



February 28, 2010

Professor Abdul Aziz Said
American University
4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20016

Dear Professor Said:

Congratulations on your recognition on May 19, 2007 by receiving the El-Hibri Peace Education Prize! The El-Hibri Peace Education Prize aims to bring awareness of and to promote the expansion of the field of Peace Education, and I can think of no better recipient than you for this honor.

There are countless stories which demonstrate the appropriateness of this honor, but there is one which I will recount today. It was over 50 years ago that a small group of Jewish male students at American University in Washington, DC approached you, a young untenured assistant professor, to ask for your help with a problem—because they were Jewish they could not join any fraternity on campus. Every fraternity on campus at that time had a charter that precluded admission of members on the basis of race or religion. You quickly recognized the fundamental unfairness of this practice and approached the University with a proposal that the fraternities delete their “exclusionary clauses” and admit members regardless of race or religion. That request was denied. Undaunted, you approached the University with an alternative proposal. If the fraternities would not be required to remove their exclusionary clauses, then these young Jewish men should be permitted to form their own fraternity. That request was granted and, thus, was formed the Beta Beta Chapter of the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity at American University.

Throughout the fraternity’s existence, you were the only faculty advisor we ever had. You gave your time and energy to us whenever it was needed. You touched all our lives in many positive ways and when called upon, used your power of persuasion to get a brother or two out of a jam. All of us could count on you then and we can count on you now, over half a decade later.

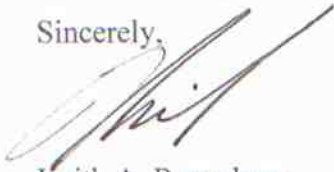
Phi Epsilon Pi ceased to exist in the early 1970s. As with many other institutions during a difficult time in our history, fraternities lost their appeal. But the Brotherhood of the Beta Beta Chapter continued to remain in contact with each other and with you, our founder. At Phi Epsilon Pi gatherings over the years, you have continued your support of us by always showing up. Whenever, a brother needed his help or he needed ours, we rallied to each other’s aid.

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You have served as a peace educator since 1957 at American University. As you have been a pillar of support for our fraternity, you continue to mentor students and provide peace education to a younger generation today. Thank you for your contributions to peace education and may the world benefit from your wisdom for many years to come.

Forever yours in the search of Peace, our brother.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith A. Rosenberg', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Keith A. Rosenberg
On behalf of the Brotherhood of the Beta Beta Chapter
Phi Epsilon Pi