

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY SENATOR BROWN AND REPRESENTATIVE BURRELL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate Tuesday, April 30, 2013, as "Alpha Phi Alpha Day in the Louisiana Legislature", commend Alpha Phi Alpha for one hundred seven years of exemplary leadership, and urge suitable observance of such day.

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha was founded on December 4, 1906, and celebrates one hundred seven years of existence, recalling its rich history and the important role it plays with distinction in the state of Louisiana and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, has supplied voice and vision to the struggle of African Americans and people of color around the world; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African Americans, was founded at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, by seven men who recognized the need for a strong bond of brotherhood among African descendants in this country; and

WHEREAS, the visionary founders, known as the "Jewels" of the fraternity, are Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Knickle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle, and Vertner Woodson Tandy; and

WHEREAS, the "Jewel" founders and early leaders of the fraternity succeeded in laying a firm foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha's principles of manly deeds, scholarship, and love for all mankind; and

WHEREAS, while Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, continues to stress academic excellence among its members, Alpha also recognizes the need to help correct the educational, economic, political, and social injustices faced by African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, has long stood in the forefront of the African American community's fight for civil rights through leaders such as W. E. B. DuBois, Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Edward Brooke, Martin Luther King Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Andrew Young, William Gray, Paul Robeson, T. J. Jemison, Ernest "Dutch" Morial, former Louisiana Senator and United States Congressman Cleo Fields, and many others; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha spearheaded and oversaw the designing and building of a monument in Dr. King's honor, which is the newest memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the first to honor a non-president, and the first to honor a man of color; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, engages in programs and activities to strengthen the community such as "A Voteless People is a Hopeless People" voter registration campaign, Big Brother/Big Sisters, Boy Scouts of America, "Go to High School, Go to College", and Project Alpha, a cooperative effort with the March of Dimes; and

WHEREAS, this year, Alpha Phi Alpha members from across Louisiana will travel to Baton Rouge in order to celebrate the contributions and sacrifices in the legislature of fourteen past Alpha brothers and those currently serving: Senators Troy Brown and Elbert L. Guillory and Representatives Wesley T. Bishop, Roy A. Burrell, Herbert B. Dixon, Patrick O. Jefferson, and Vincent J. Pierre; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, will forever hold high its lofty ideals and aims to be "First of All, Servants of All, We Shall Transcend All".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Tuesday, April 30, 2013, as "Alpha Phi Alpha Day in the Louisiana Legislature".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Alpha Phi Alpha is hereby commended for one hundred seven years of exemplary leadership, and observance of this day with appropriate recognition to the Louisiana District of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, in recognition of its contributions to the goals of the national organization is hereby urged.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Alpha Phi Alpha's Louisiana District Director, Southwestern Regional Vice President, Executive Director and General President and that a copy be filed at the General Headquarters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity in Baltimore, Maryland.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES