

By: Representative Anthony

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 27

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING EPSILON XI LAMBDA
2 CHAPTER OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC., UPON THE CELEBRATION
3 OF ITS 70TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY AND UPON ITS COMMUNITY SERVICE.

4 WHEREAS, on May 10, 1951, a meeting was held in Clarksdale,
5 Mississippi, by eight dynamic Black college-educated men of Alpha
6 Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., who had the desire to uplift the
7 Mississippi Delta by establishing a graduate chapter of the
8 fraternity; and

9 WHEREAS, those forward-thinking men of Alpha Phi Alpha
10 Fraternity, Inc., which is the first intercollegiate Greek-letter
11 fraternity established for African-American men, were Fred Miller,
12 B.T. Johnson, O.B. Smith, Charles H. Jones, Wendell Fant, Gerald
13 Cyrus, Charles Peterson and Bennie Cooper - all of whom realized
14 that by consolidating their talents and resources that they could
15 uplift their community through the power of brotherhood; and

16 WHEREAS, on August 20, 1951, in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, the
17 Epsilon Xi Lambda Chapter was chartered with the fraternity's
18 regional director conducting the services and with members of the



19 Alpha Epsilon Lambda Chapter of Jackson, Mississippi, serving as
20 assistants; and

21 WHEREAS, the charter members of the Epsilon Xi Lambda Chapter
22 are as follows: B.T. Johnson (President), Bennie Cooper
23 (Secretary), Charles Jones (Parliamentarian), Charles Patterson,
24 Fred Miller, Gerald Cyrus (Vice President), G.E. Adams, James
25 Trimm (Editor of the Sphinx), Leo Hall, O.G. Smith (Treasurer) and
26 Wendell Fant; and

27 WHEREAS, notably, Fred Miller of Mound Bayou has the
28 distinction of serving as the third general president of Alpha Phi
29 Alpha Fraternity, Inc., from 1911 to 1912, and it was under his
30 administration that the fraternity became incorporated a second
31 time; and

32 WHEREAS, another distinguished member of the Epsilon Xi
33 Lambda Chapter is the chapter's first initiate, Samuel Lee
34 Blackburn of Clarksdale, Mississippi, who was initiated on May 12,
35 1953; and

36 WHEREAS, since being initiated into the Epsilon Xi Lambda
37 Chapter, Mr. Blackburn, who has the distinction of reaching the
38 blessed age of 101 years old, has been devoted to serving the
39 Mississippi Delta for over 67 years, and he has not waivered in
40 his commitment to serving others; and

41 WHEREAS, despite being the oldest member of the chapter, Mr.
42 Blackburn is the essence of an Alpha man, who is blessed to walk
43 without needing assistance, is very active in the chapter and



44 attends regular chapter meetings and all other events in a
45 consistent and punctual manner, thus serving as a fine example to
46 his younger fraternity brothers; and

47 WHEREAS, in addition to having supportive and remarkable
48 members such as Mr. Blackburn, the Epsilon Xi Lambda Chapter is
49 also supportive of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.'s national
50 level programs: Go-to-High-School, Go-to-College, A Voteless
51 People is a Hopeless People, Brother's Keeper, Project Alpha, the
52 March of Dimes and Big Brothers, Big Sisters of America; and

53 WHEREAS, the Epsilon Xi Lambda Chapter's support of Alpha Phi
54 Alpha Fraternity, Inc.'s national level programs are carried out
55 in the chapter's local level programs as follows: Dr. MLK, Jr.
56 Oratorical Scholarship, Dr. William Ross Story Scholarship, Dr.
57 Tyrone Jackson Presidential Scholarship and LaDarrius Milton 1,906
58 Book Campaign, Premier College Prep Academy and ACT Tutorial
59 Workshops - all of which are community outreach mentoring
60 initiatives that benefit the community; and

61 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
62 commend organizations such as the Epsilon Xi Lambda Chapter of
63 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., which has continually upheld the
64 fraternity's aims of manly deeds, scholarship and love for all
65 mankind as the chapter continues to be a beacon of hope in the
66 Mississippi Delta and surrounding areas:

67 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
68 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby



69 commend and congratulate the men of the Epsilon Xi Chapter of
70 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., upon the special occasion of the
71 organization's 70th year anniversary, and wish them continued
72 success in all their future endeavors.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
74 furnished to the Epsilon Xi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha
75 Fraternity, Inc., and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

