

By Senator Smith

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Senate Resolution

A resolution honoring Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., as its Florida members celebrate the 2010 "Alpha Days on the Hill."

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was founded on December 4, 1906, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, as the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African Americans and, since its inception, has supplied voice and vision to the struggle of African Americans and other people of color around the world, and

WHEREAS, the founders of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, known as the "seven jewels of the fraternity," were visionaries Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinkle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle, and Vertner Woodson Tandy, all of whom recognized the need for a strong bond of brotherhood among African descendants in this country, and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, incorporated on January 29, 1908, to serve as a study and support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice and discrimination, both educationally and socially, and

WHEREAS, the founders and early leaders of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., succeeded in laying a firm foundation for the fraternity's principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity, and

WHEREAS, chapters of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., have been developed at other colleges and universities, many of them historically black institutions, and

29-02887-10

20102786

30 WHEREAS, Charles Henry Chapman, who served as a professor  
31 of agriculture at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical  
32 University, was active in the founding of the Beta Nu Chapter,  
33 the first African American Greek-lettered organization in this  
34 state, and

35 WHEREAS, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., continues to  
36 grow, spanning the globe with over 400 undergraduate chapters  
37 and 200 graduate chapters, and

38 WHEREAS, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.,  
39 realistically faces the educational, economic, political, and  
40 social challenges encountered by African Americans in the United  
41 States and internationally, and responds to these challenges  
42 with continued emphasis on academic excellence through mandated  
43 programs like "Project Alpha," "Go To High School," "Go To  
44 College," and "A Voteless People Is A Hopeless People," and

45 WHEREAS, the membership of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity,  
46 Inc., has included the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr.  
47 W.E.B. DuBois, Paul Robeson, Dick Gregory, John Hope Franklin,  
48 Justice Thurgood Marshall, United States Vice President Hubert  
49 Humphrey, United States Senator Edward Brooke, Congressman Adam  
50 Clayton Powell, Jr., NASA Astronaut Winston Scott, Lenny  
51 Wilkens, Duke Ellington, Stuart Scott, Jesse Owens, Marc Morial,  
52 Donny Hathaway, and scores more, and

53 WHEREAS, current Alpha membership includes many Florida  
54 leaders, including Senator Christopher Smith, former  
55 Representatives Curtis Richardson and Alzo Reddick, and former  
56 Senator Arnett Girardeau, DDS, and

57 WHEREAS, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., is  
58 celebrating more than 103 years of outstanding achievement in

29-02887-10

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59 upholding the aims of manly deeds, scholarship, and love for all  
60 of mankind, NOW, THEREFORE,

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62 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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64 That the Florida Senate honors and congratulates the Alpha  
65 Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., on more than 103 years of service  
66 and recognizes its past and present Florida members as they  
67 convene in Tallahassee to celebrate the 2010 "Alpha Days on the  
68 Hill."