



PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC.

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International Military Affairs Committee

International Military Affairs Command Sergeant Major Cornell W. Gilmore I Military Affairs Committee Member of the Year Award

I. Purpose and Legacy

The **Command Sergeant Major Cornell W. Gilmore I Award** is presented to a Brother of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. whose service and dedication within the Military Affairs Committee exemplifies the values of Brotherhood, Scholarship, and Service at the highest level.

Reserved for those who have served at the **chapter, state, regional, or international level** within the Military Affairs Committee (MAC), this honor celebrates fraternal leadership that goes beyond duty — leadership that uplifts, unites, and leaves a legacy.

The award stands as a **living tribute** to a life cut short in combat, but one that will continue to teach us all — how to lead, how to serve, and how to live as a Sigma.

II. Award Significance

The **Command Sergeant Major Cornell W. Gilmore I Award** is not a recognition of past accomplishments alone — it is a celebration of the Sigma who stands ready to serve, uplift, and support. This award honors a Brother of Phi Beta Sigma who has demonstrated:

- **Distinguished military service** in active duty, reserve, National Guard, ROTC, or as a veteran;
- **Leadership and excellence** who gives selflessly to the cause of military advocacy and fraternal advancement within both military and fraternal spaces;
- **Service to humanity** who checks on his Brothers first, who mentors young service members and brothers, aligned with the fraternity's principles of Brotherhood, Scholarship, and Service;
- And **commitment to the advancement of Sigma Military Affairs** who upholds the mission of IMAC through **integrity, commitment, and compassion** at the local, regional, or international level.

III. Eligibility

Nominees must:

- Nominee must be a financial member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
- Must currently serve or have served on a Military Affairs Committee (Chapter, State, Region, or International).

- Must demonstrate an enduring commitment to the strategic aims of the International Military Affairs Committee: **Identification, Assistance, and Recognition.**
- Nominee should embody the **spirit of mentorship, fraternity engagement, and servant-leadership** demonstrated by CSM Gilmore.

IV. Award Evaluation Categories and Rating Metrics

(This rubric celebrates not only military excellence, but fraternal impact and the enduring spirit of service. It gives equal weight to IMAC mission contribution, character, and leadership—no matter the Brother's rank or branch of service.)

Each nominee will be scored out of a maximum of **100 points**, across the following five categories:

1. Military Affairs Committee Contribution & Leadership – 30 Points

Recognizes a Brother's leadership and operational impact within the Military Affairs Committee at any level.

- Active and documented service on a MAC (Chapter, State, Region, or International) – **up to 10 pts**
- Creation, development, or significant improvement of MAC programs, events, or strategy – **up to 10 pts**
- Demonstrated leadership/initiative in advancing IMAC goals: Identification, Assistance, Recognition – **up to 10 pts**

2. Fraternal Engagement & Mentorship – 20 Points

Reflects the Brother's commitment to uplifting Sigma Brothers, especially younger or transitioning service members.

- Mentorship of undergraduate/ROTC Brothers or transitioning veterans – **up to 10 pts**
- Demonstrated brotherhood through chapter engagement, support of fraternal events, or cross-functional collaborations – **up to 10 pts**

3. Community Advocacy & Servant Leadership – 20 Points

Assesses the Brother's outward service to humanity, aligned with the example of CSM Gilmore.

- Active involvement in military or veteran-related community service (e.g., VA events, mental health advocacy, outreach to homeless veterans) – **up to 10 pts**
- Embodiment of servant-leadership (e.g., testimonials, social media outreach, visible leadership traits such as humility, compassion, initiative) – **up to 10 pts**

4. Legacy Alignment & Personal Statement – 20 Points

Honors alignment with the spirit and legacy of CSM Gilmore through reflection and peer validation.

- Personal statement (1–2 pages) articulating the Brother's motivation and embodiment of CSM Gilmore's legacy – **up to 10 pts**
- Recommendation letter from a Chapter President, MAC chair, RMAD, or IMAC rep – **up to 5 pts**
- Optional: Testimonial from a mentee or peer reflecting on the Brother's character – **up to 5 pts**

5. Leadership Integrity – 10 Points

Verifies and acknowledges leadership attributes without bias toward military service.

