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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated was founded by seven college men, respectfully known as the Seven Jewels, on the campus of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York on December 4, 1906, becoming the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established by and for African Americans; and

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WHEREAS, The Seven Jewels, Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle, and Vertner Woodson Tandy, recognized the need for a strong bond of brotherhood among African descendants in this country and the need to help correct the educational, economic, political, and social injustices faced by African Americans and other people of color; and

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WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha initially served as a study and support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice, both educationally and socially, at Cornell University; its founders and early leaders laid a firm foundation for the fraternity's principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity; and

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WHEREAS, While stressing academic excellence among its

1 members since its founding, Alpha Phi Alpha has consistently
2 supplied its voice and vision to the struggle for civil rights
3 and social justice around the world; and

4 WHEREAS, The aims of Alpha Phi Alpha are manly deeds,
5 scholarship, and love for all mankind; and

6 WHEREAS, The mission of Alpha Phi Alpha is to develop
7 leaders, promote brotherhood and academic excellence, and
8 provide service and advocacy for communities, as exemplified
9 through its national programs, which include
10 "Go-to-High-School, Go-to-College", "Project Alpha", and "A
11 Voteless People is a Hopeless People", along with strategic
12 partnerships with a number of organizations, such as Big
13 Brothers Big Sisters, the Boy Scouts of America, March of
14 Dimes, the American Heart Association, and the American Cancer
15 Society; and

16 WHEREAS, For over 119 years, Alpha Phi Alpha has played a
17 fundamental role in shaping the character and educational
18 achievement of more than 200,000 men worldwide, and the
19 fraternity will celebrate 120 years as the first Black
20 Greek-letter organization on December 4, 2026; and

21 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha has more than 700 chapters
22 globally, including 32 active chapters in Illinois, with its

1 roots dating back to the 1910 founding of Theta Chapter and the
2 1924 founding of Xi Lambda Chapter in Chicago; and

3 WHEREAS, Members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
4 include many noteworthy leaders in the areas of government,
5 business, entertainment, science, and higher education,
6 including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Justice Thurgood
7 Marshall, W.E.B. DuBois, John Hope Franklin, John H. Johnson,
8 Adam Clayton Powell, Andrew Young, Robert Smith, Dick Gregory,
9 and Cornel West; its membership also includes a long and
10 distinguished list of current and former federal, state, and
11 local elected officials, including U.S. Senator Raphael
12 Warnock, U.S. Representative Danny K. Davis, former U.S.
13 Senators Edward Brooke and Roland Burris, former State
14 Senators Adelbert H. Roberts, who was also the first African
15 American in the Illinois State Senate, and Donne E. Trotter,
16 former State Representatives Al Riley and Art Turner Jr.,
17 former Cook County Board Presidents John and Todd Stroger, and
18 former Mayor of Chicago Eugene Sawyer, among countless others
19 who have long stood at the forefront of the fight for civil and
20 human rights and social change for all Americans; and

21 WHEREAS, Several Alpha Phi Alpha men continue to serve
22 with distinction in the Illinois General Assembly, including
23 Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Illinois Legislative House
24 Black Caucus Chair and Judiciary Criminal Committee Chair

1 Representative Justin Slaughter, Assistant Majority Leader
2 Representative Maurice West, and Senate Majority Caucus
3 Appropriations Leader Elgie R. Sims Jr., who also served as
4 the 26th Midwestern Regional Vice President; and

5 WHEREAS, On May 6, 2026, Illinois members of Alpha Phi
6 Alpha will gather for Alpha Day at the Capitol in Springfield,
7 and in a powerful display of unity and purpose, they will be
8 joined by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. to collectively
9 advance the priorities of the communities they serve;
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
12 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
13 we declare May 6, 2026 as Alpha Phi Alpha Day in the State of
14 Illinois; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we commend Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity,
16 Incorporated for 120 years of outstanding service, leadership,
17 and advocacy, and we welcome the members of the fraternity to
18 the State Capitol for this annual celebration of excellence.