

HR 9111

2006

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

3
4 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., founded December
5 4, 1906, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, is the first
6 and oldest intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established
7 for African Americans and, since its inception, has supplied
8 voice and vision to the struggle of these Americans and other
9 people of color around the world, and

10 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was founded by
11 visionaries known as the "Seven Jewels of the Fraternity," Henry
12 Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinkle Jones,
13 George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold
14 Ogle, and Vertner Woodson Tandy, seven college men who
15 recognized the need for a strong bond of brotherhood among
16 African descendants in this country, and

17 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, incorporated on
18 January 29, 1908, initially served as a study and support group
19 for minority students who faced racial prejudice and
20 discrimination, both educationally and socially, and the
21 founders and early leaders succeeded in laying a firm foundation
22 for the fraternity's principles of scholarship, fellowship, good
23 character, and the uplifting of humanity, and

24 WHEREAS, chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., have
25 been developed at other colleges and universities, many of them
26 historically black institutions, with Jewel Charles Henry
27 Chapman, who served as a Professor of Agriculture at Florida
28 Agricultural and Mechanical University, aiding in the founding

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29 | of the Beta Nu Chapter, the first African-American Greek-
30 | lettered organization in the State of Florida, and

31 | WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity continues to
32 | proliferate, spanning the globe with over 400 undergraduate
33 | chapters and 200 graduate chapters located throughout the United
34 | States, the Caribbean Islands, Africa, the West Indies, Europe,
35 | and Asia and, while realistically facing the educational,
36 | economic, political, and social challenges encountered by
37 | African Americans nationally and internationally, responds to
38 | such challenges by a continued emphasis on academic excellence
39 | through such mandated programs as Project Alpha, Go To High
40 | School, Go To College, and A Voteless People Is A Hopeless
41 | People, and

42 | WHEREAS, the legacy of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity includes
43 | the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, Paul
44 | Robeson, Dick Gregory, John Hope Franklin, Justice Thurgood
45 | Marshall, United States Vice President Hubert Humphrey, United
46 | States Senator Edward Brooke, Congressman Adam Clayton Powell,
47 | Jr., Congressman Julian Dixon, Congressman Ronald Dellums,
48 | Congressman Harold Ford, Sr., Duke Ellington, Lionel Richie,
49 | Jesse Owens, Marc Morial, Cornell West, and scores more, and

50 | WHEREAS, current Alpha membership includes Congressmen
51 | David Scott (Georgia), Chaka Fattah (Pennsylvania), Earl
52 | Hilliard (Alabama), Charles Rangel (New York), and Robert C.
53 | Scott (Virginia), as well as Florida leaders such as retired
54 | Justice Leander L. Shaw, Jr., Representatives Christopher Smith
55 | and Curtis Richardson, former Representative Alzo Reddick,
56 | former State Senator Dr. Arnett Girardeau, and Circuit Judges

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57 Michael F. Andrews and Hubert L. Grimes, and, until their
58 deaths, the late Federal District Judge Wilkie D. Ferguson and
59 civil rights activists C. Spencer Pompey and Marvin Davies were
60 members from this state, and

61 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., is celebrating
62 its Centennial Anniversary in Washington, D.C., July 25-30,
63 2006, to commemorate the fraternity's outstanding history of
64 manly deeds, scholarship, and love for all of mankind, NOW,
65 THEREFORE,

66

67 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
68 Florida:

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70 That the House of Representatives honors and congratulates
71 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and joins its members in
72 Tallahassee in celebrating the admirable 100-year legacy of this
73 outstanding fraternal organization.