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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, was
3 founded on December 4, 1906, by 7 college men, respectfully
4 known as the "Seven Jewels", on the campus of Cornell
5 University in Ithaca, New York, becoming the first
6 intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established by and for
7 African-Americans; and

8 WHEREAS, The Seven Jewels of the Fraternity, Henry Arthur
9 Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George
10 Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle,
11 and Vertner Woodson Tandy, recognized the need for a strong
12 bond of brotherhood among African descendants in this country
13 while stressing academic excellence among its members; the
14 founders recognized the need to help correct the educational,
15 economic, political, and social injustices faced by
16 African-Americans and other people of color; and

17 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha initially served as a study and
18 support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice,
19 both educationally and socially, at Cornell University; the
20 Jewel Founders and early leaders of the Fraternity succeeded in
21 laying a firm foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha's principles of
22 scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of
23 humanity; and

1 WHEREAS, Since its founding, Alpha Phi Alpha has
2 consistently supplied its voice and vision to the struggle of
3 African-Americans, people of color, and issues of civil rights
4 around the world; and

5 WHEREAS, The aims of Alpha Phi Alpha are manly deeds,
6 scholarship, and love for all mankind; and

7 WHEREAS, The mission of Alpha Phi Alpha is to develop
8 leaders, promote brotherhood and academic excellence, and
9 provide service and advocacy for communities, as exemplified
10 through its national programs, which include "Go to High
11 School, Go to College", which focuses on the educational
12 achievement of students in elementary, secondary, and
13 post-secondary schools and has given thousands of dollars in
14 scholarship funds to deserving students; "Project Alpha",
15 which teaches teenage pregnancy prevention and sexually
16 transmitted disease prevention to young males, and its
17 "Voteless People is a Hopeless People" campaign, a voter
18 registration and education program, through which thousands of
19 voters have been educated and registered; Alpha Phi Alpha also
20 focuses on providing service through its strategic
21 partnerships with Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Boy Scouts of
22 America, March of Dimes, the American Heart/American Stroke
23 Association, and the American Cancer Society; and

1 WHEREAS, For over 109 years, Alpha Phi Alpha has played a
2 fundamental role in the positive development of the character
3 and education of more than 200,000 men around the world; and

4 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha has over 700 college and alumni
5 chapters in the United States of America, Africa, Asia, the
6 Caribbean, and Europe; this total includes 141 chapters in the
7 Midwestern Region, including 32 in Illinois; the Midwestern
8 Region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas,
9 Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Nebraska, West
10 Virginia, Wisconsin, and Canada; Alpha Phi Alpha's presence
11 started in Illinois, with the founding of the first college
12 chapter in Illinois, the Theta Chapter, in 1910, and the first
13 alumni chapter, the Xi Lambda Chapter, which was founded in
14 1924, both in Chicago; and

15 WHEREAS, Members of Alpha Phi Alpha include many noteworthy
16 leaders in the areas of government, business, entertainment,
17 science, and higher education, including the likes of Dr.
18 Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, W.E.B. DuBois, John
19 Hope Franklin, John H. Johnson, Adam Clayton Powell, Andrew
20 Young, and Cornel West; its membership also includes federal,
21 State, and local elected officials, including U.S.
22 Representative Danny K. Davis, former U.S. Senators Edward
23 Brooke and Roland Burris, former Cook County Board Presidents

1 John and Todd Stroger, and former Mayor of Chicago Eugene
2 Sawyer, among countless others who have long stood at the
3 forefront of the fight for civil and human rights and social
4 change for all Americans; and

5 WHEREAS, Several Alpha Phi Alpha members have served in the
6 Illinois General Assembly, including the following members of
7 the 99th General Assembly: Senator Donne E. Trotter and
8 Representatives Al Riley, Arthur Turner, Jr., Emanuel "Chris"
9 Welch, and Elgie R. Sims, Jr., who also served as the 26th Vice
10 President of the Midwestern Region; and

11 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha continues to enrich the lives of
12 its members, who, in turn, provide service and advocacy for the
13 communities they serve with a commitment to service and the
14 uplifting of humanity; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
17 recognize and honor the 2016 Alpha Phi Alpha Day held at the
18 Illinois State Capitol and welcome the members of Alpha Phi
19 Alpha to the Capitol; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we designate the date of May 10, 2017 as
21 Alpha Phi Alpha Day in the State of Illinois in honor of Alpha
22 Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, and its continued service

1 and impact on the communities it serves; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
3 delivered to the Midwestern Regional Vice-President and the
4 Assistant Regional Vice-President or their designees, the
5 Illinois District Director, and the Illinois Assistant
6 District Director of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.