

HOUSE RESOLUTION 12

By Brown

A RESOLUTION to commend and recognize Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the Southeastern Region and the International Connection Committee for their voter education and registration mobilization efforts.

WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., was founded at Howard University in Washington, D.C., in 1908 by sixteen members, with Ethel Hedgeman Lyle as the visionary; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., grew from one undergraduate group of sixteen members to a national organization with more than 200,000 members in the United States, the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., recognized the importance of engaging its members in public policy initiatives to such an extent that the International Connection Committee was created by the sorority to serve as the vehicle that operates the public policy arm of the sorority; and

WHEREAS, the first major initiative was a nationwide "Voter Blitz" to mobilize the community to vote in the 1980 General Election; and

WHEREAS, the sorority coming full circle in this endeavor spearheaded a voter mobilization campaign in 2008 to enlighten the community politically about candidates running for president, vice president, members of Congress, governors, other local officials, and more; and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Region, consisting of 103 chapters with twenty-nine chapters in Tennessee, mobilized the community in two phases, voter registration and voter participation, through the "take five" to the poll campaign; and

WHEREAS, the region was led in this charge by the Regional Director, Dr. Juanita Sims Doty, a resident of Jackson, Mississippi; the International Chairman of the Connection Committee, Vanessa Rogers Long, a resident of Clarksdale, Mississippi; and the Southeastern Representative to the International Connection Committee, Zelmarine Murphy, a resident of Vicksburg, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., registered 100,000 new voters throughout the country with the Southeastern Region Chapter members registering 9,000 of these voters; and

WHEREAS, members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., partnered with other community organizations such as the Pan Hellenic Council, NAACP, ACLU, Links Inc., Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Phi Delta Kappa, and local churches in their voter education and registration mobilization efforts; and

WHEREAS, during the Centennial AKA National Convention in Washington, D.C., the Southeastern Region, which has twenty-eight of the historically Black colleges and universities (HBCU) in its region with six located in Tennessee, was commended for the Region's support of the HBCUs and the United Negro College Fund, having pledged and contributed more than \$250,000 to the organizations over the past two years; and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Region and Alpha Kappa Alpha built a house through Habitat for Humanity for a family in Gulfport, Mississippi, and has adopted this family who will be recognized at its 2009 Southeastern Regional Conference in Mobile, Alabama, with financial and scholarship support toward a college education for the children in this family; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Chapters in the Southeastern Region continue to provide service to communities throughout the State of Tennessee by implementing programs to support economic keys to success, encouraging entrepreneurships, promoting the economic growth of the Black family, providing technology training for seniors, and promoting health initiatives throughout our State; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this House of Representatives pause to recognize such exemplary community, civic, and service-oriented organizations as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., when it is clearly evident that the legacy of leadership, scholarship, service, and sisterhood

is alive and well in the Southeastern Region, which has continued to embrace, spearhead, and promote the service-oriented projects and activities of the founders who entrusted the membership with their vision; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize and commend the members of the Southeastern Region, the International Connection Committee, and the Tennessee Chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Inc, for their voter education and registration mobilization.

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