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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, was
3 founded on December 4, 1906 by seven college men, respectfully
4 known as the "Seven Jewels," on the campus of Cornell
5 University in Ithaca, New York, and became 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 African
16 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 School,
11 Go to College," which focuses on the educational achievement of
12 students in elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools
13 and has given thousands of dollars in scholarship funds to
14 deserving students, "Project Alpha," which teaches teenage
15 pregnancy prevention and sexually transmitted disease
16 prevention to young males, and its "A Voteless People is a
17 Hopeless People" campaign, a voter registration and education
18 program through which thousands of voters have been educated
19 and registered; Alpha Phi Alpha also focuses on providing
20 service through its strategic partnerships with Big Brothers
21 Big Sisters, the Boy Scouts of America, the March of Dimes, the
22 American Heart/American Stroke Association, and the American
23 Cancer Society; and

1 WHEREAS, For over 111 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 around the world; and

4 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha has over 700 college and alumni
5 chapters in the United States of America, Africa, Asia, the
6 Caribbean, and Europe; this total includes 141 chapters in the
7 Midwestern Region, including 32 in Illinois; the Midwestern
8 Region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas,
9 Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Nebraska, West
10 Virginia, Wisconsin, and Canada; Alpha Phi Alpha's presence
11 started in Illinois with the founding of the first college
12 chapter in Illinois, the Theta Chapter in 1910, and the first
13 alumni chapter, the Xi Lambda Chapter in 1924, both in Chicago;
14 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 Dr. Martin Luther King
18 Jr., Thurgood Marshall, W.E.B. DuBois, John Hope Franklin, John
19 H. Johnson, Adam Clayton Powell, Andrew Young, and Cornel West;
20 its membership also includes federal, State, and local elected
21 officials, including U.S. Representative Danny K. Davis,
22 former U.S. Senators Edward Brook and Roland Burris, former
23 State Senator Donne E. Trotter, former Cook County Board

1 Presidents John and Todd Stroger, and former Mayor of Chicago
2 Eugene Sawyer, among countless others who have long stood at
3 the forefront of the fight for civil and human rights and
4 social change for all Americans; and

5 WHEREAS, Several Alpha Phi Alpha members have served in the
6 Illinois General Assembly, including the following members of
7 the 99th General Assembly: Representatives Al Riley, Justin
8 Slaughter, Arthur Turner Jr., Emanuel "Chris" Welch, and
9 Senator Elgie R. Sims Jr, who also served as the 26th Vice
10 President of the Midwestern Region; and

11 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha continues to enrich the lives of
12 its members, who, in turn, provide service and advocacy for the
13 communities they serve; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize the 2018
16 Alpha Phi Alpha Day held at the Illinois State Capitol and
17 welcome the members of Alpha Phi Alpha to the Capitol; and be
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That we designate the date of May 9, 2018 as
20 Alpha Phi Alpha Day in the State of Illinois in honor of Alpha
21 Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated and its continued impact on
22 the communities it serves; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 delivered to the Midwestern Regional Vice President and the
3 Assistant Regional Vice President or their designees, the
4 Illinois District Director, and the Illinois Assistant
5 District Director of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.