

By: Representatives Cockerham, Jackson
(11th), Butler-Washington, James-Jones,
Foster

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 21

1 A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.,
2 ON THE OBSERVANCE OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY DAY AT THE CAPITOL
3 ON FEBRUARY 6, 2024.

4 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the oldest Greek
5 letter organization in the United States, was founded by college
6 educated African-American women on January 15, 1908, on the campus
7 of Howard University; and

8 WHEREAS, this prestigious sorority is currently led by
9 International President Danette Anthony Reed, and is comprised of
10 ten regions around the globe, and Tennessee, Mississippi, and
11 Alabama make up the South Eastern Region; and

12 WHEREAS, presently, the South Eastern Region comprises 116
13 chapters—48 undergraduate chapters and 68 graduate chapters, and
14 with over 14,000 Sorors, the region is dedicated to the mission of
15 its illustrious organization, and is led by Alabama native, Dr.
16 Tracey Morant Adams, Senior Executive Vice President and the Chief
17 Community Development and Corporate Social Responsibility Officer
18 for Renasant Bank; and



19 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., has impacted the
20 lives of African Americans and their communities through public
21 policy, and it certainly has a legacy of providing exemplary
22 service to all mankind, and through the collective efforts of its
23 members, Alpha Kappa Alpha implements programs of service that
24 transform, magnify, and accelerate communities and campuses; and

25 WHEREAS, with a 116-year tradition of social action, under
26 Alpha Kappa Alpha's current theme "Soaring to Greater Heights of
27 Service and Sisterhood," its International Connection and Social
28 Action Committee is poised to implement the "Advocate for Social
29 Justice" initiative in an effort to save lives and transform
30 communities as advocates to reduce suicide among our African-
31 American youth and reduce the preventable deaths of African-
32 American mothers during pregnancy and childbirth; and

33 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated currently
34 has three members of the sorority serving in the Mississippi House
35 of Representatives: Angela Cockerham, Representative District 96,
36 Lataisha Jackson, Representative District 11, Tamarra Grace
37 Butler-Washington, Representative District 69, and most notably,
38 former Representative Alyce G. Clarke, the first African-American
39 female legislator in Mississippi who assumed office in 1985 and
40 who has since retired; and

41 WHEREAS, as United States elections impact policy and funding
42 decisions regarding health care, education, environment, voting
43 rights, housing, public safety, and economics, among other issues,



44 Alpha Kappa Alpha's robust advocacy agenda was initiated during
45 the 2022 mid-term elections, and it included the launch of the
46 "Soar to the Polls" voter engagement campaign, and while all votes
47 matter in these decisions, voter suppression is at an all-time
48 high, and the "Soar to the Polls" campaign was developed to
49 address voting barriers via a three-pronged approach: voter
50 education, voter registration, and voter engagement; and

51 WHEREAS, these outstanding efforts in Mississippi are led by
52 the South Eastern Representative to the International Connection
53 and Social Action Committee, Leah J. Holder Wiggins, Mississippi
54 Connection and Social Action Coordinator Attorney, Demetrice
55 Williams Wells, and the Mississippi Connection and Social Action
56 Committee; and

57 WHEREAS, the exceptional members of Alpha Kappa Alpha who
58 reside in the State of Mississippi have made significant
59 contributions to local, state, and national programs that have
60 made a positive impact on the state, and their dedication, hard
61 work and commitment to providing service to the citizens of
62 Mississippi is evident by the countless hours of community
63 service, millions of dollars in financial contributions, and
64 social advocacy that has been displayed since the chartering of
65 the first chapter in Mississippi in 1934; and

66 WHEREAS, with 36 graduate and undergraduate chapters in the
67 State of Mississippi, Alpha Kappa Alpha members continue to
68 empower our families, build our economic wealth, enhance our



69 environment, advocate for social justice, and uplift our local
70 community, as they strengthen the bonds to support their service
71 mission; and

72 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
73 commend extraordinary organizations, especially those such as
74 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., whose members have made a
75 positive impact through their remarkable community service, and
76 who treasure high values and live their lives to evidence the
77 same, bringing hope and healing wherever they volunteer:

78 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
79 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
80 commend the extraordinary ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,
81 Inc., on the observance of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Day at the
82 Capitol on February 6, 2024.

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
84 furnished to Dr. Tracey Morant Adams, and to the members of the
85 Capitol Press Corps.

