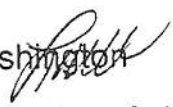




Senate of Pennsylvania

Senator LeAnna M. Washington
4th Senatorial District

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 29, 2011
To: All Senators
From: Senator LeAnna M. Washington 
Subject: Co-sponsorship request – **Resolution: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Day**

I will be introducing a resolution designating May 10, 2011, as “Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Day” in Pennsylvania. I invite you to join me in honoring the service this organization has given throughout the years.

Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) is the first Greek-lettered sorority established and incorporated by African American college women. The sorority was founded on January 15, 1908, at Howard University in Washington, D.C.. Alpha Kappa Alpha was incorporated on January 29, 1913.

The small group of women who organized the Sorority was conscious of a privileged position as college-trained women of color, just one generation removed from slavery. They were resolute that their college experiences should be as meaningful and productive as possible. Alpha Kappa Alpha was founded to apply that determination.

Consisting of college-educated women of many diverse backgrounds from around the world, the sorority serves through a membership of more than 250,000 women in over 900 chapters in the United States and several other countries.

After the organization's establishment over a century ago, Alpha Kappa Alpha has helped to improve social and economic conditions through community service programs. The sorority works with communities through service initiatives and progressive programs relating to education, family, health, and business.

To indicate your interest in co-sponsoring this important legislation, please contact Cindie Watkins in my office by calling 7-1428 or emailing cwatkins@pasenate.com.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED _____, 20 _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

See next page for additional co-sponsors.

Referred to Committee on	
Date _____	20 _____
Reported _____	20 _____
As Committed-Amended	
Recommendation	

By Hon. _____	

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority by designating May 10, 2011,
2 as "Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In 1908, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority became America's
4 first Greek-letter organization established by black college
5 women; and

6 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority celebrated its 100-year
7 anniversary on January 15, 2008; and

8 WHEREAS, The sorority's roots date back to Howard University,
9 Washington, DC, where the idea for formation was conceived by
10 Ethel Hedgeman Lyle of St. Louis, Missouri, who viewed the
11 sorority as an instrument for enriching the social and
12 intellectual aspects of college life by providing mental
13 stimulation through interaction with friends and associates; and

14 WHEREAS, Through the years, the sorority's function has
15 become more complex, branching out and becoming the channel
16 through which selected college-trained women improved the
17 socioeconomic conditions in their city, state, nation and the
18 world; and

19 WHEREAS, In a world in which materialism is pervasive and

1 technology and competition have decreased the need for
2 collaboration and cooperation, it is critical to have an
3 association that cuts across racial, international, physical and
4 social barriers to help individuals and communities develop and
5 maintain constructive relationships with others; and

6 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is that vital
7 organization, a sisterhood composed of women who have
8 consciously chosen this affiliation as a means of self-
9 fulfillment through volunteer service, cultivating and
10 encouraging high scholastic and ethical standards, promoting
11 unity and friendship among college women, alleviating problems
12 concerning girls and women, maintaining a progressive interest
13 in college life and serving all mankind through a nucleus of
14 more than 200,000 women in the United States, the Caribbean,
15 Europe and Africa; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the Alpha Kappa Alpha
17 Sorority by designating May 10, 2011, as "Alpha Kappa Alpha
18 Sorority Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
20 Epsilon Sigma Omega Chapter, P.O. Box 1924, Harrisburg, PA
21 17105-1924.