

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 148

Senator Ananich offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize May 25, 2022, as Alpha Phi Alpha
2 Fraternity Day.

3 Whereas, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. was established by
4 seven students from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, known
5 as the "Jewels" of the fraternity. Their names are Dr. Henry Arthur
6 Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George Biddle
7 Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle, and Vertner
8 Woodson Tandy; and

9 Whereas, In 1906, these male students met to form a study
10 group for Cornell University minority students who faced racial
11 prejudice, both educationally and socially; and

12 Whereas, The founders and early leaders of the fraternity

1 succeeded in laying a firm foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha's
2 principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the
3 uplifting of humanity; and

4 Whereas, On December 4, 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was
5 the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for
6 African American men with the aims of "Manly Deeds, Scholarship,
7 and Love For All Mankind"; and

8 Whereas, While stressing academic excellence among its
9 members, Alpha Phi Alpha recognized the need to help rectify the
10 educational, economic, political, and social injustices faced daily
11 by African Americans based solely on the color of their skin rather
12 than the content of their character; and

13 Whereas, Alpha Phi Alpha has long stood at the forefront of
14 the African American community's fight for civil rights through
15 leaders and fraternity members such as W.E.B. DuBois, Adam Clayton
16 Powell Jr., Edward Brooke, Martin Luther King Jr., Thurgood
17 Marshall, Andrew Young, William Gray, Paul Robeson, Damon Keith,
18 and many others; and

19 Whereas, Alpha Phi Alpha has over 290,000 members and more
20 than 730 chapters located throughout the United States, Europe,
21 Africa, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, and Asia. Nearly 20 of
22 these chapters are located in communities and on college or
23 university campuses in Michigan; and

24 Whereas, Alpha Phi Alpha members in this state have made
25 numerous contributions to the educational, civic, and well-being of
26 Michigan's citizens and communities through work on issues such as
27 apartheid, AIDS, urban housing, and voting rights, including
28 economic, cultural, and political issues of interest to people of
29 color; and

1 Whereas, National programs and initiatives of the fraternity
2 include: A Voteless People Is a Hopeless People, My Brother's
3 Keeper; Go To High School, Go To College; Project Alpha, and the
4 World Policy Council; and

5 Whereas, Alpha Phi Alpha members in this state can count
6 successful collaborations with philanthropic programming
7 organizations, such as initiatives with the March of Dimes, Head
8 Start, the Boy Scouts of America, Big Brothers Big Sisters of
9 America, numerous food banks, and shelters; now, therefore, be it

10 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
11 body recognize May 25, 2022, as Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Day; and
12 be it further

13 Resolved, That we express our sincere appreciation for
14 Michigan District Director Lindsey Williams, and the members of the
15 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, for their commitment to service in our
16 state; and be it further

17 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
18 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's national headquarters for
19 commemoration of the 115th anniversary.