

By: Senator(s) Boyd, England, Michel

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 544

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING SATURDAY, JULY 1, 2023,
2 AS "DELTA GAMMA FRATERNITY DAY" IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI IN
3 COMMEMORATION OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL FOUNDING IN OXFORD,
4 MISSISSIPPI, (1873-2023) AT THE LEWIS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

5 WHEREAS, Delta Gamma Fraternity was founded in December,
6 1873, at the Lewis School for Young Ladies in Oxford, Mississippi;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Mary Comfort (Leonard), Eva Webb (Dodd), and Anna
9 Boyd (Ellington) could not get home to Kosciusko, Mississippi, for
10 the Christmas holidays due to inclement weather and impassable
11 roads. Unable to be with their families that holiday, the young
12 women decided to make their own. Cousins Eva Webb and Anna Boyd,
13 along with Mary Comfort, founded Delta Gamma Fraternity at the
14 University Avenue Lewis School for Females' site; and

15 WHEREAS, when the idea came to three homesick girls to found
16 a fraternity or club in Oxford, Mississippi, they did not realize
17 they were laying the cornerstone for an eventual international
18 organization of currently over 250,000 initiated members; and



19 WHEREAS, Mary Buie of Oxford, who was one of the first four
20 young women initiated into Delta Gamma Fraternity at the Lewis
21 School, later bequeathed the funds to build a museum as a gift to
22 the City of Oxford, which opened in 1939, and now operates on
23 University Avenue overseeing numerous collections and exhibits;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the First Presbyterian Church of Oxford was the
26 church home for the young founders, and Eva Webb Dodd's name is
27 actually scribed in the membership book of 1873; and

28 WHEREAS, the first Delta Gamma Convention and the first
29 sorority convention were held in Oxford, Mississippi, at the Henry
30 Herman Wohlleben home near Madison Avenue in Oxford, Mississippi,
31 in 1881, with Fraternity President Lillie Wohlleben with
32 Glenn/Hudson of Oxford calling the meeting to order; and

33 WHEREAS, Mississippi has had two Fraternity presidents:
34 Lillie Wohlleben from Oxford, Mississippi, and Wilma Johnson
35 Wilbanks of Cleveland, Mississippi; and

36 WHEREAS, the original Delta Gamma House at The University of
37 Mississippi was built in 1938 as the first sorority house on
38 campus and designated as a memorial house honoring the founders of
39 Oxford, Mississippi; and

40 WHEREAS, the Delta Gamma Fraternity is hosting a Homecoming
41 celebration in Oxford, Mississippi, on July 1, 2023, where the
42 fraternity membership is invited to spend the day in Oxford; and



43 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we join the City of
44 Oxford in celebrating this landmark event in the history of this
45 outstanding fraternity, the City of Oxford and the University of
46 Mississippi:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
48 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
49 we do hereby designate Saturday, July 1, 2023, as "Delta Gamma
50 Fraternity Day" in the State of Mississippi in commemoration of
51 the Sesquicentennial Founding in Oxford, Mississippi, (1873-2023)
52 at the Lewis School for Girls, and extend the greetings of the
53 Legislature at this auspicious event.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
55 Delta Gamma representatives at the Homecoming celebration,
56 forwarded to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Oxford
57 and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

