

By: Representative Summers

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 55

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING PHI BETA SIGMA
2 FRATERNITY, INC., AND ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INC., FOR THEIR
3 EXTENSIVE PUBLIC SERVICE, AND DECLARING MARCH 23, 2021, AS PHI
4 BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC., AND ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, INC., DAY
5 IN MISSISSIPPI.

6 WHEREAS, with many exceptional members in both Phi Beta Sigma
7 Fraternity, Inc., and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., who have made
8 tremendous contributions to the betterment of society through
9 their unparalleled philanthropic contributions, these prestigious
10 organizations have become a pinnacle of hope within the State of
11 Mississippi and across the nation; and

12 WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., was founded at
13 Howard University in Washington, D.C., on January 9, 1914, by
14 three distinguished, young African-American male students: the
15 Honorable A. Langston Taylor, the Honorable Leonard F. Morse and
16 the Honorable Charles I. Brown, who wanted to organize a Greek
17 letter fraternity that would truly exemplify the ideals of
18 brotherhood, scholarship, and service, which are the principles



exhibited by the fraternity motto, "Culture for Service and Service for Humanity"; and

WHEREAS, desiring to create an organization that viewed itself as "a part of" the general community rather than "apart from" the general community, the founders believed that each potential member should be judged by his own merits, rather than his family background or affluence, without regard to race, nationality, skin tone or texture of his hair, and they intended for their fraternity to exist as part of an even greater brotherhood which would be devoted to the "inclusive we," rather than the "exclusive we"; and

WHEREAS, from its inception, the founders conceived Phi Beta Sigma as a mechanism to deliver services to the general community, and rather than gaining skills to be utilized exclusively for themselves and their immediate families, they held a deep conviction to return their newly acquired skills to the communities from which they had come; and

WHEREAS, on November 21, 1927, the first chapter of Sigma, the Alpha Beta Chapter, was established in the State of Mississippi, on the campus of Jackson College, which was later renamed Jackson State University, and eleven years later in 1938, the first alumni chapter, Mu Sigma, was chartered; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi is part of the cluster of states under the Southern Region of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., which is currently the largest region in the fraternity with over 3,000



44 financial members, and is comprised of four states and one
45 province: Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, and the Islands
46 of the Bahamas; and

47 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi has 28 financial chapters,
48 10 Collegiate and 18 Alumni/Graduate, and is home to seven Sigma
49 Beta Clubs, which serve as the fraternity's youth organization,
50 geared towards meeting the needs of its members, and providing
51 them with a well-rounded outlook that is needed to cope with
52 today's society, because investing in our youth today will produce
53 effective leaders of tomorrow; and

54 WHEREAS, Mississippi is home of the current International
55 President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., the Honorable
56 Brother Micheal E. Cristal, a native of Grenada, Mississippi, and
57 the current Southern Regional Director is Dr. Eric Farmer, and
58 Brother Sedric Scott serves as the current Mississippi State
59 Director; and

60 WHEREAS, the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma are the fraternity's
61 most valuable resource and strength, and are the primary means by
62 which the Phi Beta Sigma objectives will be achieved, and in order
63 to accomplish the fraternity's objectives, it is essential that
64 systems are instituted that effectively embody "Culture For
65 Service and Service For Humanity" and promote brotherhood,
66 scholarship and service; and

67 WHEREAS, in the spring of 1919, Mr. Charles Robert Samuel
68 Taylor, a member of Phi Beta Sigma, shared with



69 Ms. Arizona Cleaver, a student at Howard University, his idea for
70 a new sisterhood that would be a sister-organization to his
71 fraternity; and

72 WHEREAS, after meeting with Mr. Taylor, Ms. Cleaver presented
73 this idea to 14 other Howard University women, and with the help
74 of Mr. Taylor and one of Phi Beta Sigma's founders, Mr. A.
75 Langston Taylor, work began to establish the new sorority,
76 culminating in the founding of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., on
77 January 16, 1920, by five phenomenal women at Howard University in
78 Washington, D.C.: the Honorable Arizona Cleaver Stemons, the
79 Honorable Pearl Anna Neal, the Honorable Myrtle Tyler Faithful,
80 the Honorable Viola Tyler Goings and the Honorable Fannie Pettie
81 Watts; and

82 WHEREAS, with permission from the Howard University
83 administration, the sorority held its first official meeting on
84 January 16, 1920, and the five founders chose the name Zeta Phi
85 Beta Sorority, Inc., with the similar names of both Sigma and Zeta
86 being intentional in nature as the ladies adopted the Greek
87 letters "Phi" and "Beta" to seal and signify the relationship
88 between the two organizations; and

