

# RICK VAN DRESSER – DSP National EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AWARD PRESENTATION

**Cody Dawson, ACB President Remarks (1.11.2020)**

## *IN ATTENDANCE:*

- *Current ACB: Rick Van Dresser, Mitch Swayze, Bobby Flotkoetter, Cody Dawson, Cameron O'Neill, Grant Attenberger*
- *Former ACB: Chris Maccio, Rob Marshick*
- *DSP National: Executive Director Phil Rodriguez*

97 years is an INCREDIBLE, incredible achievement. As many of you know, the Alpha Pi Chapter originally started as the Aureorean Literary Society, a group of like-minded men focused on building a Brotherhood together. As Fraternities were banned at Michigan State University in the early 1900s, this group hid in relative secrecy – and held private meetings in Williams Hall starting in 1905.

By the 20's, National Fraternities were becoming more prominent, and once the MSU ban was lifted, the Aureorean Literary Society petitioned for Chapter membership into Delta Sigma Phi.

Then, on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1923 – ALPHA PI CHAPTER at MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY was founded as an officially chartered Chapter of Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity.

SO, why are WE still around,...after 97 YEARS, when so many other Chapters at Michigan State University and around the country have closed down, lost their charters and gotten lost in the vapor?

I'll tell you why,...WE ARE STILL HERE BECAUSE of our BROTHERHOOD.

The foundation of the Alpha Pi Chapter is our BROTHERHOOD. Our Brotherhood is strong because we recruit, build and train BETTER MEN – men like you Brothers here today. Guys who give a damn. Brothers who, through thick and thin, through good times and bad, through sunshine and icy roads – find a way to serve and lead our Brotherhood. Our Delt Sig Spartan Brotherhood FINDS A WAY. As former ACB President Chris Maccio can tell you as a former Marine – Delt Sig Spartans ADAPT, IMPROVISE and OVERCOME and ADVANCE. We work TOGETHER as a Brotherhood to figure out how to be better every day. We do it, TOGETHER.

The best and most dedicated of our Brothers sometimes go on to serve the Chapter on the ACB. These guys contribute their money, leadership experience, talents and especially their TIME to advise the Undergraduate Chapter on how to lead our great Fraternity. Because it isn't about some special formula for success – it's about making LEADERSHIP the guiding force that drives us forward to not only survive, but to advance.

Now out of the over 2,000 Brothers that has walked these halls, there are a handful of Delt Sig Spartans that you could call ALL-TIME GREATS...and then there's one who stands above them all – our ACB Director of Finance RICK VAN DRESSER.

They don't make 'em like they used to,...and there aren't many like Rick left... He is one of a kind. He is a classic. He has served on the Alpha Pi ACB since 1985, learning how to serve as an Alumni from his mentor, Colonel Lilley.

But Rick has done so much more than simply serve a role on ACB. He has advised hundreds and hundreds of E-Boards and Brothers into becoming better leaders. He has challenged countless Undergraduates to do better, and become BETTER MEN. When the Chapter has been in financial difficulty he has loaned the House his own personal money to keep us afloat. He has weathered and won battles from the City of East Lansing, disgruntled Alumni, banks, developers, weak E-Boards – and come

out victorious in the defense of the Delt Sig Spartan commitment to BROTHERHOOD – LEADERSHIP – EXCELLENCE.

Rick Van Dresser embodies EXCELLENCE in every way. He is a loving Husband. A loving Father. He is a top leader in the Governmental Finance industry. He has mentored every single members up here on ACB, helping us become better leaders both on ACB and personally. He doesn't do it for the accolades, or the attention – he does it because he cares DEEPLY about our Brotherhood, he is an instinctive and remarkable LEADER and he is compelled to share that knowledge and character with all of us.

And he's done all of that - through two serious cancer scares. Through injuries and commitments to his work and Family. Through countless trips up to East Lansing and back home to Birmingham for work sessions, ACB meetings, renovation projects and more.

On this, the 97<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Alpha Pi Charter as a Chapter of the great Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity – we owe a debt of gratitude to the Brothers who are here now as Undergraduates – for carrying on the proud Delt Sig Spartan legacy – and for those Alumni have come before us, and paved the way, and sacrifices for the future of our Brotherhood. And there is no one we owe that debt to more, than Rick Van Dresser.

Rick Van Dresser has dedicated his LIFE in service to the Alpha Pi Chapter of Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity, and today I am extremely proud, on the anniversary of his 35<sup>th</sup> year of service on the ACB, to have Executive Director Phil Rodriguez, and some of Rick's current and former ACB Brothers to join you in helping mark this historic milestone.