

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 5

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE 98TH NATIONAL FOUNDERS DAY
2 CELEBRATION FOR ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC., AND WELCOMING
3 THE SPECIAL GUESTS FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH TO THE
4 CAPITAL CITY.

5 WHEREAS, Mississippi's Capital City will be a sea of pink and
6 green as members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated,
7 visit during the organization's 98th National Founders Day
8 Celebration. It is estimated that several hundred members of the
9 nation's oldest African-American Sorority will come to Jackson,
10 Mississippi, January 13-15, 2006, to participate in the
11 observance. Chapters from across the entire State of Mississippi
12 will host the event that commemorates the creation of the sorority
13 and its founders. Linda M. White currently serves as the
14 organization's 26th National President; and

15 WHEREAS, a major highlight of the three-day event will be the
16 observance of the sorority's first major health initiative, the
17 Mississippi Health Project, from 1935 to 1942. Members in the
18 medical field and many others will journey to Mound Bayou,
19 Mississippi, to relive this historic undertaking by providing
20 medical services to residents. Physicians, nurses and other
21 health care providers that belonged to the sorority came to
22 Mississippi from 1935-1941 to provide health services to people in
23 the small Delta town. These Alpha Kappa Alpha women served two-
24 to eight-week terms for seven years during the summer months and
25 provided care to over 15,000 people. The Mississippi Health
26 Project received national attention in *Readers Digest* and many
27 other national publications. The sorority received letters of
28 commendation and recognition from the State Department of Health,

29 the Surgeon General and many other local, regional and national
30 entities; and

31 WHEREAS, other planned activities include the Community
32 Health Expo at the Jackson Medical Mall Thad Cochran Center, the
33 National Institute(s) of Health Professional Development Forum
34 with Dr. Yvonne Maddox of the National Institute of Child Health
35 and Human Development, and African-American Heritage Tours with
36 visits to the homes of renowned author and Alpha Kappa Alpha
37 member, the late Margaret Walker Alexander, and slain civil rights
38 leader, Medgar W. Evers. The Mississippi Health Project and the
39 Health Expo are service projects that members will perform as a
40 part of Alpha Kappa Alpha's "Martin Luther King Day of Service"
41 projects for that weekend; and

42 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is America's first
43 Greek-letter organization established by black college women in
44 1908 at Howard University in our nation's capital. The sorority
45 is a sisterhood composed of women who have consciously chosen this
46 affiliation as a means of self-fulfillment through volunteer
47 service. In the past two years alone, Alpha Kappa Alpha women
48 have provided 3 million hours of community service, benefiting 16
49 million people. Sorority members have also invested more than \$20
50 Million in African-American communities. The sorority serves all
51 mankind through a nucleus of more than 170,000 women in the United
52 States, the Caribbean, Europe and Africa; and

53 WHEREAS, special guests from the National Founders Day
54 Weekend will be: Rear Admiral Kenneth P. Moritsugu, MD, MPH,
55 Deputy Surgeon General; Michele Kiely, DrPH, Visiting Scientist,
56 Office of the Surgeon General; Yvonne T. Maddox, PhD, Deputy
57 Director, National Institute of Child Health and Human
58 Development; Patricia A. Grady, PhD, RN, FAAN, Director, National
59 Institute of Nursing Research; Michael D. Oberdorfer, PhD,
60 Director, Low Vision Program, Division of Extramural Research,
61 National Eye Institute; Angelia Neal, Acting Deputy Executive

62 Officer, National Eye Institute; L. Tony Beck, PhD, Program
63 Officer, Division for Research Resources, National Center for
64 Research Resources; and Elisa H. Gladstone, MPH, Associate
65 Director, NKDEP, National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive &
66 Kidney Diseases; and

67 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha's programs demonstrate the
68 effectiveness of personal, direct service by African-Americans to
69 their community, and it is with great pride that we recognize the
70 civic contributions, scholarship and service brought by these
71 citizens:

72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
73 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority,
74 Inc., on the occasion of its 98th National Founders Day
75 Celebration on January 13-15, 2006, and welcome the special guests
76 from the National Institute(s) of Health to our Capital City.

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
78 the committee representatives of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and to
79 each of our special guests, and be made available to the Capitol
80 Press Corps.