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By:  Rose H.R. No. 1091

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Collegiate and alumnae members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority are gathering in Austin on April 17, 2023, to mark Red and White Day, a day of advocacy and action, at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was founded on January 13, 1913, at Howard University in Washington, D.C.; the 22 original members included four young women from Texas, Zephyr Chisom Carter, Jessie McGuire Dent, Frederica Chase Dodd, and Myra Davis Hemmings, all committed to academic excellence and social change; members marched in a women's suffrage parade soon after, and they incorporated as a national organization in 1930; and

WHEREAS, The organization, which is proudly marking the 110th anniversary of its founding in 2023, is made up of more than 350,000 women in the United States and several foreign countries; it encompasses over 1,000 chapters, with many in the Lone Star State; participants work toward positive change in their communities, placing a strong emphasis on the core issues of economic development, educational development, international awareness, political awareness, and physical and mental health; moreover, Delta Sigma Theta members mentor at-risk young women, conduct voter awareness drives, host political forums, and help guide and inform public policy; and

WHEREAS, Many members of the sorority have gone on to have distinguished careers in public service, including Texas State Representatives Toni Rose and Rhetta Andrews Bowers, as well as legendary former legislators, such as State Representative Ruth Jones McClendon and Congresswoman Barbara Jordan; among the Texans who have held significant leadership positions within the organization is the sorority's current national president, Elsie Cooke-Holmes, who resides in Plano; and

WHEREAS, The women of Delta Sigma Theta have enriched the State of Texas and the entire nation though their advocacy and civic engagement, and it is indeed a pleasure to commend them for their noteworthy endeavors; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize April 17, 2023, as Red and White Day at the State Capitol and extend to all those involved with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority sincere best wishes as they celebrate the organization's 110th anniversary; and, be it further

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