



SR0895

LRB102 26583 LAW 37295 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

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

7

8

WHEREAS, The Seven Jewels of the Fraternity, Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle, and Vertner Woodson Tandy, recognized the need for a strong bond of brotherhood among African descendants in this country and the need to help correct the educational, economic, political, and social injustices faced by African Americans and other people of color; and

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha initially served as a study and support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice, both educationally and socially, at Cornell University; the 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

17

18

19

20

21

22

1           WHEREAS, While stressing academic excellence among its  
2 members since its founding, Alpha Phi Alpha has consistently  
3 supplied its voice and vision to the struggle of African  
4 Americans and people of color and to issues of civil rights  
5 around the world; and

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

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

1           WHEREAS, For over 115 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; its presence  
8           started in Illinois with the founding of the Theta Chapter in  
9           1910, the first college chapter in Illinois, and the Xi Lambda  
10          Chapter in 1924, the first alumni chapter, both in Chicago;  
11          and

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

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

4 WHEREAS, Several Alpha Phi Alpha members have served in  
5 the Illinois General Assembly; of the 102nd General Assembly,  
6 those members include Representative Justin Slaughter, Speaker  
7 of the House of Representatives Emanuel "Chris" Welch, and  
8 Senator Elgie R. Sims Jr., who also served as the 26th vice  
9 president of the Midwestern Region; and

10 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha continues to enrich the lives of  
11 its members, who, in turn, provide service and advocacy for  
12 the communities they serve; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare March 16,  
15 2022 as Alpha Phi Alpha Day in the State of Illinois in honor  
16 of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated and its continued  
17 impact on the communities it serves; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we welcome the members of Alpha Phi Alpha  
19 to the Illinois State Capitol on Alpha Phi Alpha Day.