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LRB104 13074 LAW 25053 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. was founded at Howard University in Washington, D.C. on January 9, 1914 by three African-American students, A. Langston Taylor, Leonard F. Morse, and Charles I. Brown, who united to form a fraternity that would exemplify the ideals of brotherhood, scholarship, and service; and

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WHEREAS, The founders of Phi Beta Sigma offered support and encouragement to Arizona Cleaver Stemons, Pearl Anna Neal, Myrtle Tyler Faithful, Viola Tyler Goings, and Fannie Pettie Watts as they founded Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. at Howard University on January 16, 1920 to raise people's consciousness, encourage scholastic achievement, and foster unity among members, making Phi Beta Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta the first and only fraternity and sorority to be constitutionally bound to each other; and

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WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma brothers believe that each member and potential member should be judged by their own merits, rather than family background, affluence, race, nationality, skin tone, or hair texture and should work to return newly acquired skills to the communities from which they came, with this conviction mirrored in the fraternity's motto, "Culture For Service and Service For Humanity"; and

1 WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma brothers contributed greatly to
2 the literary and artistic movement known as the Harlem
3 Renaissance, to the cause of civil rights, civic engagement,
4 and freedom, and to the sciences, and membership has included
5 writer Alain LeRoy Locke, poet and diplomat James Weldon
6 Johnson, workers' rights activist A. Philip Randolph,
7 scientist George Washington Carver, astronaut Victor Glover,
8 Congressmen Elijah Cummings, John Lewis, Adriano Espaillat,
9 and Harold Lee Washington, who also served as the first Black
10 Mayor of Chicago, as well as Nnamdi Azikiwe and his
11 contemporary Kwame Nkrumah, the first presidents of
12 independent Nigeria and Ghana, respectively; and

13 WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta was the first Black greek-lettered
14 organization to centralize its operations in a national
15 headquarters, first to charter a chapter in Africa, and the
16 first to form auxiliary groups and currently boasts hundreds
17 of chapters worldwide and over 125,000 members who seek to
18 upload its ideals of "Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood, and
19 Finer Womanhood"; and

20 WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta sisters contributed greatly to the
21 literary and artistic movement known as the Harlem
22 Renaissance, to the cause of civil rights, civic engagement,
23 and freedom, and to the sciences, and membership has included

1 writer and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston, attorney
2 Violette Anderson, educator Dr. Elizabeth Koontz, journalist
3 and media entrepreneur Clara McLaughlin, and psychiatrist and
4 substance abuse treatment expert Dr. Alyce Gullattee;
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we declare April 30, 2025 as Phi Beta Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta
9 Day in the State of Illinois; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we commend the efforts of the members of
11 Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority,
12 Inc. for their commitment to community service and recognize
13 their collective contributions to making their communities a
14 better place to live, work, and play; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
16 presented to the International President of Phi Beta Sigma
17 Fraternity, Inc., Chris V. Rey, the International First Vice
18 President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and Illinoisan, David
19 A. Turner, the International President of Zeta Phi Beta
20 Sorority, Inc., Dr. Stacie N. C. Grant, and the Great Lakes
21 Regional Director and Illinois State Director of both the Phi
22 Beta Sigma Fraternity and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority as a symbol
23 our respect and esteem.