

# Reflections on the 150th Anniversary Convention

by Allan J. Calarco (Eta Pi/East Stroudsburg University '78), Convention Chairman



Dale Taylor, newly elected Grand Chapter President, and Mike Maloney, newly elected Grand Chapter Vice President, listen as Al Calarco addresses attendees at the 150th Convention.

## Dear Brothers,

From what I can tell (in personal conversations and in the dozens of emails I have received) the Convention held June 8–11 was a tremendous success. These things do NOT happen by accident, and so, many thanks to the convention committee members and staff who worked hundreds of hours to make sure it all happened in a timely manner.

We had many special events, speakers, and guests. Some highlights included:

1. We witnessed a demonstration of the oldest known Ritual of our Fraternity. We used this Ritual to add Dan Fleetham, Jr., to the roster of Theta Chi Chapter of Theta Chi.
2. We met, and were amazed by, Brother Dan Fleetham, Sr., (Alpha/Norwich University class of 1934), who personally welcomed everyone to the registration area.
3. We had six former Grand Chapter Presidents with us.
4. The Ritual Committee designed a wonderful ceremony as we celebrated the lives of our Founders Freeman and Chase.
5. The Gravesites for Brothers Freeman and Chase were restored.
6. 150 “Significant Contributors to Theta Chi” were acknowledged.
7. Several Alpha Alumni were present throughout the event.
8. Twelve previous Colley recipients attended the banquet.
9. All those present became honorary members of Alpha Chapter.
10. We were greeted by the Governor of Vermont, and two Norwich University Presidents.
11. A direct descendant of Arthur Chase joined us at the monument and closing banquet.
12. We welcomed Brother Barry Schrenk (alumnus initiate of Theta Epsilon/Kennesaw State University), and grandson of Frank Schrenk (Brother and author of our Creed). Brother Schrenk led us in reciting the Creed.
13. Mary Elizabeth Lasher Myers, daughter of Brother George Starr Lasher, was present to welcome the group at the closing banquet. Mary Elizabeth was the only person present who was also in attendance at the 1931 AND 1956 Conventions.
14. The Family of Brother George Kilavos (Delta Xi/Valparaiso University), former National President, was able to join us for the closing banquet.
15. A booklet sharing the “150 Things Every Theta Chi Should Know” was distributed.
16. The Theta Chi Museum had over 100 items representing 150 years of Brotherhood. During a two-day period, over 400 Theta Chi’s came through the exhibit area.
17. Brother (and Judge) Bob Arnold (Zeta Rho/University of Kentucky) helped us again learn that anything is possible if you believe in yourself.
18. Brother (and Judge) Jim Randall (Theta Chi Chapter), whose Grandfather, Phil S. Randall, saved the Fraternity from extinction, encouraged us to ALL become heroes.
19. Brother Nick Del Calzo (Gamma Mu/Bowling Green State University) shared with us his remarkable work that honors the Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. We celebrated, and remembered, the life of Brother James Burt (Alpha/Norwich University), a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.
20. We visited the town of Norwich, and celebrated the “birthplace” of Theta Chi.

As we think about our time in Vermont, I am sure we will have very fond memories of an event that set a record for attendance. I truly believe we are all better because of this event, and BETTER BECAUSE OF THETA CHI. For those of you unable to attend, you were with us in spirit!!! We missed you and look forward to seeing you at another event in the near future!

Fraternally yours,

Al Calarco, on behalf of the Convention Committee



Executive Director Dave Westol, presenting special Norwich memorabilia to University President, Richard Schneider.



Here's to our Fraternity. Second on earth to none.  
Here's to the Men since '56. Here's to them everyone.

—Hymn to Theta Chi  
WW Drummey, Beta/MIT '16



Retiring Grand Chapter member, Charles (C.J.) Vanstrom, Gamma Epsilon/Western State '81; Don Gehring, Alpha Nu/Georgia Institute of Technology '60; and Paul Norstrom, Alpha Phi/University of Minnesota '86 with their Distinguished Service Awards.



CJ Vanstrom and Mary Elizabeth Lasher Myers