HR52

NYDA8J8-1

By Representative Givan

RFD:

First Read: 21-Feb-24

HR___ CELEBRATING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY DAY AT THE CAPITOL ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024.

WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, is the first intercollegiate historically African American sorority; it was founded on January 15, 1908, at Howard University in Washington D.C., by a group of 16 students led by Ethel Hedgemon Lyle; the sorority was incorporated on January 29, 1913; and

WHEREAS, the sorority is one of the nation's largest Greek Letter Organizations, having more than 350,000 members in 1,024 chapters in the United States of America and several other countries; the members share the bonds of sisterhood and are committed to servant-leadership; and

WHEREAS, Omicron Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, received its charter on October 24, 1924, in Birmingham, Alabama, becoming the 15th chapter of the sorority and the first graduate chapter to be chartered in the Southeastern Region; the eight charter members, Hilda Evans, Vivan F. Bell, Jessie Coleman, Wilma Davis, Mabel Harris, Eunice Hudson, Thelma Kingsley, and Veronica Pierce, became the first African American members of a sorority in the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the chapter's membership has included thousands of professional women who are dedicated public

servants and graduates from universities throughout the United States; today, chapter membership stands at 385, the largest in the chapter's history; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1950s, under the leadership of A. Lucile Brewer, Omicron Omega Chapter experienced another milestone by becoming the first Black Greek Letter Organization to purchase a chapter house in the State of Alabama; additionally, in this same timeframe, they were instrumental in establishing the Birmingham Chapter of the Panhellenic Council; and

WHEREAS, over the course of the last century, Omicron Omega Chapter has had a profound philanthropic impact on the greater Birmingham community, having donated over $1.5 million in charitable contributions to organizations such as the United Negro College Fund, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Miles College, The Sickle Cell Foundation of Central Alabama, March of Dimes, Dance Across Birmingham, and the American Heart Association; and

WHEREAS, additionally, Omicron Omega Chapter has invested time and financial support to Birmingham children and their education; the members have spent thousands of hours volunteering in local schools, and the Chapter has distributed over $500,000 in college scholarships to Birmingham-area students; and

Whereas, Omicron Omega Chapter has overseen the establishment of five undergraduate chapters on college campuses in the greater Birmingham area: Gamma Pi at Miles College in 1970; Iota Phi at The University of Alabama at

Birmingham in 1975; Mu Mu at the University of Montevallo in 1978; Nu Delta at Birmingham-Southern College in 1979; and Omicron Mu at Samford University in 1988; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Omicron Omega Chapter established its philanthropic arm, the Cultural and Educational Advancement Foundation, to further its philanthropic impact on the Birmingham community; in 2022, CEAF opened The Pearl Center, a $1.6 million facility in the Bush Hills neighborhood designed as a space to facilitate charitable endeavors for the larger Birmingham community; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, we celebrate Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Day at the Capitol, and we express sincere appreciation to the Omicron Omega Chapter for their continuing dedication to service to the community and to the great State of Alabama; we wish Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, continued success in all future endeavors.