

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 111

BY REPRESENTATIVE JENKINS

A RESOLUTION

To recognize Thursday, May 4, 2023, as Phi Beta Sigma Day at the state capitol.

WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity was founded at Howard University in Washington, D.C., on January 9, 1914, by three young African American male students who wanted to organize a Greek-letter fraternity that would truly exemplify the ideals of brotherhood, scholarship, and service; and

WHEREAS, the founders deeply wished to create an organization that viewed itself as "a part of" the general community, as opposed to being "apart from" it, and conceived of Phi Beta Sigma as a mechanism to deliver services to the general community; the organization's deep conviction is mirrored in the fraternity motto, "Culture for service and service for humanity"; and

WHEREAS, the objectives of Phi Beta Sigma include reaffirming and maintaining a strong commitment to brotherhood, scholarship, and service; ensuring that the fraternity programs are focused and committed to serving humanity; and encouraging a closer and mutually beneficial working relationship with fellow Greek-letter organizations, other community service organizations, businesses, and government; and

WHEREAS, today, Phi Beta Sigma has blossomed into an international organization of leaders, and members of the fraternity have been instrumental in the establishment of the Phi Beta Sigma National Foundation, the Phi Beta Sigma Federal Credit Union, the Sigma Beta Club Foundation, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, the sister organization of the fraternity; and

WHEREAS, various Phi Beta Sigma programs are realized through the fraternity's overarching program, Sigma Wellness, a signature community initiative adopted at Conclave 2007; and

WHEREAS, the organization's partnerships with the American Cancer Society, March of Dimes, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Boy Scouts of America, and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund all speak to its mission to address societal ills, including health disparities and educational and developmental challenges for young males; and

WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma currently boasts a membership of over one hundred fifty thousand college and professional men in more than six hundred chapters throughout the United States and abroad, including twenty chapters located in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma saw fit to move its Conclave to New Orleans in 2009, previously scheduled to be held on the east coast, with the specific objective of lending support to the economic revitalization of a city ravaged by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath; that same year, the fraternity committed \$85,000 to Habitat for Humanity to build a house in New Orleans for a family that was displaced by the storm; and

WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma is most deserving of recognition for its inspiring mission to unite and serve the community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Thursday, May 4, 2023, as Phi Beta Sigma Day at the state capitol and does hereby extend sincerest gratitude to the fraternity for its many contributions to the state of Louisiana, the United States of America, and abroad.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES