Spain, Willis '45

GEORGE WASHINGTON
Delta Alpha
Keen, John '55 12/30/03

GEORGIA
Alpha Mu
Souther, John '39 8/18/06

GEORGIA TECH
Alpha Delta
Ris, Charles '35 4/17/06

HAMPDEN-SYDNEY
Iota
Greenland, William '46 2/14/06

INDIANA
Delta Xi
Newsom, David '65 9/23/06
Somes, John '75 8/28/05

IOWA
Gamma Nu
Byrnes, Edward '51 8/23/06

IOWA STATE
Alpha Phi
Edium, Bruce '65 4/9/06

KANSAS
Beta Gamma
Travis, Brian '59 7/7/01

KANSAS STATE
Alpha Omega
Svoboda, Richard '50

KENTUCKY
Omega
Jefer, Rodney '55 7/31/06
Pearce, John '38 9/25/06.

LEHIGH
Gamma Lambda
Pfaff, Henry '34 8/8/06

MARYLAND
Delta Psi
Kratzer, Paul '67 7/19/06
Whittington, Emory '67 5/29/06.

MIAMI
Gamma Omega
Krall, Peter '81 7/9/99.
Pawley, Charles '52
Rowlee, Robert '54 6/15/06

MIAMI UNIVERSITY
Delta Gamma
Archbold, David '51 11/26/03
Gascoigne, Earl '49
Wilkinson, William '73 4/1/06

MILSAPS
Alpha Iota
Barton, David '46 3/23/06
Edwards, Robert '46 1/11/06
Hathaway, Kenneth '67 10/4/06
Jackson, Van '43 1/14/06
Riecken, William '50 4/18/06
Watts, Robert '45

MISSISSIPPI
Gamma Iota
Holcomb, James '57 9/7/06

MISSISSIPPI STATE
Gamma Theta
Bailey, Wesley '37 7/1/06
Curran, Hugh '38

MISSOURI-ROLLA
Alpha Kappa
Gund, Russell '37 9/8/06
Skaggs, Robert '53 6/25/06

NEBRASKA-OMAHA
Delta Chi
Platt, Charles '52 8/5/06

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Gamma Mu
Covin, Joseph '50 12/25/05

NEW MEXICO
Beta Delta
Marshall, John '41 3/6/06

NORTH CAROLINA
Tau
Copeland, John '54 7/3/06
Deaton, Robert '72 2/22/05
Harding, Milton '42 9/2/05

NORTH TEXAS
Epsilon Delta
Johnson, Ivan '56 8/21/03

NORTHWESTERN
Gamma Rho
Henschen, Kurt '59 4/15/06
Higgins, William '41 3/9/06
Robinson, Donald Bruce '49
4/25/06
Swanson, Henry '47 5/9/06

OHIO UNIVERSITY
Gamma Omicron
Anderson, Robert '48 3/3/03
Hanley, Raymond '87 8/15/06

PITTSBURG STATE
Epsilon Chi
Houston, Johnny '69 9/11/06

PRESBYTERIAN
Mu
Patterson, James '43 5/25/06.
Collins, David Gaston '54
5/15/06
Marshall, James '56 10/10/06
Watson, Albert '49 4/14/06

RENSELAER
Gamma Tau
Sherry, Frank '39 3/14/06
Wessels, John '43

RHODES
Theta
Coolidge, William '76 10/30/04

RICHMOND
Omicron
Perkins, William '48 10/9/02

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Gamma Eta
Taplin, Irvin '48 7/3/06

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
Delta Mu
Adams, Randolph '58 5/15/01
Culpepper, Ellis '26

SOUTHWESTERN
Alpha Omicron
Snoga, Jimmy '49 6/3/06

SYRACUSE
Alpha Chi
Peters, Carl '46

TEXAS
Beta Mu
Williford, Jeffrey '81 9/25/06.

TEXAS A&M-COMMERCE
Theta Xi
Lee, John Michael '97 9/4/06

TEXAS TECH
Epsilon Gamma
Hannum, Matthew '89 7/15/02

TRANSYLVANIA
Kappa
Robinson, John '36

TULANE
Eta
Gronauer, Robert '56 7/16/06

UTAH
Alpha Tau
Marlor, Russell '50 8/4/06

UTAH STATE
Gamma Epsilon
Howells, Richard '59 1/15/06

VANDERBILT
Sigma
Frierson, William '49 9/11/06
McClanahan, Albert '49 8/19/06

VIRGINIA
Alpha
Swan, George '37 7/28/01

WASHINGTON AND LEE
Pi
Atlee, William '39 8/30/06
Booth, Augustus '37 5/10/06
Bryan, William '41 7/9/06
Cooper, John '47 11/29/05
Harman, James '42 3/10/06

WEST VIRGINIA
Alpha Theta
Perine, Benjamin '55 7/9/06
Schmidt, Richard '48 4/10/06

A Meaningful Gift

Remember your Brothers, Family and Friends in a most meaningful way with a Gift in Memory to the Pi Kappa Alpha Educational Foundation. For more information, please contact:

The Pi Kappa Alpha Educational Foundation
8347 West Range Cove
Memphis, TN 38125
901-748-1948
pkaef@pikes.org

CORRECTION:

The Summer 2006 edition of *Shield & Diamond* listed James Fortner (*Tennessee-Martin, Epsilon Sigma '62*) as having joined Chapter Eternal. We are pleased to report that Brother Fortner is alive and living in Nashville, Tennessee. We apologize for the error.