

Substitute for House Resolution No. 208.

A resolution to declare December 6, 2017, as Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Alpha Phi Alpha was established by seven students from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, who were known as the “Jewels” of the fraternity. Their names were are Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle, and Vertner Woodson Tandy. This group met in 1906 to form a study group for minority students who faced racial prejudice, both educationally and socially, at Cornell. The Jewel founders and early leaders of the fraternity succeeded in laying a firm foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha's principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity; and

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

Whereas, While continuing to stress academic excellence among its members, Alpha Phi Alpha also recognized the need to help correct the educational, economic, political, and social injustices faced by African Americans; and

Whereas, Throughout its history, Alpha Phi Alpha has long stood at the forefront of the African-American community's fight for civil rights through leaders such as W.E.B. DuBois, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Edward Brooke, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Andrew Young, William Gray, Paul Robeson, and many others; and

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

Whereas, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity members in this state have made numerous contributions to the educational, civic, and well-being of Michigan’s citizens and communities through its work on issues such as apartheid, AIDS, urban housing, and other economic, cultural, and political issues of interest to people of color; and

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

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

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare December 6, 2017, as Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Day in the state of Michigan. We commemorate the 111th anniversary of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; and be it further

Resolved, That we express sincere appreciation of Michigan District Director Michael Wade and the members of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., for their commitment to service in the state of Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the national headquarters for Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity commemorating the 111th anniversary.