

Senate Resolution 348

By: Senator Tate of the 38th

A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating and commending Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Kappa Omega
2 Chapter for 100 years of service to all mankind; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® (AKA), an international service
4 organization, was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C., on
5 January 15, 1908, and has the distinction of being the first Greek-letter organization
6 established by African American college-educated women; and

7 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® is composed of more than 325,000
8 initiated members in graduate and undergraduate chapters located across 12 countries,
9 including the United States, Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, Dubai, Germany, Japan, Liberia,
10 Nigeria, South Korea, South Africa, and the United States Virgin Islands; and

11 WHEREAS, early in the third decade of the twentieth century, a group of AKA women
12 living in Atlanta, Georgia, were compelled by their own experiences as members of AKA
13 to organize the first graduate chapter in the State of Georgia to share with other young
14 women for their own personal enrichment as well as to ensure and enhance the contributions
15 and services they would provide for the benefit of all; and

16 WHEREAS, this group of ten outstanding women included Marie Woolfolk Taylor, one of
17 the original founding members of AKA at Howard University in 1908; Adelaide Smith
18 (Turner); Louise Shivery; Madeline Smith Davis; Eva Conner; Hattie Watson; Caroline Bond
19 Day; Ruth B. Prince; and Floy S. Brown, all of whom came together and organized the first
20 graduate chapter, Kappa Omega, in Atlanta; and

21 WHEREAS, the Kappa Omega chapter was chartered on March 1, 1923, and was fortunate
22 to have Marie Woolfolk Taylor, a founding member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,
23 Incorporated®, serve as one of its charter members and as its first chapter president; and

24 WHEREAS, at the time of the chartering of the Kappa Omega chapter, lynchings in the south
25 were not uncommon and Jim Crow laws were enforced. Despite the institutionalized
26 discrimination during the early decades, Kappa Omega chapter members implemented
27 programs addressing the economic, social, political, and moral climate of the times; and

28 WHEREAS, the Kappa Omega chapter has a rich legacy that now spans ten decades; 100
29 years of giving service to the Atlanta community. Since 1923, Kappa Omega chapter
30 members have served as educators, lawyers, judges, doctors, nurses, business executives,
31 entrepreneurs, engineers, and political and civic-minded leaders from innumerable other
32 professions. Members of the Kappa Omega chapter have been steadfast in serving their
33 communities by volunteering their time, talents, and resources to advocate for the good of
34 all mankind from 1923 to 2023 and beyond; and

35 WHEREAS, for a century, the Kappa Omega chapter has aligned its programming and
36 community service in the metropolitan Atlanta area with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,
37 Incorporated® targets and initiatives. These include, but are not limited to, feeding and
38 clothing children and the homeless; coordinating voter registration drives; increasing social

39 and civic responsibility in the African American community; promoting good health in the
40 African American community; focusing on women's health including providing
41 mammograms for women; assisting high school students with the college application
42 process; supporting historically black colleges and universities; increasing awareness of the
43 importance of financial literacy, as in being fiscally fit; showcasing the arts; and leaving a
44 global footprint here and abroad; and

45 WHEREAS, the Kappa Omega chapter has supported many community partners, such as
46 Carrie Steele Pitts Home, a private, nonprofit, and non-discriminatory child caring agency
47 that provides community-based child welfare services and 24-hour state approved residency
48 for vulnerable youth by supporting their education initiatives with school supplies and
49 providing clothing and various other items as needed by the young residents; and

50 WHEREAS, Kappa Omega chapter members have held notable positions within Alpha
51 Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® on the regional and international level. These members
52 include Lucille M. Scott (Ivy Leaf Reporter), Margaret Davis Bowen (International
53 Secretary), Dr. Lucretia Payton Stewart (International Parliamentarian and International
54 Leadership Development Committee Chairman), Harriet Thomas (International Asst.
55 Secretary), and Dr. Mary Shy Scott (International First Vice President and 23rd International
56 President & CEO), as well as four regional directors, A. Cathryn Johnson, Sujette Fountain
57 Crank, Dr. Mary Shy Scott, and Dr. Lucretia Payton Stewart, and four cluster coordinators,
58 Malinda K. O'Neal, Mary Carolyn Menchan, Dr. Anne Watts, and Eva Stroud; and

59 WHEREAS, since its inception, the Kappa Omega chapter has achieved many notable
60 accomplishments. The chapter has supervised the chartering of six undergraduate chapters
61 as well as served as host for multiple Cluster Meetings, six Regional Conferences, three
62 International Conferences, and the 97th National Founders' Day. The Ivy Community

63 Foundation, formerly Kappa Omega Foundation, (Willieboyd M. Saddler, Chairman),
64 purchased the Ivy Community Center (1992), serving as a pillar and a beacon of hope to the
65 Atlanta community. The foundation sponsors fundraising activities and has awarded a myriad
66 of scholarships throughout the years to college-bound students; and

67 WHEREAS, Kappa Omega members Marjorie H. Young and Yvonne McBride served as
68 architects for the AKA Day at the Capitol (1994), which became an institutional framework
69 for all regions. The Ethel Hedgemon Lyle Leadership Academy was established (2005) by
70 Dr. Lucretia Payton Stewart (Deborah Sims, President). The Kappa Omega chapter presented
71 its First History Book in 2014 (Franka H. Young, President; Doris T. Stroud, Historian) at
72 the South Atlantic Regional Conference and 66th International Conference (2014), hosted
73 the Marie Woolfolk Taylor Historical Marker Unveiling Ceremony (2018) at the First
74 Congregational Church in Atlanta (Icey Johnson, President), served as host for the Metro
75 Atlanta Founders' Day in 2019 (Dr. LeKeisha D. Jackson, President), exemplified excellence
76 from 2018 to 2022, and is now soaring to greater heights of sisterhood and service in 2023
77 (Bridgette Grant, President); and

78 WHEREAS, the Kappa Omega chapter has for 100 years upheld the five basic tenets of the
79 mission of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, upon which it was founded, which
80 are to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and
81 friendship among college women, to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and
82 women in order to improve their social stature, to maintain a progressive interest in college
83 life, and to be of Service to All Mankind.

84 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
85 commend the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Kappa Omega Chapter and
86 celebrate its 100 years of service to Atlanta communities.

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
88 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Alpha Kappa
89 Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Kappa Omega Chapter.