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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. was founded at
3 Howard University in Washington, D.C. on January 9, 1914 by
4 three African-American students, A. Langston Taylor, Leonard
5 F. Morse, and Charles I. Brown, who united to form a fraternity
6 that would exemplify the ideals of brotherhood, scholarship,
7 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 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 come, 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, scientist
7 George Washington Carver, astronaut Victor Glover, Congressman
8 Elijah Cummings, Congressman John Lewis, and Nnamdi Azikiwe,
9 the first president of independent Nigeria; and

10 WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta was the first Black greek-lettered
11 organization to centralize its operations in a national
12 headquarters, first to charter a chapter in Africa, and the
13 first to form auxiliary groups and currently boasts hundreds
14 of chapters worldwide and over 100,000 members who seek to
15 uphold its ideals of "Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood, and
16 Finer Womanhood"; and

17 WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta sisters contributed greatly to the
18 literary and artistic movement known as the Harlem
19 Renaissance, to the cause of civil rights, civic engagement,
20 and freedom, and to the sciences, and membership has included
21 writer and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston, attorney
22 Violette Anderson, educator Dr. Elizabeth Koontz, journalist
23 and media entrepreneur Clara McLaughlin, and psychiatrist and

1 substance abuse treatment expert Dr. Alyce Gullattee;
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
4 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we declare April 26, 2023 as Phi Beta Sigma and Zeta Phi Beta
6 Day at the Illinois State Capitol; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That we commend the efforts of the members of
8 Zeta Phi Beta and Phi Beta Sigma for their commitment to
9 community service and recognize their collective contributions
10 to making their communities a better place to live, play, and
11 work; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and Phi Beta Sigma
14 Fraternity, Inc. as a symbol our respect and esteem.