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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, founded
3 on the campus of Howard University in 1908 and incorporated in
4 1913, has established a mandate for carrying out the vision of
5 a new day of excellence and performance; and

6 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is the nation's oldest
7 African-American sorority; the Sorority has never changed its
8 mission to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical
9 standards, promote unity and friendship among college women,
10 help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to
11 improve their social status, maintain a progressive interest in
12 college life, and to be of "Service to All Mankind"; and

13 WHEREAS, The 2014-2018 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
14 administration, under the dynamic and creative leadership of
15 International President Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, continues to
16 fulfill the service imperative of the organization's founders
17 with the international program "Launching New Dimensions of
18 Service", which focuses on educational enrichment, health
19 promotion, family strengthening, environmental ownership, and
20 global impact; and

21 WHEREAS, The 2016 program for "Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,
22 Inc. Day at the Capitol" in Springfield, nationwide, and

1 internationally, will focus on mental health, which is part of
2 Target #2 of the sorority's "Launching New Dimensions of
3 Service" international program, "Civil Rights/Social Justice"
4 and "Be The Voice Campaign" (voter registration, voter
5 education, voter mobilization and voter participation); the
6 "Be the Voice Campaign" was launched at the Central Regional
7 Conference in Chicago from March 3-6, 2016; and

8 WHEREAS, Many prominent women have been or are members of
9 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., including the late First Lady
10 Eleanor Roosevelt, the late civil rights leaders Coretta Scott
11 King and Rosa Parks, actress Phylicia Rashad, the late poet
12 Maya Angelou, writer Toni Morrison, singer Alicia Keys,
13 attorney Star Jones, financial expert Mellody Hobson,
14 comedian/actress Wanda Sykes, actress Jada Pinkett-Smith, Cook
15 County Recorder of Deeds Karen Yarbrough, Cook County Board
16 President Toni Preckwinkle, and the President of Liberia, Ellen
17 Johnson Sirleaf; and

18 WHEREAS, Many members of the General Assembly and
19 legislative staff are members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,
20 Inc., including Senate Majority Whip Mattie Hunter, Senator Toi
21 Hutchinson, Representative Monique Davis, India Hammons, and
22 Nia Odeoti-Hassan, who has served since 2010 as the Illinois
23 State Connection Coordinator and the chairwoman of the Illinois
24 State Connection Committee in the Central Region under the

1 leadership of Regional Director Kathy Walker-Steele; and

2 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha's storied history of proven
3 leadership and extensive involvement in the world community
4 through strategic partnerships evidence the sorority's
5 potential to significantly contribute to the world community;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated made
8 history and expanded its international presence when it
9 chartered its first chapter, Omega Theta Omega, in the Middle
10 East; the chapter's 37 women, located in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and
11 throughout the United Arab Emirates, are business executives,
12 attorneys, educators, and physicians, among other accomplished
13 professionals; and

14 WHEREAS, Leadership development is essential to the
15 vitality of the organization, and the sorority's continuing
16 requirements of academic excellence, shared values, and
17 dedication to the mission of Alpha Kappa Alpha ensure a
18 continuous wellspring of quality leaders; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
20 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
21 designate the date of May 11, 2016 as Alpha Kappa Alpha Day in
22 the State of Illinois in honor of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,

1 Incorporated, and its work; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
3 provided to Kathy Walker-Steele, Central Regional Director;
4 Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, International President; Sylvia
5 Blackmon-Roberts, International Connection Committee Chairman;
6 and Bakahia Madison, Central Regional Representative to the
7 International Connection Committee.