

# HJR180 INTRODUCED



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



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HJR\_\_\_ CELEBRATING THE FOUNDING OF SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON  
FRATERNITY ON THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA CAMPUS.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, despite the Civil War, which halted many  
campus activities, the fraternity expanded to other Southern  
institutions before spreading nationwide; today SAE is one  
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.