



HR0513

LRB102 20941 ECR 29832 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity began at Howard
3 University in 1911; the fraternity was started by three
4 Liberal Arts students named Edgar A. Love, Oscar J. Cooper,
5 and Frank Colemanin and met in the Science Hall, now known as
6 Thirkiel Hall, in the office of biology Professor Ernest E.
7 Just who would serve as faculty adviser; and

8 WHEREAS, The name Omega Psi Phi was derived from the
9 initials of the Greek phrase meaning "friendship is essential
10 to the soul"; manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift
11 were adopted as the fraternity's cardinal principles; and

12 WHEREAS, Each year, Omega Psi Phi gives at least \$50,000
13 to historically Black colleges and universities in furtherance
14 of its commitment to provide philanthropic support; and

15 WHEREAS, Many notable Omega Men are recognized as leaders
16 in the arts, academics, athletics, business, civil rights,
17 education, government, and science sectors at the local,
18 national and international levels; and

19 WHEREAS, Omega Psi Phi chapters participate in activities
20 that will uplift their communities; some of the activities
21 include voter registration, fighting illiteracy, volunteering

1 for Habitat for Humanity, mentoring, and participation in
2 fundraisers for charitable organizations; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1921, Dr. Taylor F. Harmon and Dr. Simmons
4 Hamilton became the first initiates of the Sigma Omega Chapter
5 of Omega Psi Phi at the University of Chicago; both men were
6 distinguished dentists in the Chicago area and graduates of
7 Meharry Medical College; and

8 WHEREAS, The Sigma Omega Chapter has hosted its signature
9 Mardi Gras event in Chicago for many years, with proceeds
10 funding scholarships; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1995, the Sigma Omega Chapter started the
12 Sigma Omega Foundation, now known as the "Strengthening our
13 Community Alliance Foundation", to provide scholarships and
14 community services to the Woodlawn community; and

15 WHEREAS, The Strengthening our Community Alliance
16 Foundation (The Foundation) has four pillars for the success
17 of the community, consisting of education, economic
18 development, community, and health; and

19 WHEREAS, The Foundation hosts monthly community health
20 screening and tax clinics for community members in the
21 neighborhood of Woodlawn; and

1 WHEREAS, The Foundation provides mentoring, tutoring, and
2 coding classes for students in the community; and

3 WHEREAS, The Foundation encourages civic engagement
4 through community block club meetings, voter education,
5 education seminars, and non-partisan political forums; and

6 WHEREAS, The Foundation recognizes a need for a mentoring
7 and leadership program in the community and is in the process
8 of developing a leadership program and curriculum for grades
9 one through six; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2015, the Sigma Omega Foundation purchased the
11 former Alexandre Dumas Elementary School from the City of
12 Chicago; this building serves as a chapter house to host
13 monthly meetings and serves the Woodlawn community on the
14 South Side of Chicago; and

15 WHEREAS, The Sigma Omega Chapter has worked tirelessly to
16 uphold the cardinal principles of Omega Psi Phi in the
17 Woodlawn and Chicago community through their community service
18 and scholarship fund; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we recognize the 100 year anniversary of the founding of the
2 Sigma Omega Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity and
3 recognize the service and accomplishments of Sigma Omega
4 Chapter members; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the Sigma Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi as a
7 symbol of our esteem and respect.