

HR52 INTRODUCED



1 HR52
2 NYDA8J8-1
3 By Representative Givan
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 21-Feb-24



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

HR___ CELEBRATING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY DAY AT THE
CAPITOL ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024.

WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, is the first intercollegiate historically African American sorority; it was founded on January 15, 1908, at Howard University in Washington D.C., by a group of 16 students led by Ethel Hedgemon Lyle; the sorority was incorporated on January 29, 1913; and

WHEREAS, the sorority is one of the nation's largest Greek Letter Organizations, having more than 350,000 members in 1,024 chapters in the United States of America and several other countries; the members share the bonds of sisterhood and are committed to servant-leadership; and

WHEREAS, Omicron Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, received its charter on October 24, 1924, in Birmingham, Alabama, becoming the 15th chapter of the sorority and the first graduate chapter to be chartered in the Southeastern Region; the eight charter members, Hilda Evans, Vivian F. Bell, Jessie Coleman, Wilma Davis, Mabel Harris, Eunice Hudson, Thelma Kingsley, and Veronica Pierce, became the first African American members of a sorority in the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the chapter's membership has included thousands of professional women who are dedicated public



HR52 INTRODUCED

29 servants and graduates from universities throughout the
30 United States; today, chapter membership stands at 385, the
31 largest in the chapter's history; and

32 WHEREAS, in the early 1950s, under the leadership of
33 A. Lucile Brewer, Omicron Omega Chapter experienced another
34 milestone by becoming the first Black Greek Letter
35 Organization to purchase a chapter house in the State of
36 Alabama; additionally, in this same timeframe, they were
37 instrumental in establishing the Birmingham Chapter of the
38 Panhellenic Council; and

39 WHEREAS, over the course of the last century, Omicron
40 Omega Chapter has had a profound philanthropic impact on the
41 greater Birmingham community, having donated over \$1.5
42 million in charitable contributions to organizations such as
43 the United Negro College Fund, National Association for the
44 Advancement of Colored People, Miles College, The Sickle
45 Cell Foundation of Central Alabama, March of Dimes, Dance
46 Across Birmingham, and the American Heart Association; and

47 WHEREAS, additionally, Omicron Omega Chapter has
48 invested time and financial support to Birmingham children
49 and their education; the members have spent thousands of
50 hours volunteering in local schools, and the Chapter has
51 distributed over \$500,000 in college scholarships to
52 Birmingham-area students; and

53 Whereas, Omicron Omega Chapter has overseen the
54 establishment of five undergraduate chapters on college
55 campuses in the greater Birmingham area: Gamma Pi at Miles
56 College in 1970; Iota Phi at The University of Alabama at



HR52 INTRODUCED

57 Birmingham in 1975; Mu Mu at the University of Montevallo in
58 1978; Nu Delta at Birmingham-Southern College in 1979; and
59 Omicron Mu at Samford University in 1988; and

60 WHEREAS, in 2001, Omicron Omega Chapter established
61 its philanthropic arm, the Cultural and Educational
62 Advancement Foundation, to further its philanthropic impact
63 on the Birmingham community; in 2022, CEAF opened The Pearl
64 Center, a \$1.6 million facility in the Bush Hills
65 neighborhood designed as a space to facilitate charitable
66 endeavors for the larger Birmingham community; now
67 therefore,

68 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
69 LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That on Tuesday, February 27, 2024,
70 we celebrate Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Day at the Capitol,
71 and we express sincere appreciation to the Omicron Omega
72 Chapter for their continuing dedication to service to the
73 community and to the great State of Alabama; we wish Alpha
74 Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, continued success in all
75 future endeavors.