

By: Dukes

H.R. No. 576

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud members of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority are
2 gathering in Austin on February 28, 2011, to celebrate Alpha Kappa
3 Alpha Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, The nation's first Greek sorority for African
5 American women, Alpha Kappa Alpha was founded as a social and
6 service organization on January 15, 1908, by Howard University
7 undergraduate Ethel Hedgeman Lyle and 19 other students; together,
8 these courageous women are today known as "the Twenty Pearls"; and

9 WHEREAS, The sorority seeks to cultivate and encourage high
10 scholastic and ethical standards, to promote unity and friendship
11 among college women, and to improve the social stature of women of
12 all ages; a member of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Alpha
13 Kappa Alpha serves people around the world through the efforts of
14 more than 260,000 members in over 950 chapters located in the United
15 States, the Caribbean, Canada, Germany, Korea, Japan, and Africa;
16 for 103 years, the group has made a positive difference with its
17 important work on civil rights, education, economic empowerment,
18 and improved health care; and

19 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha partnered with the U.S. Census
20 Bureau in 2009 to help support the accuracy of the 2010 census; the
21 sorority's Texas chapters received a Census Partnership Support
22 Grant, and they organized into 33 Complete Count Committees across
23 the Lone Star State to help reach communities deemed "hard to
24 count"; and

1 WHEREAS, In addition, the sorority implemented a nonpartisan
2 National Voter Registration Blitz and "Take Five" Program in 2008,
3 resulting in the registration of 120,000 voters nationwide; in
4 Texas, 1,350 members distributed 11,250 registration cards,
5 registered more than 6,000 voters, and transported approximately
6 5,000 people to polling places on election day; and

7 WHEREAS, Many members of Alpha Kappa Alpha have gone on to
8 careers in public service, including Texas State Representatives
9 Dawnna Dukes, Dr. Alma Allen, and Senfronia Thompson and retired
10 state representative Wilhelmina Delco, as well as Denise Davis,
11 chief of staff for Speaker Joe Straus, and U.S. Congresswomen
12 Sheila Jackson Lee and Eddie Bernice Johnson; and

13 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of the sorority's 28th
14 international president, Carolyn House Stewart, Alpha Kappa Alpha
15 continues to address the issues of social justice, human rights,
16 health, poverty, economic security, and environmental
17 sustainability; the sorority's South Central Region is ably led by
18 its 23rd regional director, Gwendolyn J. Brinkley of Houston; and

19 WHEREAS, Wearing their official colors of salmon pink and
20 apple green, the members of Alpha Kappa Alpha are widely recognized
21 for their elegance, charm, intelligence, and quiet strength, and
22 the sorority continues to win renown for its service to Texas and
23 the nation; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
25 Legislature hereby recognize February 28, 2011, as Alpha Kappa
26 Alpha Day at the State Capitol and extend to the sorority's visiting
27 delegation sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and meaningful

1 event; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for the sorority as an expression of high regard by the
4 Texas House of Representatives.