



SR0930

LRB103 40329 MST 72511 r

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

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

17

18 WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma brothers believe that each member  
19 and potential member should be judged by their own merits,  
20 rather than family background, affluence, race, nationality,  
21 skin tone, or hair texture, and should work to return newly  
22 acquired skills to the communities from which they come, with  
23 this conviction mirrored in the fraternity's motto, Culture  
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, scientist  
7           George Washington Carver, astronaut Victor Glover, Congressman  
8           Elijah Cummings, Congressman John Lewis, and Nnamdi Azikiwe,  
9           the first president of independent Nigeria; and

10           WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta was the first Black greek-lettered  
11           organization to centralize its operations in a national  
12           headquarters, the first to charter a chapter in Africa, and  
13           the first to form auxiliary groups and currently boasts  
14           hundreds of chapters worldwide with over 100,000 members who  
15           seek to upload its ideals of Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood,  
16           and Finer Womanhood; and

17           WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta sisters contributed greatly to the  
18           literary and artistic movement known as the Harlem  
19           Renaissance, to the cause of civil rights, civic engagement,  
20           and freedom, and to the sciences, and membership has included  
21           writer and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston, attorney  
22           Violette Anderson, educator Dr. Elizabeth Koontz, journalist  
23           and media entrepreneur Clara McLaughlin, and psychiatrist and

1 substance abuse treatment expert Dr. Alyce Gullattee;  
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare April 17,  
5 2024 as Phi Beta Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta Day at the Illinois  
6 State Capitol; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That we commend the efforts of the members of  
8 Zeta Phi Beta and Phi Beta Sigma for their commitment to  
9 community service and recognize their collective contributions  
10 to making their communities a better place to live, play, and  
11 work; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13 presented Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and Phi Beta Sigma  
14 Fraternity, Inc. as a symbol our respect and esteem.