

HJR180 ENROLLED



1 HJR180
2 TBLYX91-2
3 By Representative Brown
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 24-Feb-26



HJR180 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

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4 CELEBRATING THE FOUNDING OF SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON FRATERNITY
5 ON THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA CAMPUS.

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7 WHEREAS, with special pride, we celebrate the
8 historic founding of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) national
9 fraternity on the campus of The University of Alabama and
10 specifically, the creation of the Alabama Mu Chapter; and

11 WHEREAS, SAE was founded on March 9, 1856, by eight
12 men for the purpose of fostering friendship and high
13 standards; it remains the only national fraternity that was
14 established in the antebellum South; the Alabama Mu Chapter
15 is the founding chapter of this now large, national
16 organization; and

17 WHEREAS, the eight founders were Noble Leslie
18 DeVotie, Nathan Elams Cockrell, Samuel Marion Dennis, John
19 Barrett Rudolph, Abner Edwin Patton, Wade Hampton Foster,
20 Thomas Chappell Cook, and John Webb Kerr; this group of
21 ambitious young men met on a stormy night to organize the
22 fraternity, with DeVotie writing the ritual, creating the
23 grip, and choosing the name, and Rudolph designing the
24 badge; and

25 WHEREAS, despite the Civil War, which halted many
26 campus activities, the fraternity expanded to other Southern
27 institutions before spreading nationwide; today SAE is one
28 of the largest national fraternities, implementing reforms



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29 such as eliminating the traditional pledging process in 2014
30 to curb hazing; and

31 WHEREAS, the Alabama Mu Chapter has a historic
32 presence on The University of Alabama campus, with a
33 prominent house located on University Boulevard and
34 featuring twin lion statues; the chapter house contains
35 numerous artifacts, including the original cornerstone and
36 paintings of the founders, reflecting its role as the
37 birthplace of the national fraternity; and

38 WHEREAS, while founded in Alabama, the national
39 fraternity headquarters were later established at the Levere
40 Memorial Temple in Evanston, Illinois; and

41 WHEREAS, Sigma Alpha Epsilon is guided by its creed,
42 "The True Gentleman," which emphasizes honor and character;
43 the fraternity is known for many notable alumni, including
44 25th U.S. President William McKinley, Prohibition Agent
45 Eliot Ness, National Football League Hall of Famer Troy
46 Aikman, National Basketball Association Hall of Famer
47 "Pistol Pete" Maravich, Nobel Prize-winning author William
48 Faulkner, actor Sam Elliott, and country singer Dierks
49 Bentley; now therefore,

50 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
51 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the 170th anniversary of the
52 founding of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at The University of Alabama
53 is honored and celebrated, and this resolution is offered as
54 evidence of our high regard for the positive impact this
55 fraternity and the Alabama Mu Chapter have had on the
56 cultural landscape of our state.



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was passed by the House 26-Feb-26.

John Treadwell
Clerk

Senate

05-Mar-26

Adopted