

By: Representative Scott

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 86

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 MEMBERS OF THE POISED PEARLS OF LAUREL INTEREST GROUP UPON THE
3 MOST AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF BECOMING A CHARTERED GRADUATE CHAPTER
4 OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC., ON MAY 7, 2022.

5 WHEREAS, the ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.,
6 within the State of Mississippi whose focus and intent have made a
7 substantial impact on the City of Laurel, as well as, in and
8 throughout the Jones, Jasper, Covington and Smith Counties service
9 area, are proud to announce the official chartering of a graduate
10 chapter of the sorority by the Poised Pearls of Laurel Interest
11 Group; and

12 WHEREAS, the Poised Pearls of Laurel Interest Group, in
13 keeping with the mission, aims and principle tenets of Alpha Kappa
14 Alpha Sorority, Inc., has provided programming which promotes
15 community, civic and governmental engagement, health, education,
16 financial literacy and international diplomacy, through five
17 instrumental targets, including: HBCU for Life: A Call to Action;
18 Women's Healthcare and Wellness; Building Your Economic Legacy;
19 the Arts; and Global Impact; and



20 WHEREAS, the Poised Pearls of Laurel Interest Group of Alpha
21 Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., which consists of 31 active general
22 members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., will be historically
23 acknowledged as the charter members of the graduate chapter,
24 slated for official investiture on Saturday, May 7, 2022; and

25 WHEREAS, founded on January 15, 1908, upon the campus of
26 Howard University, a Historically Black College and University
27 (HBCU) located in Washington, D.C., by Ethel Hedgemon and eight
28 like-minded friends, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., was created
29 as a support network for the women to benefit not only themselves,
30 but others through their talents and strengths; and

31 WHEREAS, from the original group of Ivies, Alpha Kappa Alpha
32 Sorority, Inc., and its ivy vine have grown into a force of more
33 than 290,000 collegiate members and alumnae, constituting over
34 1,007 chapters in 42 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S.
35 Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, Germany, Liberia, South Korea, Japan,
36 Canada, South Africa and the Middle East; and

37 WHEREAS, for more than a century, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,
38 Inc., has remained true to its mission: to cultivate and
39 encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, promote unity and
40 friendship among college women, study and help alleviate problems
41 concerning girls and women in order to improve their social
42 stature, maintain a progressive interest in college life, and
43 above all be of service to all mankind; and



44 WHEREAS, the Poised Pearls of Laurel was birthed through the
45 vision of Sonya Varnell to charter a chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha
46 Sorority, Inc., in the area of Laurel, Jones County, and she,
47 along with eight fellow Alpha Kappa Alpha sorors, on Thursday,
48 December 11, 2014, met at the home of Sonya McSwain to begin the
49 planning of a chapter, which was initially named the S.T.A.R.S of
50 Laurel; and

51 WHEREAS, as the name of the chapter would later change to the
52 Poised Pearls of Laurel, additional inclusion and services were
53 provided to Jones, Jasper, Covington, Smith and Wayne Counties,
54 focusing on the mission of "providing Progressive, Inspiring, and
55 Empowering (P.I.E.) programs and outreach"; and

56 WHEREAS, through the progressive and forward-thinking aim
57 regarding education, economic security, health care and poverty,
58 the Poised Pearls of Laurel sought to inspire young girls and
59 women by serving as mentors and role models in leadership and
60 womanhood, and empowering the community to take control of their
61 destiny by encouraging skill-building and producing relevant
62 programs; and

63 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
64 and commend the works, efforts and contributions of such an
65 historical organization as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and
66 the individual members who strive to exemplify the infallible
67 meaning of its creed, as demonstrated by the Poised Pearls of



68 Laurel, whose unmitigated dedication to excellence brings honor to
69 the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.:

70 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
71 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
72 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the members of
73 the Poised Pearls of Laurel Interest Group of Alpha Kappa Alpha
74 Sorority, Inc., on the occasion of its official chartering of a
75 graduate chapter on May 7, 2022, and express heartiest wishes for
76 continued growth, prosperity and success in all of their
77 collective and individual future endeavors.

78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
79 furnished to the Poised Pearls of Laurel Interest Group of Alpha
80 Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and to the members of the Capitol
81 Press Corps.

