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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. was founded at
3 Howard University in Washington, D.C. on January 9, 1914 by
4 three African-American students, A. Langston Taylor, Leonard
5 F. Morse, and Charles I. Brown, who united to form a fraternity
6 that would exemplify the ideals of brotherhood, scholarship,
7 and service; and

8 WHEREAS, The founders of Phi Beta Sigma offered support
9 and encouragement to Arizona Cleaver Stemons, Pearl Anna Neal,
10 Myrtle Tyler Faithful, Viola Tyler Goings, and Fannie Pettie
11 Watts as they founded Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. at Howard
12 University on January 16, 1920 to raise people's
13 consciousness, encourage scholastic achievement, and foster
14 unity among members, making Phi Beta Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta
15 the first and only fraternity and sorority to be
16 constitutionally bound to each other; and

17 WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma brothers believe that each member
18 and potential member should be judged by their own merits,
19 rather than family background, affluence, race, nationality,
20 skin tone, or hair texture and should work to return newly
21 acquired skills to the communities from which they came, with
22 this conviction mirrored in the fraternity's motto, "Culture
23 For Service and Service For Humanity"; and

1 WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma brothers contributed greatly to
2 the literary and artistic movement known as the Harlem
3 Renaissance, to the cause of civil rights, civic engagement,
4 and freedom, and to the sciences, and membership has included
5 writer Alain LeRoy Locke, poet and diplomat James Weldon
6 Johnson, workers' rights activist A. Philip Randolph,
7 scientist George Washington Carver, astronaut Victor Glover,
8 Congressmen Elijah Cummings, John Lewis, Adriano Espaillat,
9 and Harold Lee Washington, who also served as the first Black
10 Mayor of Chicago, as well as Nnamdi Azikiwe and his
11 contemporary Kwame Nkrumah, the first presidents of
12 independent Nigeria and Ghana, respectively; and

13 WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta was the first Black greek-lettered
14 organization to centralize its operations in a national
15 headquarters, first to charter a chapter in Africa, and the
16 first to form auxiliary groups and currently boasts hundreds
17 of chapters worldwide and over 125,000 members who seek to
18 upload its ideals of "Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood, and
19 Finer Womanhood"; and

20 WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta sisters contributed greatly to the
21 literary and artistic movement known as the Harlem
22 Renaissance, to the cause of civil rights, civic engagement,
23 and freedom, and to the sciences, and membership has included

1 writer and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston, attorney
2 Violette Anderson, educator Dr. Elizabeth Koontz, journalist
3 and media entrepreneur Clara McLaughlin, and psychiatrist and
4 substance abuse treatment expert Dr. Alyce Gullattee; and

5 WHEREAS, On May 19, 2026, members of Phi Beta Sigma
6 Fraternity, Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. will convene
7 at the Illinois State Capitol to engage with policymakers,
8 elevate issues impacting their communities, and promote
9 informed civic participation; and

10 WHEREAS, This advocacy day reflects the continued
11 commitment of both organizations to uplift underserved
12 communities and to ensure that the voices of those communities
13 are heard in the legislative process; and

14 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois benefits from the civic
15 leadership, volunteerism, and policy advocacy demonstrated by
16 members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta
17 Sorority, Inc.; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare May 19, 2026
20 as Phi Beta Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta Day in the State of
21 Illinois; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That we further commend the members of Phi Beta
2 Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. for
3 their unwavering commitment to service, advocacy, and
4 community advancement; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
6 presented to the state, regional, and international leadership
7 of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority,
8 Inc. as a symbol of our respect and esteem.