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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 focus 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 "Voteless
17 People is a Hopeless People", a voter registration and
18 education program, through which thousands of voters have been
19 educated and registered; Alpha Phi Alpha also focuses on
20 providing service through its strategic partnerships with Big
21 Brothers Big Sisters, the Boy Scouts of America, March of
22 Dimes, the American Heart/American Stroke Association, and the
23 American Cancer Society; and

1 WHEREAS, For over 106 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; and

4 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha has over 700 college and alumni
5 chapters in the United States of America, the District of
6 Columbia, Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Europe; this total
7 includes 140 chapters in the Midwestern Region, including 31 in
8 Illinois; the Midwestern Region includes the states of
9 Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan,
10 Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Nebraska, West Virginia, Wisconsin,
11 and Canada; Alpha Phi Alpha's presence started in Illinois,
12 with the founding of the first college chapter in Illinois, the
13 Theta Chapter, in 1910, and the first alumni chapter, the Xi
14 Lambda Chapter, which was founded in 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 State and
21 local elected officials, including former U.S. Senator Roland
22 Burris, former Cook County Board Presidents John and Todd
23 Stroger, and former Mayor of Chicago Eugene Sawyer, among

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

4 WHEREAS, Several Alpha Phi Alpha members have served in the
5 Illinois General Assembly, including the following members of
6 the 98th General Assembly: Senator Donne E. Trotter and
7 Representatives Al Riley, Arthur Turner, Jr., Emanuel "Chris"
8 Welch, and Elgie R. Sims, Jr., who also serves 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 the
12 communities they serve with a commitment to service and the
13 uplifting of humanity; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we recognize and honor the 2013 Alpha Phi Alpha Day held at the
17 Illinois State Capitol and welcome the members of Alpha Phi
18 Alpha to the Capitol; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That we designate the date of May 8, 2013 as
20 Alpha Phi Alpha Day in the State of Illinois in honor of Alpha
21 Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, and its continued service
22 and impact on the communities it serves; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 delivered to Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Esq., Midwestern Regional Vice
3 President; Sharron R. Anderson, Assistant Regional Vice
4 President; the Illinois District Director and the Assistant
5 Illinois District Director; and the Presidents of the 31
6 College and Alumni Chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity,
7 Incorporated, located in the District of Illinois.