



Luther "Luke" S. Helms '66

Has been elected to membership in the

Beta Phi Hall of Honor Class of 2002

It may be hard to imagine Brother Helms, a former bank Chairman and CEO and a man who has been successful in the business world, cooking breakfast for a house full of fraternity members.

But Brother Helms was every bit as good with ham and eggs as he was with balances and transfers. In his years as an undergraduate, Brother Helms became the longest tenured breakfast cook in the Beta Phi Chapter history.

A native of Lubbock, Texas, Brother Helms pledged in 1962 before graduating in 1966 with a history degree. He was active as an active Beta Phi member. Brother Helms was known throughout his tenure at the U of A as one of the most popular and entertaining Brothers in the Chapter House.

Following his career at the u of A, Brother helms went on to graduate school at the University of Santa Clara, where he earned his Masters Degree in Business Administration in 1968.

As a businessman, Brother Helms rose to the top of Seafirst Bank in Seattle, serving as Chairman and CEO while as well as Vice-Chairman of Bank of America. He is currently a partner at Sonata Capital Management in Seattle.

Brother helms has been every bit as active in the community as he has been in the business world. He has served a member of the Board of Directors of numerous community organizations, and has served as campaign chair for the University of Washington and Washington State University.

In 1998, he was awarded the prestigious Outstanding Alumnus Award from the University of Arizona. The same year he was honored by being named a "Significant Sig" by the Sigma Chi Fraternity.

He and Gail, his wife of 35 years, are the parents of three grown boys. Two of the boys, Peter and Mason, have both undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Arizona.

Despite the accolades, Brother Helms said the friends he made in Beta Phi were the greatest award of them all.

"The Brothers of Beta Phi are still my best friends," he said. "I know all of the Brothers that have had an association with the Beta Phi Chapter have similar feelings. The Sigma Chi experience was clearly the best thing that has happened to me."