



John Keeler '71
Has been elected to membership in the
Beta Phi Hall of Honor
Class of 2010

John Keeler grew up in Indiana and moved to Tucson, where enrolled in the University of Arizona, and pledged Sigma Chi. In his own words, "Beta Phi became my home away from home and the brothers and pledges became my surrogate family."

He served the Fraternity in college as house manager, magister, quaestor, and consul. John's wife, Shari K. Vrell (now deceased), was the Sigma Chi Sweetheart in 1970.

Following graduation, Keeler was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps and served on active duty from 1971 through 1974 with the First Marine Division where he rose to the rank of captain. Following the Marines, He was admitted to Indiana University's law school from which he graduated *cum laude* in 1977. After graduation, John was admitted to the bar in Indiana as well as the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana.

Keeler was a member of the Indiana House of Representatives for 16 years from 1982 to 1998. During that time, he served as a key member of the Republican leadership team and chaired the House Rules Committee and the Judiciary Committee. While in the General Assembly, he was an active leader on numerous legislative issues.

Keeler also was a member of the Financial Institutions, Labor, Urban Affairs and Government Affairs committees. Prior to becoming a member of the Indiana House of Representatives, he served two years as assistant majority attorney in the Indiana State Senate.

Since 1977, Keeler has been practicing law in Indianapolis. In addition, he served as the managing partner of a real estate development firm. In 1998 he was named a partner at the law firm of Baker & Daniels LLP, and currently he serves as assistant general counsel for Centaur Inc. a gaming holding company based in Indianapolis.

Keeler has been the recipient of many awards for outstanding legislative service, including recognition from the National Federation of Independent Businessmen, Indiana Judges Association, Indiana Child Support Alliance, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council, Indiana Civil Liberties Union and Indiana Planned Parenthood Chapter. He was named one of The Best Lawyers in America, Government Relations Law, 2008-11, and one of Indiana's Super Lawyers, Political Law, 2006-10.

Keeler's also has held leadership positions with the Indiana Governmental Affairs Society, the Pendleton Co., the Marion County Indiana Republican Central Committee, the Indiana School for the Deaf and the Pendleton Banking Co.

Sigma Chi "provided me with the opportunity to meet and really get to know many young men of diverse backgrounds, experiences and interests, many of whom remain the best of my friends over 40 years later," he said ."Not a day goes by that I don't rely on the values and experiences learned at 1510 E. First St., and when I reflect on my days at the Sigma Chi house, I can't help but smile."