

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 602

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud members of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity are
2 gathering at the State Capitol on February 27, 2017, and this is a
3 fitting opportunity to celebrate the fraternity's exceptional
4 legacy of civic engagement; and

5 WHEREAS, Established at Cornell University on December 4,
6 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha was the first intercollegiate Greek-letter
7 fraternity established by African Americans; founded by seven men
8 who came to be known as the "Jewels" of the organization, Alpha Phi
9 Alpha initially served as a study and support group for minority
10 students who were struggling against racial prejudice; these early
11 leaders laid the foundation for the fraternity's principles of
12 scholarship, fellowship, character, and the uplifting of humanity;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, In the years that followed, Alpha Phi Alpha chapters
15 were formed at other colleges across the nation; while the
16 fraternity placed a strong emphasis on the academic excellence of
17 its members, it also expanded its focus to address the educational,
18 economic, political, and social injustices faced by African
19 Americans and people of color around the world; over the decades,
20 many former Alpha Phi Alpha members have stood at the forefront of
21 the fight for civil rights, including W. E. B. Du Bois, Paul
22 Robeson, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Adam
23 Clayton Powell Jr., Edward Brooke, Andrew Young, and William Gray;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha has been an interracial group since
2 1945 and now encompasses chapters across the United States; the
3 fraternity has an especially rich history in the Lone Star State,
4 which has been home to three of the organization's general
5 presidents, and a number of prominent Texas leaders are Alpha Phi
6 Alpha alumni; and

7 WHEREAS, Throughout its history, Alpha Phi Alpha has worked
8 to foster a brotherhood of concerned citizens who devote themselves
9 to the greater good, and its members may indeed reflect with pride
10 on their organization's noteworthy tradition of activism and
11 achievement; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
13 Legislature hereby recognize February 27, 2017, as Alpha Phi Alpha
14 Fraternity Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting
15 members sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and meaningful event.