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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African American men, was founded at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York by seven college men who recognized the need for a strong bond of brotherhood among African descendants in the United States; the visionary founders are known as the "Jewels" of the fraternity; and

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WHEREAS, The fraternity initially served as a study and support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice, both educationally and socially, at Cornell; the Jewel founders and early leaders of the fraternity succeeded in laying a firm foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha's principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity; and

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WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha chapters were established at other colleges and universities; the first alumni chapter was established in 1911; and

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WHEREAS, The roots of Tau Chapter are based in the 1915 founding of the Beta Pi Fraternity; the Ninth Convention of Alpha Phi Fraternity, Inc. elected to induct the members of Beta Pi into the fraternity as its 18th undergraduate chapter; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Tau Chapter at the University of Illinois was
2 installed on March 23, 1917 by Brother George P. Hinton of Pi
3 Chapter; the first President of Tau Chapter was George A.
4 Ferguson; charter members were H.K. Barnett, Benjamin C.
5 Duster, Lewis Giles, Clifton Hardy, R.E. Mizell, E.J. Powell,
6 Theodore Roane, W.H. Sutton, Ross Taylor, and A.E. Woodruff;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Many notable Tau Chapter alumni were leaders in
9 the fields of public service, education, and business,
10 including Richard Harewod, the first African American elected
11 State Representative; Clifton Hardy, the first African
12 American to graduate from the University of Chicago School of
13 Business Administration in 1921; William L. Camfield, the first
14 African American to receive a Ph.D. in accountancy at the
15 University of Illinois; and Charles E. McGee, a Tuskegee Airman
16 in the 332nd who holds the record of 409 fighter combat
17 missions flown during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam; he was
18 inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 2011; and

19 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. recognized the
20 need to help correct the educational, economic, political, and
21 social injustices faced by African Americans; Alpha develops
22 leaders, promotes brotherhood and economic excellence, while
23 providing service and advocacy for their communities; and

1 WHEREAS, The 18th House of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
2 known as Too Tuff Tau, is celebrating its 100th anniversary at
3 the University of Illinois; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
5 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
6 recognize the 100th anniversary of the Tau Chapter of Alpha Phi
7 Alpha at the University of Illinois, and we wish them many more
8 wonderful years; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the Tau Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha at the
11 University of Illinois.