

By: Senator(s) Jackson (11th), Barnett, Horhn, Norwood, Thomas, Butler (36th), Butler (38th), Frazier, Hickman, Jordan, Simmons (13th), Turner-Ford, Simmons (12th)

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 36

1 A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE CELEBRATION OF SEVEN DECADES
2 OF COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SCHOLARSHIP IN THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA BY
3 ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC., EPSILON XI LAMBDA CHAPTER AND
4 RECOGNIZING BROTHER SAMUEL BLACKBURN'S DEDICATION TO EPSILON XI
5 LAMBDA CHAPTER AS THE CHAPTER'S PRESENT TREASURER AT THE AGE OF
6 101 YEARS OLD.

7 WHEREAS, on August 20, 2021, during the 70-year Anniversary
8 Celebration of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Epsilon Xi Lambda
9 Chapter joined with the Divine Nine to acknowledge and elevate the
10 Alpha spirit upholding the Fraternity's aims - Manly Deeds,
11 Scholarship, and Love for All Mankind - by continually aiding the
12 downtrodden in its efforts to achieve higher social, economic and
13 intellectual status; and

14 WHEREAS, at this event, the brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha
15 Fraternity, Inc., Epsilon Xi Lambda Chapter wore Black and Old
16 Gold to exemplify respect of the Chapter's chartering on August
17 20, 1951, in the historic City of Mound Bayou, Mississippi; and

18 WHEREAS, the Epsilon Xi Lambda Chapter has created local
19 programs, such as the Brother Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
20 Oratorical Scholarship, the Brother Dr. William Ross Story



21 Scholarship, the Brother Dr. Tyrone Jackson Presidential
22 Scholarship, the Brother LaDarrius Milton 1,906 Book Campaign, and
23 the Premier College Prep Academy. These local programs
24 corroborate Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., National Programs;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, the Epsilon Xi Lambda Chapter has always had a
27 strong connection with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., on a
28 national level as Brother Frederick Miller of Mound Bayou,
29 Mississippi, was the 3rd General President. He served from 1911
30 to 1912, and it was under his administration that the fraternity
31 became incorporated a second time; and

32 WHEREAS, the current Executive Officers of Alpha Phi Alpha
33 Fraternity, Inc., Epsilon Xi Lambda Chapter are: Brother Edward
34 H. Hill, President (Bolivar County), Brother Dr. Tracy Mims, Vice
35 President (Tallahatchie County), Brother Willie Gant, Jr.,
36 Recording Secretary (Bolivar County), Brother Quintary Peller,
37 Assistant Recording Secretary (Washington County), Brother Samuel
38 Blackburn, Treasurer (Coahoma County), Brother Charles Hardy,
39 Financial Secretary (Washington County), Brother Charles Reid,
40 Historian (Coahoma County), Brother Terrence Liddell, Chaplain
41 (Bolivar County), Brother Travondrian White, Assistant Editor of
42 *The Sphinx* (Washington County), Brother Richard Rose,
43 Sergeant-at-Arms (Leflore County), Brother Octavus Mackin,
44 Parliamentarian (Washington County), Brother Aaron White, Director



45 of Educational Activities (Washington County), and Brother Derrick
46 Brown, Director of Intake (Washington County); and

47 WHEREAS, we celebrate Brother Samuel Blackburn who was born
48 on November 19, 1920, in Port Gibson, Mississippi. Brother Samuel
49 Blackburn was the first initiate of Epsilon Xi Lambda Chapter on
50 May 12, 1953, and the oldest brother in the Chapter. Brother
51 Blackburn graduated from Alcorn A&M College (now Alcorn State
52 University) located in Lorman, Mississippi. He later served as
53 the Vocational-Technical Program Director at Junior College (now
54 Coahoma Community College). The Coahoma Community College also
55 named the structure housing new Farm Equipment Classes in his
56 honor, and on Founders' Day in 1986, they named in his honor the
57 Blackburn Annex to the Cain Vocational Technical Building; and

58 WHEREAS, Brother Blackburn married the love of his life,
59 Bertha Maiden Blackburn, in 1924. Brother Blackburn's community
60 and educational involvement includes serving as Vocational
61 Education Shop Teacher in 1948 at Myrtle Hall School and the new
62 W.A. Higgins High School. Brother Blackburn also registered for
63 World War II in 1942 while attending Alcorn A&M College. In
64 addition to his other career accomplishments, Brother Blackburn
65 has several fraternal accomplishments, including the recipient of
66 several Brother of the Year Awards, Oldest Active Chapter Senior
67 Brother Award, 2021 MLK Gala Honoree, and continues to act and
68 serve as Epsilon Xi Lambda Chapter Treasurer; and



69 WHEREAS, three current members of the Mississippi Senate are
70 members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity: Senator Juan Barnett,
71 Senator Rod Hickman and Senator Robert L. Jackson; and

72 WHEREAS, we join the citizens of the Mississippi Delta in
73 recognizing this respected community and charitable service
74 organization:

75 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
76 MISSISSIPPI, That we commemorate the celebration of seven decades
77 of community service and scholarship in the Mississippi Delta by
78 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Epsilon Xi Lambda Chapter and
79 recognize Brother Samuel Blackburn's dedication to Epsilon Xi
80 Lambda Chapter as the Chapter's present Treasurer at the age of 101
81 years old.

82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate is
83 hereby authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy
84 of this resolution to Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and
85 Brother Samuel Blackburn, and be made available to the Capitol
86 Press Corps.

