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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, founded on the campus of Howard University in 1908 and incorporated in 1913, has established a mandate for carrying out the vision of a new day of excellence and performance; and

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WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is the nation's oldest African-American sorority; the Sorority has never changed its mission to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, promote unity and friendship among college women, help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social status, maintain a progressive interest in college life, and to be of "Service to All Mankind"; and

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WHEREAS, The 2014-2018 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. administration, under the dynamic and creative leadership of International President Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, continues to fulfill the service imperative of the organization's founders with the international program "Launching New Dimensions of Service", which focuses on educational enrichment, health promotion, family strengthening, environmental ownership, and global impact; and

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WHEREAS, The 2016 program for "Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Day at the Capitol" in Springfield, nationwide, and

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1 internationally, will focus on mental health, which is part of  
2 Target #2 of the sorority's "Launching New Dimensions of  
3 Service" international program, "Civil Rights/Social Justice"  
4 and "Be The Voice Campaign" (voter registration, voter  
5 education, voter mobilization and voter participation); the  
6 "Be the Voice Campaign" was launched at the Central Regional  
7 Conference in Chicago from March 3-6, 2016; and

8 WHEREAS, Many prominent women have been or are members of  
9 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., including the late First Lady  
10 Eleanor Roosevelt, the late civil rights leaders Coretta Scott  
11 King and Rosa Parks, actress Phylicia Rashad, the late poet  
12 Maya Angelou, writer Toni Morrison, singer Alicia Keys,  
13 attorney Star Jones, financial expert Mellody Hobson,  
14 comedian/actress Wanda Sykes, actress Jada Pinkett-Smith, Cook  
15 County Recorder of Deeds Karen Yarbrough, Cook County Board  
16 President Toni Preckwinkle, and the President of Liberia, Ellen  
17 Johnson Sirleaf; and

18 WHEREAS, Many members of the General Assembly and  
19 legislative staff are members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,  
20 Inc., including Senate Majority Whip Mattie Hunter, Senator Toi  
21 Hutchinson, Representative Monique Davis, India Hammons, and  
22 Nia Odeoti-Hassan, who has served since 2010 as the Illinois  
23 State Connection Coordinator and the chairwoman of the Illinois  
24 State Connection Committee in the Central Region under the

1 leadership of Regional Director Kathy Walker-Steele; and

2 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha's storied history of proven  
3 leadership and extensive involvement in the world community  
4 through strategic partnerships evidence the sorority's  
5 potential to significantly contribute to the world community;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated made  
8 history and expanded its international presence when it  
9 chartered its first chapter, Omega Theta Omega, in the Middle  
10 East; the chapter's 37 women, located in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and  
11 throughout the United Arab Emirates, are business executives,  
12 attorneys, educators, and physicians, among other accomplished  
13 professionals; and

14 WHEREAS, Leadership development is essential to the  
15 vitality of the organization, and the sorority's continuing  
16 requirements of academic excellence, shared values, and  
17 dedication to the mission of Alpha Kappa Alpha ensure a  
18 continuous wellspring of quality leaders; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate the date  
21 of May 11, 2016 as Alpha Kappa Alpha Day in the State of  
22 Illinois in honor of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated,

1 and its work; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
3 provided to Kathy Walker-Steele, Central Regional Director;  
4 Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, International President; Sylvia  
5 Blackmon-Roberts, International Connection Committee Chairman;  
6 and Bakahia Madison, Central Regional Representative to the  
7 International Connection Committee.