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SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, was founded on December 4, 1906, by 7 college men, respectfully known as the "Seven Jewels", on the campus of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, becoming the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established by and for African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, The Seven Jewels of the Fraternity, 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 while stressing academic excellence among its members; the founders recognized the need to help correct the educational, economic, political, and social injustices faced by African-Americans and other people of color; and

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; the Jewel Founders and early leaders of the Fraternity succeeded in laying a firm foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha's principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity; and

1 WHEREAS, Since its founding, Alpha Phi Alpha has
2 consistently supplied its voice and vision to the struggle of
3 African-Americans, people of color, and issues of civil rights
4 around the world; and

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

7 WHEREAS, The mission of Alpha Phi Alpha is to develop
8 leaders, promote brotherhood and academic excellence, and
9 provide service and advocacy for communities, as exemplified
10 through its national programs, which include "Go to High
11 School, Go to College", which focus on the educational
12 achievement of students in elementary, secondary, and
13 post-secondary schools and has given thousands of dollars in
14 scholarship funds to deserving students; "Project Alpha",
15 which teaches teenage pregnancy prevention and sexually
16 transmitted disease prevention to young males, and the "A
17 Voteless People is a Hopeless People" voter registration and
18 education program, through which thousands of voters have been
19 educated and registered; Alpha Phi Alpha also focuses on
20 providing service through its strategic partnerships with Big
21 Brothers Big Sisters, the Boy Scouts of America, the March of
22 Dimes, the American Heart/American Stroke Association, and the
23 American Cancer Society; and

1 WHEREAS, For over 107 years, Alpha Phi Alpha has played a
2 fundamental role in the positive development of the character
3 and education of more than 200,000 men; and

4 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha has over 700 college and alumni
5 chapters in the United States of America, the District of
6 Columbia, Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Europe; this total
7 includes 141 chapters in the Midwestern Region, including 32 in
8 Illinois; the Midwestern Region includes the states of
9 Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan,
10 Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Nebraska, West Virginia, Wisconsin,
11 and Canada; Alpha Phi Alpha's presence started in Illinois,
12 with the founding of the first college chapter in Illinois, the
13 Theta Chapter, in 1910, and the first alumni chapter, the Xi
14 Lambda Chapter, which was founded in 1924, both located in
15 Chicago; and

16 WHEREAS, Members of Alpha Phi Alpha include many noteworthy
17 leaders in the areas of government, business, entertainment,
18 science, and higher education, including the likes of Dr.
19 Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, W.E.B. DuBois, John
20 Hope Franklin, John H. Johnson, Adam Clayton Powell, Andrew
21 Young, and Cornel West; its membership also includes State and
22 local elected officials, including former U.S. Senator Roland
23 Burris, former Cook County Board Presidents John and Todd

1 Stroger, and former Mayor of Chicago Eugene Sawyer, among
2 countless others who have long stood at the forefront of the
3 fight for civil and human rights and social change for all
4 Americans; and

5 WHEREAS, Several Alpha Phi Alpha members have served in the
6 Illinois General Assembly, including the following members of
7 the 98th General Assembly: Senator Donne E. Trotter and
8 Representatives Al Riley, Arthur Turner, Jr., Emanuel "Chris"
9 Welch, and Elgie R. Sims, Jr., who also serves as the 26th Vice
10 President of the Midwestern Region; and

11 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha continues to enrich the lives of
12 its members, who, in turn, provide service and advocacy for the
13 communities they serve with a commitment to service and the
14 uplifting of humanity; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize and honor
17 the 2014 Alpha Phi Alpha Day held at the Illinois State Capitol
18 and welcome the members of Alpha Phi Alpha to the Capitol; and
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we designate the date of May 14, 2014 as
21 Alpha Phi Alpha Day in the State of Illinois in honor of Alpha
22 Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, and its continued service

1 and impact on the communities it serves; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
3 delivered to Elgie R. Sims, Jr., Esq., Midwestern Regional Vice
4 President; Adarious D. Payton, Assistant Regional Vice
5 President; and the Illinois District Director and the Assistant
6 Illinois District Director of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity,
7 Incorporated, District of Illinois.