**SPEECH**

**FOR**

**EDWIN PANA**

Hello everyone!!! To alumni, fraternity and sorority members, family, friends, and distinguished guests, it’s both a pleasure and a privilege to have the opportunity to celebrate this year’s Upsilon Sigma Phi Loyalty Day celebration. Although we may be gathering remotely this year, there is no doubt in my mind that our connection to each other, and to our heritage as members of this fine organization, is as strong as ever. I’ve heard it said that, “The need for connection and community is primal, as fundamental as the need for air, water, and food.” To all my fraternity brothers and sorority sisters, thank you for being there!! I’m sure we all agree that the energy we share is palpable, no matter what medium we use to connect!!

While this year’s celebration of Loyalty Day may look somewhat different than in years past, and while we, as an organization and as global citizens find ways to adapt to “the new normal,” one thing is clear and undeniable…. The strength, resilience, and enthusiasm of our members has **ALWAYS**…. both historically and presently, seen us through. This very organization was founded, over **ONE HUNDRED** years ago, as a response to crisis… the ravages of World War I. It is in our cultural DNA to be socially responsible…. To adapt to the challenges every generation faces, and within those challenges, to make a difference… to lift others up, and to honor the proud human connection so essential to our collective being. The conditions that originally motivated the formation of this fraternity and its push to volunteerism…. to combat injustice and iniquity in the world, is at the root of all that we do and will continue to do. While currently, we may be somewhat limited logistically in our ability to come together, our bonds of fellowship and community continue to inspire our unbreakable connection to each other. I have rarely known the word, “stop” to be in our collective dialogue. The conditions we have faced recently surely won’t change that! We will continue and carry on with our traditions and with the spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood we have always honored!

We are so fortunate to have several “arms” of our collective entity. We have a strong history of solidarity between the USPNA, UP Diliman, and UP Los Baños, and we are connected through our universal mission statement:

* The Society and corporation is organized for charitable, educational, scientific and philanthropic purposes, nationally and internationally.

* To promote the advancement of education and science and support  the  objectives  of  the  University of the Philippines,  by providing scholarships, facilities and material aid and to encourage the development of University Students.

* To maintain the strength and vitality of the Upsilon Sigma Phi brotherhood; protect and preserve its fine traditions, ideals and heritage; create a climate conducive to the development of leadership, learning and good citizenship among its members; and to safeguard the interests and welfare of all its members.

* To coordinate its activities and support the UPSILON SIGMA PHI, the University Students Fraternity Alumni Association of the Philippines and the resident chapters of the University of the Philippines

I want to acknowledge all of you for your commitment to Upsilon Sigma Phi. True spirit and determination shine through in times that test us. As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, I invite all of us to continue to recommit to the vital work and positive impact we have achieved throughout the past century…. Here’s to **AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED** years more of service, friendship, and connection!!! Thank you all!!