

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 127

BY REPRESENTATIVES BURRELL, WESLEY BISHOP, JEFFERSON, AND PIERRE
AND SENATORS BROWN AND GUILLORY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, upon the celebration of its one hundred ninth anniversary as an organization and designate Tuesday, May 19, 2015, as Alpha Phi Alpha Day at the state capitol.

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, was founded on December 4, 1906, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, as the first intercollegiate Greek-letter organization established for African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha has provided voice, insight, inspiration, and direction to African Americans and people of color around the world; and

WHEREAS, the visionary founders of Alpha Phi Alpha, known as the "Seven Jewels" of the fraternity, were Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle, and Vertner Woodson Tandy; and

WHEREAS, the fraternity initially served as a study and support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice, both educationally and socially, at Cornell; and

WHEREAS, the 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

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha chapters were developed at other colleges and universities soon after the founding at Cornell; and

WHEREAS, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, has numerous chapters in the state of Louisiana, and its hundreds of chapters worldwide continue the legacy of their predecessors by helping their fellow man, serving their communities, acting as mentors to

youth, and carrying on the tradition of one of their members, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by actively discussing civil rights; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha spearheaded and oversaw the designing and building of a monument in Dr. King's honor, which is the newest memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the first to honor a nonpresident, and the first to honor a man of color; and

WHEREAS, other notable members of Alpha Phi Alpha include W.E.B. Dubois, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Edward Brooke, Thurgood Marshall, Paul Robeson, William Gray, and Andrew Young; and

WHEREAS, this year, Alpha Phi Alpha members from across Louisiana will travel to Baton Rouge to celebrate the contributions and sacrifices in the legislature of fifteen past Alpha brothers and those currently serving: Representatives Roy A. Burrell, Wesley T. Bishop, Patrick O. Jefferson, and Vincent J. Pierre and Senators Troy R. Brown and Elbert Guillory; and

WHEREAS, the members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, desire to place on record their love and esteem for their fallen brothers who faithfully served the citizens of the state of Louisiana in the Legislature and have now entered into the Omega (deceased) Chapter; these brothers include Ernest "Dutch" Morial, Nick Connor, Charles "Doc" Hudson, Henry "Hank" Braden, and most recently, Alphonse Jackson, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Tuesday, May 19, 2015, is designated as Alpha Phi Alpha Day at the state capitol in honor of the dedication and commitment exhibited by the members of this outstanding fraternity; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to set aside a day to commend Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, for its programs and activities that exemplify the importance of service to all mankind and to recognize the positive impact the fraternity has on the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, upon the celebration of the one hundred ninth anniversary of the organization; does hereby express gratitude to Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, for the service of its members in promoting safety, health, culture,

and education for the people of the state of Louisiana, the nation, and the world; and does hereby designate Tuesday, May 19, 2015, as Alpha Phi Alpha Day at the state capitol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana district director, southwestern regional vice president, executive director, and general president of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE