

By: Senator(s) Jackson (11th), Barnett,
Hickman

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 50

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING
2 OF THE MU XI CHAPTER OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY ON THE CAMPUS
3 OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, we join the members of Mu Xi Chapter of Alpha Phi
5 Alpha Fraternity at The University of Southern Mississippi in
6 congratulating them on their 45th Anniversary of dedicated
7 services to their fraternity, their community and to the State of
8 Mississippi; and

9 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha (AΦA) is the first intercollegiate
10 fraternity established by African-American men. The fraternity
11 was founded on December 4, 1906, on the campus of Cornell
12 University in Ithaca, New York. Alpha Phi Alpha has initiated
13 over 300,000 men into its organization and has been accessible to
14 men of all races since 1945; and

15 WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha has evolved into primarily a service
16 organization, providing both leadership and service during some of
17 the most integral moments in history, such as the Great
18 Depression, both World Wars, and the Civil Rights Movement. This



19 fraternity not only addresses social issues plaguing our
20 communities such as apartheid, AIDS, urban housing, economic,
21 cultural, and political issues, but it seeks to lighten the burden
22 of these issues on our communities of color; and

23 WHEREAS, in 1975, Brother Mance Langham, serving at the time
24 as Principal of Eureka Elementary School, and Brother Charles
25 Johnson, serving as Director of Head Start, along with Alpha Phi
26 Alpha, chartered the Mu Gamma Lambda Alumni Chapter in
27 Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Both Brother Langham and Brother
28 Johnson went on to be not only founders but Presidents of this
29 illustrious chapter. These two individuals, along with Brothers
30 Alphonso Clark and Howard Jones, decided the brothers of the Mu
31 Gamma Lambda Chapter should apply for an undergraduate
32 Metropolitan Chapter slated for Hattiesburg, Mississippi; and

33 WHEREAS, in 1976, an organization named The Seven Jewels
34 Study Club was established on The University of Southern
35 Mississippi (USM) campus. It was comprised of African-American
36 students whose purpose was to promote scholarship and the spirit
37 of Alpha Phi Alpha. That same year, the National Office granted
38 Mu Xi a Metropolitan Chapter, encompassing students from USM,
39 William Carey College and surrounding junior colleges, who were at
40 least sophomores, and had a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average;
41 and

42 WHEREAS, on November 6, 1976, Mu Xi Chapter of Alpha Phi
43 Alpha Fraternity initiated 16 charter members, all of whom were



44 undergraduate students at The University of Southern Mississippi.
45 Initiated into the fraternity, better known as "The Untouchable
46 16" were: Brian Acker of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi; Jerrle
47 Barksdale of Biloxi, Mississippi; Jimmy R. Bridges of Silver
48 Creek, Mississippi; Larry D. Carey of Jackson, Mississippi; Lavern
49 Dillion of Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Reverend Kenneth Fairley of
50 Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Michael Gilner of Gulfport, Mississippi
51 (Deceased); Charles Goldsmith of Moss Point, Mississippi; Wille B.
52 Hinton of Carson, Mississippi; Robert L. Jackson of Marks,
53 Mississippi; Reverend Robert K. Minor of Hattiesburg, Mississippi;
54 Willie Neely of Ellisville, Mississippi; Daniel Simmons of
55 Picayune, Mississippi (Deceased); David Simmons of Picayune,
56 Mississippi; Norman Smith of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi; and
57 Charles R. Thompkins of Hattiesburg, Mississippi; and

58 WHEREAS, since the beginning of the Mu Xi Charter in 1976,
59 there have been over 325 men initiated into the Mu Xi Chapter of
60 Alpha Phi Alpha. These men are PhDs, NFL Players, Judges, Mayors,
61 Fortune 500 Executives, Entrepreneurs, Theologians, Teachers,
62 School Superintendents, IT Professionals, Coaches, Healthcare
63 Professionals, Politicians, Safety Professionals and Engineers you
64 see today. The impact they have transcends Mu Xi, and is felt
65 around the world; and

66 WHEREAS, these men have truly embodied the Alpha Phi Alpha
67 Motto, "First of All, Servants of All, We Shall Transcend All,"



68 and we commend the dedicated community service and example set by
69 these Mississippi citizens:

70 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
71 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize the 45th Anniversary of
72 the founding of the Mu Xi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity on
73 the campus of The University of Southern Mississippi, and extend
74 to this exemplary service organization our best wishes on this
75 auspicious occasion.

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
77 the Mu Xi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity for appropriate
78 distribution and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

