

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 151

BY SENATOR JENKINS

A RESOLUTION

To commend and recognize Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Sigma Rho Omega Chapter on the occasion of its thirty-fifth anniversary.

WHEREAS, on January 10, 1990, six visionary and devoted members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Dr. Alma B. Petteway, Eursla D. Hardy, Janie P. Wagner, Dr. Dorothy L. Holt, Lois P. Coleman, and Harriet N. Williams, accepted the challenge to expand the reach of the sorority in Shreveport, Louisiana, and began the noble work of establishing a second graduate chapter in the city; and

WHEREAS, guided by the principles of humanity, integrity, love, and sisterhood, these trail blazing women formed the interest group "Jewels for Humanity" and worked diligently to write bylaws, ensure compliance with national standards, and increase the service footprint in the greater Northwest Louisiana community; and

WHEREAS, with the steadfast support of the late Jewel McFarland Thomas, the seventeenth South Central Regional Director, and the addition of twenty-one dynamic sorors, the Sigma Rho Omega Chapter was officially chartered on May 19, 1990, becoming the one hundred eleventh chapter in the sensational South Central Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, Sigma Rho Omega Chapter has remained unwavering in its commitment to Alpha Kappa Alpha's mission of "Service to All Mankind", serving as a beacon of hope, empowerment, and transformative community engagement for thirty-five years; and

WHEREAS, over the past thirty-five years, Sigma Rho Omega Chapter has grown into a dynamic force for good, now boasting more than two hundred accomplished members comprised of educators, healthcare professionals, entrepreneurs, and civic leaders driving impact and innovation in the Northwest Louisiana community and beyond, while proudly recognizing twenty-three Life Members, two Pearl Members, five Golden Sorors, and thirty-one Silver Sorors among its ranks; and

WHEREAS, the chapter's signature debutante program, now in its thirty-second year, has mentored, guided, and uplifted more than six hundred fifty high school seniors through comprehensive programs in leadership development, civic engagement, etiquette, college preparation, and personal growth; and

WHEREAS, the chapter has proudly awarded more than two hundred and eighty-eight scholarships, fueling educational advancement and generational opportunity across Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in just the past ten years, members have completed more than thirty thousand hours of community service through the debutante program alone, and likely more than sixty thousand hours of total service over the past two decades, exemplifying the chapter's continued commitment to meaningful impact and collective uplift; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, the chapter further expanded its service capacity through the creation of its philanthropic arm, the Pearls of Humanity Foundation, which supports a wide array of programs and initiatives for sustained community investment; and

WHEREAS, Sigma Rho Omega demonstrated its enduring commitment by packing and delivering one thousand Childhood Hunger Initiative Power Pack (AKA CHIPP™) bags, providing a remarkable seventeen thousand three hundred eighty-five meals to combat childhood hunger across the Northwest Louisiana community; and

WHEREAS, Sigma Rho Omega remains devoted to the International Program Initiatives of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, including: Empower Our Families, Build Our Economic Wealth, Enhance Our Environment, Advocate for Social Justice, and Uplift Our Local Community, all designed to holistically improve quality of life and uplift the communities they serve.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and recognize Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Sigma Rho Omega Chapter on the occasion of its thirty-fifth anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Sigma Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE