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SENATE RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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WHEREAS, Many prominent women have been or are members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., including the late First Lady

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1 Eleanor Roosevelt, the late civil rights leaders Coretta Scott
2 King and Rosa Parks, actress Phylicia Rashad, the late poet
3 Maya Angelou, writer Toni Morrison, singer Alicia Keys,
4 attorney Star Jones, financial expert Mellody Hobson,
5 comedian/actress Wanda Sykes, actress Jada Pinkett-Smith, Cook
6 County Recorder of Deeds Karen Yarbrough, Cook County Board
7 President Toni Preckwinkle, and the President of Liberia, Ellen
8 Johnson Sirleaf; and

9 WHEREAS, Many members of the General Assembly and
10 legislative staff are members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,
11 Inc., including Senate Majority Whip Mattie Hunter, Senator Toi
12 Hutchinson, and India Hammons; and

13 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha's storied history of proven
14 leadership and extensive involvement in the world community
15 through strategic partnerships evidence the sorority's
16 potential to significantly contribute to the world community;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated made
19 history and expanded its international presence when it
20 chartered its first chapter, Omega Theta Omega, in the Middle
21 East; the chapter's 37 women, located in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and
22 throughout the United Arab Emirates, are business executives,
23 attorneys, educators, and physicians, among other accomplished

1 professionals; and

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

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare the date of
9 May 9, 2018 as Alpha Kappa Alpha Day in the State of Illinois
10 in honor of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and its
11 work; and be it further

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