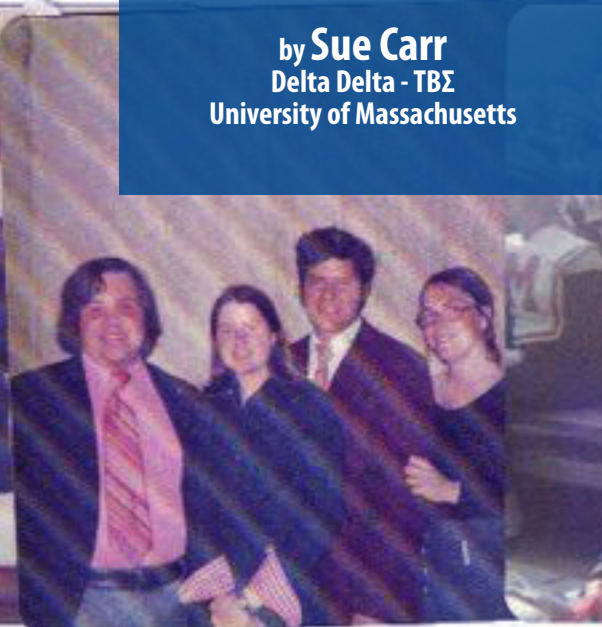


SPOTLIGHT



**WHEN I
WANDER
FAR FROM HOME
...WITH MY
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...AS I STRIVE
FOR THE
HIGHEST**

by **Sue Carr**
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When a nineteen-year-old student in the Minuteman Marching Band at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst was initiated into the Delta Delta Chapter of this organization known as Tau Beta Sigma, little did she know that more than forty years later she would not only receive but be recognized with an award named in her honor. Thusly, at the 2015 National Convention of Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi in Lexington, Kentucky, the Tau Beta Sigma Alumni Association awarded Susan Carr with the first Sue Robash Carr Distinguished Alumni Award. The award is inscribed with the words "In Recognition of your Dedication and Service to Our Sorority." In her own words, here is Sue's journey in Tau Beta Sigma.

My journey in Tau Beta Sigma and serving on the National level began a long time ago, but I would be remiss if I did not mention that this journey was also one with Kappa Kappa Psi. From my early years as the District IX/ Northeast Counselor, I always worked side by side with my Alumni Brothers of Kappa Kappa Psi, whether National Officers or District Governors. Shortly after being appointed District Counselor in 1981, I was tasked with chairing a Joint Ad-Hoc Alumni Committee with Joint Chair, Paul Buschmeyer (Delta Gamma) who may have been the National Member-at-Large, then KKPsi Governor Rick Albani (Delta Omicron), Kathy Rodeffer (TBS-Beta Eta) then TBS Secretary, Carolyn Costley (TBS-Psi) and two others whose names escape me. We met in Boston and in Missouri as a group and presented our findings the summer of 1982 at the National Headquarters in the Seretean Center to National Presidents Julie Kuhns and Dr. David Oakley and the Joint Councils. It was at this summer meeting that I met J. Lee Burke for the first time, what an honor.

Speaking of honors, my reason for telling the little story above is because of yet another honor bestowed on me a few weeks back at the National Convention. I was initiated in the National Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi as not just an Honorary Brother but also a Life Member of the National Chapter, gifted to me by Brother/

Trustee Eric Morson. In recounting the tale of yesteryear, I guess I have always "Strived for the Highest" without even knowing it!

Whenever I hear the words "...as I wander far from home" from The Affirmation my lifelong journey in Tau Beta Sigma briefly passes before my eyes. I will always remember my first real encounter with National Officers as an undergrad. It was at the District IX Convention at the University of Maryland and the National Officers in attendance were then National President Becky Hartman and Immediate Past



National President Carol Blain. A seed is planted, a leader is formed. To this day at every District or National Convention I attend, I see that same feeling in the eyes and hearts of many of the students as they aspire to become National leaders.

My wandering has taken me to nineteen of the last twenty National Conventions, only missing the one in 1979, as I found my way in the big world. Beginning with a graduation cross country trip that allowed me to attend my first National Convention in 1977 at UCLA, I have had the honor of serving as a Chapter Sponsor, the District IX/Northeast District Counselor 1981 to 1989 and was awarded the Wava Banes Turner Award in 1985. It was in 1989 that I was elected to the Tau Beta Sigma Board of Trustees, through 1997, serving as Board Chair, 1995 to 1997. I then served two more terms from 1999 to 2007. During my second eight years on the Board of Trustees, I served as the Alumni Liaison for both the National Alumni Association of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma and through the formation of the Tau

Beta Sigma Alumni Association of which I am a Charter Member. Beginning in 2007, I served on the TBSAA Executive Committee, which became the Executive Council in 2011, serving as the EC Chair until 2013. It was at the National Convention in Colorado Springs that I received the Tau Beta Sigma Distinguished Service Award.

One of the best parts of my journey in Tau Beta Sigma, was that I had the honor and privilege of being a part of so many National Leadership teams. Whether chairing Joint committees, or as a Counselor or a Trustee, or serving on special committees, advising and mentoring leaders of yesteryear into leaders of today and tomorrow, I know that I have made a difference in the journeys of so many Sisters and Brothers from both Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi. (I was never a District or National Officer)

My heart has been filled with love and devotion for Tau Beta Sigma my entire life. In this life journey, I had the ultimate best privilege of all, the friendship of our Founder, Wava Banes Turner Henry. We shared so many fun times, whether with our families, or about our families when they weren't around, or just quiet times reflecting on our Sorority, I am very lucky to have served with Wava for so many years. She will forever be a part of my heart.

Although "...with my Sisters I am best", it is my family that needs to also have a mention here. I am not sure that my husband, Rich, knew what he was getting himself into when we were married for what will be 32 years in October, but he and our son Michael knew what Tau Beta Sigma meant to me and understood how important my wandering far from home was. That was another fun thing that I shared with Wava, my Michael's growing up as a chorister as she shared her granddaughter's horse riding adventures, not to mention all the adventures that she had with her beloved Reese.

Tau Beta Sigma and Kappa Kappa Psi are memories, Family and Forever Friends. Everyone's journeys in life and in Sorority and Fraternity are different. "...when I wander far from home I'll have courage I'm not alone...so from today until I rest with my Sisters I am best." 📖