

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY SENATOR BISHOP

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH. Commends Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated upon the celebration of its one hundred eleventh anniversary as an organization and designates April 24, 2018, as Alpha Phi Alpha Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated upon the celebration of its one
3 hundred eleventh anniversary as an organization and to recognize Tuesday, April 24,
4 2018, as Alpha Phi Alpha Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

5 WHEREAS, in 2017, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., celebrated the one hundred
6 eleventh anniversary of its founding as the first intercollegiate Greek letter fraternity
7 established for African-American men; and

8 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha was founded on December 4, 1906, at Cornell
9 University in Ithaca, New York, by seven college men known as the "Jewels" of the
10 fraternity, who recognized the need for a strong bond of brotherhood among African
11 descendants; and

12 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha chapters were soon established at other colleges and
13 universities, many of them historically black institutions; and

14 WHEREAS, the mission of Alpha Phi Alpha is to develop leaders and promote
15 brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service to and advocacy for their
16 surrounding communities; and

17 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha initially served as a study and support group for
18 minority students who faced racial prejudice at Cornell University and, throughout its

1 history, members of the fraternity have recognized the need to help correct the educational,
2 economic, political, and social injustices faced by African Americans; and

3 WHEREAS, members of Alpha Phi Alpha have stood at the forefront of the Civil
4 Rights movement and have supplied voice and vision to the struggle of African Americans
5 and people of color around the world; and

6 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha has accepted men of all races since 1945 and the
7 fraternity's motto is: "First of All, Servants of All, We Shall Transcend All"; and

8 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha programs and charitable activities include the
9 "Go-to-High-School, Go-to-College" campaign, "A Voteless People is a Hopeless People"
10 voter registration campaign, Project Alpha, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. National
11 Memorial project; and

12 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha has numerous chapters in the state of Louisiana, and
13 its hundreds of chapters worldwide continue the legacy of their predecessors by helping their
14 fellow man, serving their communities, acting as mentors to youth, and carrying on the
15 tradition of one of their members, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by actively discussing civil
16 rights; and

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

20 WHEREAS, this year, Alpha Phi Alpha members from across the state of Louisiana
21 will assemble in Baton Rouge in order to celebrate the contributions and sacrifices in the
22 legislature of eighteen past Alpha brothers and those currently serving: Senator Wesley T.
23 Bishop and Representatives Ken Brass, Patrick O. Jefferson, and Vincent J. Pierre; and

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

28 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
29 does hereby commend Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. on celebrating one hundred eleven
30 years of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity and does

