

HOUSE RESOLUTION 39

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

WHEREAS, on January 16, 1920, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C., at the encouragement of Charles Taylor and Langston Taylor, members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. These Sigma brothers felt the campus would benefit by having a sister organization to the fraternity; thus, Zetas and Sigmas became the first official Greek-letter sister and brother organization; and

WHEREAS, the five phenomenal women and charter members were Arizona Cleaver Stemons, Pearl Anna Neal, Viola Tyler Goings, Myrtle Tyler Faithful, and Fannie Pettie Watts, and they dared to depart from the traditional coalitions for black women and sought to establish a new organization predicated on the precepts of Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood, and Finer Womanhood; and

WHEREAS, it was the idea of the Founders that the Sorority would reach college women in all parts of the country who were sorority-minded and desired to follow the founding principles; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the Sorority has chronicled a number of firsts for Greek organizations: Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., was the first to charter a chapter in Africa, first to form adult and youth auxiliary groups, and first to centralize operations in a national headquarters; and

WHEREAS, today, Zeta's national and local programs include community outreach services, support of numerous affiliate organizations, and the endowment of its National Educational Foundation; and

WHEREAS, members of the Sorority's chapters, as well as its auxiliary groups, have given countless volunteer hours to public education initiatives, youth assistance programs, scholarship programs, charitable organizations, and lobbying efforts designed to promote positive social and civic change; and

WHEREAS, the women of Zeta Phi Beta, and their affiliates, have demonstrated an unswerving commitment to the noble precepts of public service, and for their efforts they deserve special recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize and honor the members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., commend them on their great success, and wish them all the very best in their 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.