

By: Dukes

H.R. No. 8

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, America's first Greek-letter organization  
2 established by and for African American college women, Alpha Kappa  
3 Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, was founded on January 15, 1908, at  
4 Howard University; and

5           WHEREAS, Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, along with 19 other courageous  
6 women, organized the social and service group, and today, the  
7 founders are affectionately known as the 20 Pearls; the sorority's  
8 official colors are salmon pink and apple green, and the official  
9 mascot is the ivy leaf; AKAs are known for their intelligence,  
10 beauty, elegance, charm, and quiet strength; and

11           WHEREAS, The purpose of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is to  
12 cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, to  
13 promote unity and friendship among college women, to study and help  
14 alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve  
15 their social stature, to maintain a progressive interest in college  
16 life, and to be of service to all mankind; AKA is a member of the  
17 National Pan-Hellenic Council; and

18           WHEREAS, For more than 100 years, sorority members have  
19 fulfilled their mission to serve others through a network of over  
20 200,000 women in more than 975 chapters in the United States, the  
21 Caribbean, Canada, Germany, Korea, and Japan and on the continent  
22 of Africa; together they have made a positive difference in the  
23 areas of civil rights, education, economic empowerment, and health;  
24 and

1           WHEREAS, In 2008, AKA implemented a National Voter  
2 Registration Blitz and "Take Five" Program, which resulted in the  
3 registration of more than 120,000 voters nationwide; during those  
4 campaigns, 1,350 Texas Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority members contacted  
5 some 60,000 potential voters and distributed 11,250 voter  
6 registration cards; in the end, more than 6,000 Texans were  
7 registered to vote, thanks to the efforts of AKA members, who also  
8 provided transportation to the polls for approximately 5,000  
9 voters; and

10           WHEREAS, Barbara A. McKinzie, who serves as the 27th  
11 international president, works to promote the sorority's current  
12 theme of ESP: Economics, Service, and Partnerships; she is  
13 supported by several regional directors, including Gwendolyn J.  
14 Brinkley of Houston, who serves as the 23rd director of the South  
15 Central Region; and

16           WHEREAS, AKA counts among its membership Texas state  
17 representative Dawnna Dukes, District 46; Texas state  
18 representative Dr. Alma Allen, District 131; Texas state  
19 representative Senfronia Thompson, District 141; retired Texas  
20 state representative Wilhelmina Delco, District 50; Denise Davis,  
21 Texas House parliamentarian; United States congresswoman Sheila  
22 Jackson Lee, 18th Congressional District of Texas; and former Texas  
23 state senator and Texas state representative and current United  
24 States congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, 30th Congressional  
25 District of Texas; and

26           WHEREAS, The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority continues to prove  
27 its relevance and its ability to stand the test of time with grace

1 and strength, and it is indeed a pleasure to commend its members for  
2 their many outstanding endeavors; now, therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
4 Legislature hereby recognize April 27, 2009, as Alpha Kappa Alpha  
5 Day at the State Capitol and extend to all Texas AKA members sincere  
6 best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

7       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
8 prepared for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, as an  
9 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.