- Exhibits a demeanor of respect, empathy, and selflessness in military, fraternal, or community contexts – **up to 5 pts**
- Service in Sigma reflects consistency with leadership values (discipline, ethics, teamwork, excellence) – **up to 5 pts**

V. Nomination Requirements & Submission Guidelines

Eligibility and Nomination Process

To preserve the integrity of this prestigious award and honor the legacy of CSM Gilmore, the following criteria must be met for all nominees:

- **Nominee must be a financial member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.** at the Chapter, Regional, and International levels.
- **Nominee must currently serve or have previously served as a member of a Military Affairs Committee** at the Chapter, State, Regional, or International level.
- **If the nominee is an active or former military servicemember** (includes Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, ROTC, or Veteran), **the member must have verified honorable service.**
- **Nominee must demonstrate a clear record of engagement and leadership aligned with the mission of IMAC**, specifically the pillars of Identification, Assistance, and Recognition.
- **Nominees may be submitted by any Chapter, Region, or IMAC-affiliated Military Affairs Committee.**
- **A Brother may not receive this award in consecutive Conclave years.**

Nomination Packet Must Include:

1. **Official Nomination Form** (provided by IMAC)
2. **DD-214 or current active/reserve service record** (verifying honorable service)

3. **Personal Statement** (1–2 pages): Explain your leadership, service, and embodiment of the legacy of CSM Gilmore
4. **Letter of Recommendation** from a Chapter President, Military Affairs Committee Chair, Regional Military Affairs Director, or IMAC representative
5. **Optional: Impact Testimonial** from a mentee, fellow Brother, or military/fraternal colleague
6. **Evidence of MAC Engagement or Supporting Materials** (e.g., program agendas, digital campaigns, outreach flyers, community partnerships, social media screenshots, etc.)

Submission Process:


- **All nominations must be submitted by a designated MAC official (Chapter Chair, RMAD, or IMAC designee).**
- Submissions should be emailed electronically to the **International Military Affairs Committee** at [official IMAC email] no later than **60 days prior to the start of Conclave.**
- Incomplete or late packets will not be considered.

Evaluation Methodology:

- Each nominee will be reviewed using the **CSM Gilmore Award Evaluation Rubric (100-point maximum).**
- A panel of evaluators appointed by the IMAC Chair will assess all eligible nominations.
- In the event of a tie, the IMAC Chair will lead a final review and tie-breaking discussion with the evaluation committee.

Brother Robert L. Barnes, Jr
Deputy Chair, International Military Affairs

Brother Kevin N. Williams
Chair, Awards Committee



Brother Cyrus A. Netter
Chair, International Military Affairs Committee

The Legacy of Brother Command Sergeant Major Cornell W. Gilmore I

*Namesake of the International Military Affairs Committee Member of the Year Award,
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc*

Brother **Command Sergeant Major Cornell W. Gilmore I** was a warrior, a servant, a scholar, a father, and a Sigma of rare character. His life embodied the best of military leadership and fraternal commitment, a life that continues to inspire those who serve in his name.

Early Life & Academic Excellence

Born on **December 2, 1958**, CSM Gilmore began his journey toward leadership early. In 1979, while attending the **University of Maryland**, he became a member of **Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.** through the **Zeta Upsilon Chapter**. In 1980, he earned a **Bachelor of Arts in Sociology** with a minor in Criminal Justice — a foundation that foreshadowed a life of advocacy, discipline, and integrity.

Military Service and Historic Training

In **October 1981**, he enlisted in the **United States Army**, launching a career that would span over two decades and take him around the world in the service of country and justice. He rose to become the **Regimental Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps** — the highest enlisted legal advisor in the Corps, a historic position of trust and authority.

CSM Gilmore's assignments were numerous and elite. In **1990**, he served as **Chief Paralegal and Senior Enlisted Legal Advisor** for the **3rd Infantry Division** during **Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm**. His deep knowledge of military law, combined with his people-first leadership, made him an irreplaceable resource to commanders and junior soldiers alike.

The Ultimate Sacrifice

In **2003**, during **Operation Iraqi Freedom**, Brother Gilmore was deployed to Iraq, where he continued to serve with distinction. On **November 7, 2003**, he was **killed in action** when his **UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter** was shot down near **Tikrit, Iraq**, by a **rocket-propelled grenade**. His passing marked the first time a Regimental Command Sergeant Major of the JAG Corps had been lost in combat.

His service was recognized with multiple military honors, including the **Bronze Star** and **Purple Heart**, awarded posthumously for valor, sacrifice, and heroism.

The Embodiment of His Character

But those who knew Brother Gilmore remember him just as much for his demeanor as his decorations. With a **radiant smile**, an outstretched hand, and a trademark greeting — *"Greetings! How are you?"* or *"What can I do for you?"* — he made it known that **he was there to serve**. Whether in a war zone or at a chapter meeting, **Brother Gilmore embodied warmth, humility, and readiness to uplift others**.

His Fraternal Legacy Lives On

Brother Gilmore's legacy in Phi Beta Sigma continues through his son, **Brother Cornell W. Gilmore II**, who became a Sigma through the **Beta Xi Chapter at St. Augustine College** and now serves as a Brother of **Eta Sigma Chapter**.

The Gilmore name is a name of **honor, legacy, and Brotherhood in Action**.

About the Award

Honoring His Legacy

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