89 WHEREAS, these five extraordinary women dared to depart from
90 the traditional coalitions for African-American women, and sought
91 to establish a new organization predicated on the precepts of
92 scholarship, service, sisterhood and finer womanhood, envisioning
93 a sorority that would directly affect positive change, chart a



94 course of action for the 1920s and beyond, raise the consciousness
95 of their people, encourage the highest standards of academic
96 achievement, and foster a greater sense of unity among its
97 members; and

98 WHEREAS, it was the idea of the founders that the sorority
99 would reach college women in all parts of the country who were
100 sorority-minded and desired to follow the founding principles of
101 the organization; and

102 WHEREAS, eighteen years after its illustrious inception, in
103 1938, the Zeta's principles reached the hearts and souls of Finer
104 Women in Mississippi, and with the help of the Southern Regional
105 Director, Lullelia Harrison, and Pauline Allen Davis of Memphis,
106 Tennessee, the first Zeta Chapter was established in Mississippi,
107 the Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter, and was chartered on October 14,
108 1938, at 723 Rose Street in Jackson, Mississippi; and

109 WHEREAS, Mississippi is part of the South Central Region of
110 the Zeta International Organizational Structure, and is comprised
111 of four states: Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee; and

112 WHEREAS, appointed by the International President, Kathy R.
113 Tatum is the Regional Director of the South Central Region, and
114 each state has a director who is also appointed by the
115 International President, with the 17th Mississippi State Director
116 being Portia Ellis; and

117 WHEREAS, since chartering the Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter in
118 1938, the State of Mississippi has grown to become the largest



state in the South Central Region, and among the largest in Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., historically amassing over 1,400 financial members state-wide and hundreds of members in the youth and adult auxiliaries; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi Zeta Chapters include collegiate and graduate members, Friends of Zeta, called Amicae, Youth Auxiliaries that are established to mentor and train girls ages 4 through 18 and the Zeta Male Network; and

WHEREAS, outstandingly, Mississippi has become a source of information and inspiration for other states, regions and national leadership, and is among the first 20 states in the organization's national history to have chartered chapters, with over 48 Zeta Chapters across 82 counties, including 11 undergraduate chapters, with the first undergraduate chapter to the charter being the Zeta Chapter in 1945, at Alcorn State University; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to public service, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., continues to achieve its mission by providing an extensive array of service through the sorority's numerous programs, such as the endowment of its National Educational Foundation, the Elder Care Initiative, Zeta Prematurity Awareness Program and Adopt a School; and

WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., State of Mississippi, and its auxiliaries have been able to support and provide service to citizens in the Magnolia State through its National Service Program called ZHOPE (Zetas Helping Other People Excel), which is



an interactive, holistic, multidimensional outreach program designed to enhance, cultivate and empower participants to develop health-promoting lifestyle choices across each lifespan, focusing on specific population groups including women, youth, seniors, men and international women of color; and

WHEREAS, over the past 82 years in Mississippi, this exceptional organization's community service impact can be seen in over 100,000 service hours given to many of its outreach programs, including the Zeta Stork's Nest, which is a partnership between Zeta Phi Beta and March of Dimes that is a community-based prenatal health promotion program for low-income pregnant women; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi has three Stork's Nest programs: Alpha Delta Zeta Chapter of Jackson, Mississippi; Zeta Psi Zeta Chapter of Clarksdale, Mississippi; and Psi Beta Zeta Chapter of Southaven, Mississippi, and since the partnership with the March of Dimes, African-American babies' low birth rate has declined; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its other numerous programs and community service initiatives, and in line with the principle of scholarship, Mississippi Zetas support scholarships to youth through its annual scholarship program and the Zeta National Scholarship Programs; and

WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., are the only National Pan-Hellenic Council



169 organizations that can claim an authentic brother-sister
170 association through a constitutional bond, which allows both
171 organizations to work closely together as they attempt to
172 materialize what their founders envisioned through a deep and
173 abiding dedication to enhancing and promoting systematic
174 fellowship, African-American self determination, justice, equal
175 rights and service to all humankind; and

176 WHEREAS, since their respective foundings, the esteemed men
177 of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and the dynamic women of Zeta
178 Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., have played a vital role in our nation's
179 illustrious history, and there are numerous accomplished
180 individuals in each organization who are recognized as leaders in
181 our society; and

182 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
183 recognize and honor distinguished organizations, especially those
184 such as Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and Zeta Phi Beta
185 Sorority, Inc., whose passion and dedication for serving others
186 brings honor to each prestigious organization, and to the State of
187 Mississippi:

188 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
189 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
190 recognize and commend Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and Zeta
191 Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., for their extensive public service, and
192 declare March 23, 2021, as Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and
193 Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Day in Mississippi.



194 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
195 furnished to members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and Zeta
196 Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and to the members of the Capitol Press
197 Corps.

