

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

22-235

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

December 5, 2017

To recognize the Xi Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® as its members celebrate 35 years of Sisterhood and Service.

WHEREAS, the Xi Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® was chartered by 80 women on January 16, 1982 at Howard University, the birthplace of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, during the sorority's 74th anniversary;

WHEREAS, the Xi Zeta Omega Chapter currently has 252 active members, including 24 Golden and 74 Silver Star members, and operates under the leadership of President Daphne Doyle Benbow;

WHEREAS, the Xi Zeta Omega Chapter offers its members a broad range of activities designed for fun, fellowship, and personal growth, including its Esther G. Pollard Leadership AKAdemy, the Ivy Pearl Book Club, heritage celebrations, and health and fitness events;

WHEREAS, the Xi Zeta Omega Chapter, since its inception, has focused its activities on implementing the programs of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, establishing and executing initiatives specifically benefitting District of Columbia communities in service to all mankind;

WHEREAS, the Xi Zeta Omega Chapter has supported and served more than 50 community organizations over the past 35 years, championing and supporting causes and issues that impact youth and families in need throughout the District of Columbia with scholarships for college-bound students, seasonal wraps and resource workshops for senior citizens, cleanup projects in children's playgrounds, voter registration drives, and issue forums;

WHEREAS, the Xi Zeta Omega Chapter consistently supports the International Program of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®;

WHEREAS, the Xi Zeta Omega Chapter also maintains its signature chapter service offerings, such as the Youth Service Awards, which recognizes young people and youth-serving organizations that exemplify, promote, and support positive youth development; Youth Oratorical Contest, which focuses on the writings of famous African Americans and promotes

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self-confidence through public speaking; the support of the residents of Asbury Dwellings, a local senior citizens residential community by playing Bingo every other month, celebrating Christmas, and donating seasonal clothing and personal care items; the support of Howard University's annual Alternative Spring Break through a financial donation to assist students volunteering in depressed urban areas; and the financial contribution to Food2Feed, a WHUR-FM radio project that feeds 20,000 families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays;

WHEREAS, the Xi Zeta Omega Chapter's members established The Ivy Foundation in 1986 as a 501(c)(3) organization, of which Rosalie H. Stroman currently serves as the executive director, to provide opportunities for young people to achieve healthy and productive outcomes; support academic achievement and higher education; promote community economic development; and encourage volunteerism through community service while offering 4 scholarships for graduating high school seniors planning to pursue 4-year university studies: the Citywide Scholarship, the Legacy Scholarship, the Wilma G. Shepherd Memorial Scholarship, and the Hollie C. Chapmon Scholarship;

WHEREAS, the Xi Zeta Omega Chapter supervises the Omicron Pi undergraduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, which includes The Catholic University of America, Georgetown University, and Trinity Washington University; and

WHEREAS, the Xi Zeta Omega Chapter celebrates 35 years of Sisterhood and Service in the District of Columbia, marking the milestone with a December 9, 2017 event to acknowledge and thank their community partners, members who have served for more than 50 years, and others who have supported the Xi Zeta Omega Chapter along its journey.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Xi Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® 35th Anniversary Recognition Resolution of 2017".

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia congratulates the Xi Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® for 35 years of Sisterhood and Service and recognizes the chapter for its many contributions to the communities of the District of Columbia in service to all mankind.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.