

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 719 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY ROEBUCK, BISHOP, BRADFORD, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, DALEY, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, GEORGE, GOODMAN, HARHART, HESS, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA, MANN, MILLARD, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PARKER, PAYTON, PRESTON, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, WATERS, WHEATLEY AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 7, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MAY 7, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 8, 2012, as "Alpha Phi Alpha Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Since its founding on December 4, 1906, Alpha Phi
4 Alpha Fraternity, Inc., has supplied voice and vision to the
5 struggle of African Americans and people of color around the
6 world; and

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

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

16 WHEREAS, The fraternity initially served as a study and

1 support group for minority students who faced racial prejudice,
2 both educationally and socially, at Cornell; and

3 WHEREAS, The Jewel founders and early leaders of the
4 fraternity succeeded in laying a firm foundation for Alpha Phi
5 Alpha's principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character
6 and the uplifting of humanity; and

7 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha chapters were established at other
8 colleges and universities, many of them historically black
9 institutions, soon after the founding at Cornell; and

10 WHEREAS, The first Alumni Chapter was established in 1911;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, While continuing to stress academic excellence among
13 its members, Alpha Phi Alpha also recognized the need to help
14 correct the educational, economic, political and social
15 injustices faced by African Americans; and

16 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha has long stood at the forefront of
17 the African-American community's fight for civil rights through
18 leaders such as W. E. B. DuBois, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.,
19 Edward Brooke, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall,
20 Andrew Young, William Gray, Paul Robeson and many others; and

21 WHEREAS, True to its form as the "first of firsts," Alpha Phi
22 Alpha has been interracial since 1945; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 8,
24 2012, as "Alpha Phi Alpha Day" in Pennsylvania.