

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 359**

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, Alpha Kappa Alpha partnered with the United States Census Bureau in 2009 to help support the accuracy of the 2010 census; the sorority's Texas chapters received a Census Partnership Support Grant, and they organized into 33 Complete Count Committees across the Lone Star State to help reach communities deemed "hard to count"; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Many members of Alpha Kappa Alpha have gone on to careers in public service, including Texas State Representatives Dawna Dukes, Dr. Alma Allen, and Senfronia Thompson and retired state representative Wilhelmina Delco, as well as Denise Davis, chief of staff for Speaker Joe Straus, and United States Congresswomen Sheila Jackson Lee and Eddie Bernice Johnson; and

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

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby recognize February 28, 2011, as Alpha Kappa Alpha Day at the State Capitol and extend to the sorority's visiting delegation sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and meaningful event; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the sorority as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 28, 2011.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate