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“Little Girl” joins Iota Phi Theta in Father’s Day Salute

National fraternity launches Father’s Day Salute and celebrates dads with the hit song, “Little Girl,” written and recorded by **E. Walter Smith**, featuring 16 year old Star Search Finalist and Hal Jackson International Talented Teen Award Winner, **Tatiana McConnico**.

Baltimore, MD June 2006

Iota Phi Theta is the most recent member of [The National Pan-Hellenic Council \(NPHC\)](#) and can boast that it is the Council’s first member fraternity to celebrate Father’s Day by sharing the hit song, “Little Girl” with its members. Founded on September 19, 1963, at Morgan State College (now Morgan State University), it is now the nation’s fifth largest, predominately African-American social service fraternity.

After a volley of emails within the fraternity infrastructure representative, A. Tyrone Patton, was able to include the song which was penned by international recording artist, **E. Walter Smith**, featuring 16 year old Star Search Finalist and Hal Jackson International Talented Teen Award Winner, **Tatiana McConnico**, in the fraternity’s Father’s Day Salute which launched on June 1st.

Iota Phi Theta Fraternity has created ***The Developing Better Fatherhood Project: Developing Better Fathers and Father Figures***. “The objective of this project is to attempt to address the pattern of fatherlessness in the African-American community. Iota’s mission is to promote the notion of a father’s importance within the home as not just a parent, but more as a mentor, role-model, and co-provider of the positive emotional and behavioral stability of children. Iota Phi Theta will look to develop fathers and father figures with the premise that a father’s worth is simply not just procreation, but to also play a significant role in the improvement of the future of the African-American community and the world-at-large.”

“**James Mason Bartlett, Art Director**, for the **National Urban League’s** official publication, ***Urban Influence Magazine*** told me about an issue that they published that listed the names of many Black male organizations. At the time, I was not familiar with Iota Phi Theta,” says Smith. “However, after visiting their web site and seeing that some of their notable Brothers included:

Zemira Jones: Vice-President of Operations, Radio One, Inc.

Raymond Grady: President & CEO, Evanston Hospital, Evanston Illinois

Larry Johnson: 3rd District Commissioner of DeKalb County (That’s where I live!)

And others like...

Calvin Murphy: NBA Hall-of-Fame, (An idol of mine when I was a hoop star back in Shaker Hts, Ohio)

T.C. Carson: Television & Film Actor, (Formerly of "*Living Single*"), my "baritone brother"

I knew I had to at least invite them to participate in the Father's Day promotion. When they said, "Yes," I knew that they were serious about their motto, "Building a Tradition...Not Resting Upon One."

You can find out more about Iota Phi Theta's "Developing Better Fatherhood Project: Developing Better Fathers and Father Figures" at

<http://iotaphitheta.org/serviceprogramslist.htm>

You can get your FREE download of "Little Girl" at <http://www.TheLittleGirlSong.com>

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