

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 281 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY PRESTON, KIRKLAND, JOHNSON, MYERS, PAYTON, BISHOP
AND WILLIAMS, MAY 10, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MAY 10,
2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the achievements of the late Fannetta Nelson Gordon
2 and her exemplary record of service on behalf of Alpha Kappa
3 Alpha Sorority, Inc.

4 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Legislative Day is
5 being observed in the Capitol on May 10, 2011; and

6 WHEREAS, Fannetta Nelson Gordon, who died in 2008 at 88 years
7 of age, exemplified the finest virtues of human experience as a
8 musician, educator and sorority leader; and

9 WHEREAS, Ms. Gordon joined Iota Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha
10 Sorority as a student at the University of Pittsburgh and later
11 served as graduate advisor to the chapter as a member of Alpha
12 Omega Chapter in Pittsburgh; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. Gordon was a president of Epsilon Sigma Omega
14 Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in Harrisburg and graduate
15 advisor to Iota Chi Chapter at Millersville University and Delta
16 Gamma Chapter at The Pennsylvania State University; and

17 WHEREAS, An accomplished pianist, Ms. Gordon toured with the
18 National Negro Opera Company, played with W.C. Handy and

1 accompanied Leontyne Price during Ms. Price's first performance
2 at Forbes Field; and

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Gordon was fluent in French and German and
4 taught English and German in the Pittsburgh Public Schools for
5 many years; and

6 WHEREAS, Governor Raymond P. Shafer appointed Ms. Gordon to
7 the State Board of Education in 1969; and

8 WHEREAS, Ms. Gordon served 13 years as senior advisor for
9 bilingual education in the Department of Education; and

10 WHEREAS, The Westinghouse High School Alumni Association has
11 posthumously recognized Ms. Gordon as valedictorian of
12 Westinghouse High School in Pittsburgh; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. Gordon's sister, Sophia Phillips Nelson, had
14 earned recognition as Westinghouse High School's first African-
15 American valedictorian in 1934; and

16 WHEREAS, A music teacher changed Ms. Gordon's final grade
17 from an A to a B to keep her from attaining valedictorian status
18 at her 1936 graduation; and

19 WHEREAS, Ms. Gordon went on to receive a bachelor of arts
20 degree and master of education degree from the University of
21 Pittsburgh and master of arts degrees from the University of
22 Washington and Franklin and Marshall College; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
24 achievements of the late Fannetta Nelson Gordon and her
25 exemplary record of service on behalf of Alpha Kappa Alpha
26 Sorority, Inc.