

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1083

By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Velma Lois Jones as an honoree during the 2012 Alpha Kappa Alpha Day on the Hill.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, Velma Lois Jones of Memphis is one such admirable person who will be a special honoree during the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Day on the Hill festivities on April 24, 2012, in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, a tried and true public servant, Mrs. Jones has been aptly described as a general in the army of human and civil rights and she has exhibited numerous professional skills and a passion for fairness and equality; and

WHEREAS, the recipient of countless honors and accolades from a multitude of organizations whose causes she has embraced and promoted for more than fifty years, Mrs. Jones is a superb model of citizenship and altruism within her community, across this State, and nationwide; and

WHEREAS, most recently, Mrs. Jones was the recipient of the 2012 Inaugural “Drum Majors for Service Award” given by the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and she is the recipient of the Women’s Foundation for a Greater Memphis 2012 Legends Award; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Jones has thrice been elected as President of the Beta Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha and she also served as the thirteenth Alpha Kappa Alpha Southeastern Regional Director, during which time she chartered undergraduate chapters on predominantly white campuses; and

WHEREAS, especially gifted in organizational rule-making and governance, Mrs. Jones has served nationally as the Supreme Parliamentarian for Alpha Kappa Alpha and has served the same role in her local chapter, Phi Lambda Omega. She is frequently called upon to conduct parliamentary procedure and law workshops, and her expertise has earned her a seat on the Alpha Kappa Alpha Centennial International Constitution and Bylaws Committee, as well as membership in the Tennessee Beta Chapter of the National Association of Parliamentarians; and

WHEREAS, the oldest Greek-lettered organization established by African-American college-educated women, Alpha Kappa Alpha was founded at Howard University in 1908 and is a renowned international service organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for citizens worldwide and promoting peace; and

WHEREAS, each year, Alpha Kappa Alpha members gather in Nashville to celebrate the legislative process, to visit and lobby elected officials, and to advocate vigorously for matters of importance to their organizational agenda of priorities; and

WHEREAS, it is with pleasure that the General Assembly extends a warm welcome to members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and join with them as they celebrate the accomplishments and service of one of their own, Velma Lois Jones; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and congratulate Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority members as they celebrate their 2012 Day on the Hill, and we especially recognize their special honoree, Velma Lois Jones, on the occasion of this celebration. We extend to them our warmest welcome and give them our best wishes for success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.