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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated was founded by seven college men, respectfully known as the Seven Jewels, on the campus of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York on December 4, 1906, becoming the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established by and for African Americans; and

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WHEREAS, The Seven Jewels of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle, and Vertner Woodson Tandy, recognized the need for a strong bond of brotherhood among African descendants in this country and the need to help correct the educational, economic, political, and social injustices faced by African Americans and other people of color; and

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WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. initially served as a study and support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice, both educationally and socially, at Cornell University; the Jewel founders and early leaders of the fraternity succeeded in laying a firm foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha's principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity; and

1 WHEREAS, While stressing academic excellence among its
2 members since its founding, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
3 has consistently supplied its voice and vision to the struggle
4 of African Americans and people of color and to issues of civil
5 rights around the world; and

6 WHEREAS, The aims of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. are
7 manly deeds, scholarship, and love for all mankind; and

8 WHEREAS, The mission of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
9 is to develop leaders, promote brotherhood and academic
10 excellence, and provide service and advocacy for communities,
11 as exemplified through its national programs, including
12 "Go-to-High-School, Go-to-College", which focuses on the
13 educational achievement of students in elementary, secondary,
14 and post-secondary schools and collectively has given millions
15 of dollars in scholarship funds to deserving students,
16 "Project Alpha", which teaches teenage pregnancy prevention
17 and sexually transmitted disease prevention to young males,
18 and its "A Voteless People is a Hopeless People" campaign, a
19 voter registration and education program through which
20 thousands of voters have been educated and registered; the
21 fraternity also focuses on providing service through its
22 strategic partnerships with Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Boy
23 Scouts of America, the March of Dimes, the American

1 Heart/American Stroke Association, and the American Cancer
2 Society; and

3 WHEREAS, For over 117 years, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity,
4 Inc. has played a fundamental role in the positive development
5 of the character and education of more than 200,000 men around
6 the world; and

7 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has over 700
8 college and alumni chapters in the U.S., Africa, Asia, the
9 Caribbean, and Europe; this total includes 141 chapters in the
10 Midwestern Region, and 32 of those chapters are in Illinois;
11 the fraternity's presence started in Illinois with the
12 founding of the first college chapter in Illinois, the Theta
13 Chapter, in 1910 and the first alumni chapter, the Xi Lambda
14 Chapter, in 1924, both in Chicago; and

15 WHEREAS, Members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
16 include many noteworthy leaders in the areas of government,
17 business, entertainment, science, and higher education,
18 including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Justice Thurgood
19 Marshall, W.E.B. DuBois, John Hope Franklin, John H. Johnson,
20 Adam Clayton Powell, Andrew Young, Robert Smith, Dick Gregory,
21 and Cornel West; its membership also includes a long and
22 distinguished list of current and former federal, state, and
23 local elected officials, including U.S. Senator Raphael

1 Warnock, U.S. Representative Danny K. Davis, former U.S.
2 Senators Edward Brooke and Roland Burris, former State
3 Senators Adelbert H. Roberts, the first African American in
4 the State Senate, and Donne E. Trotter, former State
5 Representatives Al Riley and Art Turner Jr., former Cook
6 County Board Presidents John and Todd Stroger, and former
7 Mayor of Chicago Eugene Sawyer, among countless others who
8 have long stood at the forefront of the fight for civil and
9 human rights and social change for all Americans; and

10 WHEREAS, Several Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. members
11 have served in the Illinois General Assembly, and those
12 currently serving in the 103rd General Assembly include
13 Speaker of the House of Representatives Emanuel "Chris" Welch,
14 Representative Justin Slaughter, and Senate Majority Caucus
15 Appropriations Leader Elgie R. Sims Jr., who also served as
16 the 26th Vice President of the Midwestern Region; and

17 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. continues to
18 enrich the lives of its members, who, in turn, provide service
19 and advocacy for the communities they serve; and

20 WHEREAS, On May 1, 2024, Illinois members of Alpha Phi
21 Alpha Fraternity, Inc. will participate in "Alpha Day at the
22 Illinois State Capital"; and

1 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Alpha Kappa
2 Alpha Sorority, Inc. will join together for Alpha Day at the
3 Capitol in a collective effort to advance the priorities of
4 the respective communities they serve; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare May 1, 2024
7 as Alpha Phi Alpha Day in the State of Illinois in honor of
8 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated and its continued
9 impact on the communities it serves; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we recognize the 2024 Alpha Phi Alpha Day
11 held at the Illinois State Capitol and welcome the members of
12 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. to the Capitol.