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SENATE 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  
8 their mission to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and  
9 ethical standards, promote unity and friendship among college  
10 women, help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in  
11 order to improve their social status, maintain a progressive  
12 interest in college life, and to be of "Service to All  
13 Mankind"; and

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

22           WHEREAS, Many prominent women have been or are members of

1 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., including the late First Lady  
2 Eleanor Roosevelt, the late civil rights leaders Coretta Scott  
3 King and Rosa Parks, actress Phylicia Rashad, the late poet  
4 Maya Angelou, writer Toni Morrison, singer Alicia Keys,  
5 attorney Star Jones, financial expert Mellody Hobson,  
6 comedian/actress Wanda Sykes, actress Jada Pinkett-Smith,  
7 congresswoman Terri Sewell, former United States Secretary of  
8 Energy Hazel O'Leary, congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Cook  
9 County Recorder of Deeds Karen Yarbrough, and CNN reporter  
10 Suzanne Malveaux; and

11 WHEREAS, Many members of the General Assembly and  
12 legislative staff are members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,  
13 Inc., including Senator Mattie Hunter, Senator Toi Hutchinson,  
14 Representative Monique Davis, India Hammons, and Nia  
15 Odeoti-Hassan, who serves as the Illinois State Connection  
16 Coordinator in the Central Region under the leadership of  
17 Regional Director Kathy Walker-Steele; and

18 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha's storied history of proven  
19 leadership and extensive involvement in the world community  
20 through strategic partnerships evidence the sorority's  
21 potential to significantly contribute to the world community;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Leadership development is essential to the

1 vitality of the organization, and the sorority's continuing  
2 requirements of academic excellence, shared values, and  
3 dedication to the mission of Alpha Kappa Alpha ensure a  
4 continuous wellspring of quality leaders; therefore, be it

5       RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate the date  
7 of May 13, 2015 as Alpha Kappa Alpha Day in the State of  
8 Illinois in honor of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated,  
9 and its work; and be it further

10       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
11 provided to Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, International President;  
12 Kathy Walker-Steele, Central Regional Director; Sylvia  
13 Blackmon-Roberts, International Connection Committee Chairman;  
14 and Bakahia Reed-Madison, Central Regional Representative to  
15 the International Connection Committee.