

JOSEPH B. BUCHANAN ***WASHINGTON STATE '53***

Joseph B. Buchanan, *Washington State '53*, was born on May 12, 1929. On October 7, 1951, he was initiated into the Gamma Theta Chapter of Beta Theta Pi as Roll No. 590 and went on to graduate from his institution with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

Brother Buchanan's service to Beta Theta Pi spans nearly two decades and includes volunteerism at both the local and General Fraternity levels. Throughout that time, he has maintained a constant presence in the growth and success of his beloved Gamma Theta Chapter. Beyond being instrumental in the chapter's 2001 recolonization, he also proved critical throughout his 14-year run on the advisory team in the areas of finance, ritual, recruitment, alumni relations and member education. He has also served on the chapter's house corporation board for nearly a decade, first as treasurer then as president, and carried the torch as chief volunteer for the chapter's centennial celebration.

His influence on the General Fraternity began in earnest in 2005 as an assistant district chief, followed quickly by a promotion to chief of district 31 (British Columbia, Puget Sound, Washington) in 2006. After serving nine years in that role, he was appointed as one of the Northwest region's earliest regional chiefs.

While Buchanan has established meaningful connections with chapters throughout the Pacific Northwest, perhaps none have been more deeply held than with Delta Epsilon at Puget Sound where he was honorarily initiated as Roll No. 1023 in early 2020.

The Administrative Office counts at least 35 General Fraternity events Buchanan has either attended or facilitated since 2007, including 13 consecutive Keystone Regional Leadership Conferences, 11 Conventions, eight Leadership Summits, multiple sessions of the Wooden Institute and several Foundation-sponsored receptions.

Brother Buchanan's volunteer service has been so visible and impactful that he was featured in a 2013 issue of *The Beta Theta Pi* magazine and a plaque honoring those Gamma Theta Betas who epitomize Buchanan's volunteer spirit hangs in the chapter house at WSU.

Currently residing in Sammamish, Washington, Buchanan is married to his longtime Beta Sweetheart, Marlene, who was a Pi Phi when he pledged the fraternity across the street in 1951. They have three children: Kathy in Colorado Springs, Colorado; Joe in Olympia, Washington; and Rich in Seattle. He enjoyed a 35-year career in the property and casualty insurance industry before retiring in 1991.