

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 109

BY SENATOR BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

To commend Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated upon the celebration of its one hundred twelfth anniversary as an organization and recognize Wednesday, May 8, 2019, as Alpha Phi Alpha Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

WHEREAS, in 2018, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., celebrated the 112th anniversary of its founding as the first intercollegiate Greek letter fraternity established for African-American men; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha was founded on December 4, 1906, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, by seven college men known as the "jewels" of the fraternity, who recognized the need for a strong bond of brotherhood among African descendants; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha chapters were soon established at other colleges and universities, many of them historically black institutions; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Alpha Phi Alpha is to develop leaders and promote brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service to and advocacy for their surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha initially served as a study and support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice at Cornell University and, throughout its history, members of the fraternity have recognized the need to help correct the educational, economic, political, and social injustices faced by African Americans; and

WHEREAS, members of Alpha Phi Alpha have stood at the forefront of the Civil Rights movement and have supplied voice and vision to the struggle of African Americans and people of color around the world; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha has accepted men of all races since 1945 and the fraternity's motto is: "First of All, Servants of All, We Shall Transcend All"; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha programs and charitable activities include the "Go-to-High-School, Go-to-College" campaign, "A Voteless People is a Hopeless People"

voter registration campaign, Project Alpha, and the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial project; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha has numerous chapters in the state of Louisiana, and its hundreds of chapters worldwide continue the legacy of their predecessors by helping their fellow man, serving their communities, acting as mentors to youth, and carrying on the tradition of one of their members, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., by actively discussing civil rights; and

WHEREAS, other notable members of Alpha Phi Alpha include W. E. B. Dubois, Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Edward Brooke, Thurgood Marshall, Paul Robeson, William Gray, and Andrew Young; and

WHEREAS, this year, Alpha Phi Alpha members from across the state of Louisiana will assemble in Baton Rouge in order to celebrate the contributions and sacrifices in the legislature of eighteen past Alpha brothers and those currently serving: Senator Wesley T. Bishop and Representatives Ken Brass, Patrick O. Jefferson, and Vincent J. Pierre; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to set aside a special day to commend Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated for its programs and activities that exemplify the importance of service to all mankind and to recognize the positive impact the fraternity continues to have on the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., on celebrating 112 years of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity, and does hereby recognize Wednesday, May 8, 2019, as Alpha Phi Alpha Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana District Director, Southwestern Regional Vice President, Executive Director, and General President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., as an expression of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana's admiration for the fraternity's proud history of service and manly deeds.