

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.

