

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1711

Commemorating the eminently successful performance and record of excellence of Barbara A. McKinzie, immediate past international president of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2010

Ms. WATSON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the eminently successful performance and record of excellence of Barbara A. McKinzie, immediate past international president of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Whereas Barbara A. McKinzie has proven to be an extremely successful president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (AKA);

Whereas inspired by the AKA ESP theme of “Economics, Service and Partnerships,” the last 4 years have been marked by achievements and milestones that are unparalleled in the 102-year history of the organization;

Whereas the ESP narrative chronicles international president McKinzie’s triumphant 4 years;

Whereas under her leadership, Alpha Kappa Alpha has been:
“E” for effective;

Whereas AKA served more than 17,000,000 individuals worldwide through ESP programs from 2006 to 2010 and it has also logged over 1,500,000 volunteer hours executing the ESP program over the past 3 years;

Whereas AKA has been entrepreneurial by launching a multitude of programs and activities directed at building a strong foundation for women in business and those women aspiring to be entrepreneurs, and the information and insights provided under these programs and activities has resulted in over 400 formerly emerging entrepreneurs opening their own firms and becoming employers;

Whereas AKA instituted the “On Top of the Game”, a youth business plan competition to support the development of youth entrepreneurs in 9th through 12th grades;

Whereas for their achievement, regional and national winners received monetary awards to reinvest in their businesses;

Whereas AKA has been environmentally conscious by transforming a rundown park in Anchorage, Alaska, into a beautiful park by planting flowers, removing weeds and other environmental toxins, and leaving AKA’s environmental signature on the area;

Whereas all totaled, members of AKA volunteered over 1,000 hours of hands-on beautification activities amounting to over \$18,000 of donated work in July 2009;

Whereas AKA has been economically forward thinking by carrying out an exemplary service program that recognized economic empowerment as the key to the success of the Black community and other people of color;

Whereas the focus of AKA on all issues economic—Economic Awareness, Economic Sufficiency and Economic Empowerment resulted in programs that have pumped more than \$23,000,000 into the local communities throughout the globe;

Whereas AKA sponsored forums and discussions on economic issues that increased economic literacy and economic growth, improved living standards, fostered health consciousness, and led to implementation of programs to make individuals and communities more economically viable by adopting families to increase their viability and economic growth;

Whereas AKA instituted a series of systematic administrative and financial reforms that enabled the sorority to eliminate a \$1,200,000 Federal tax liability and return the organization to sound financial footing;

Whereas AKA has served as educational guardians by launching the Undergraduate Signature Program: Economic Educational Advancement through Technology on 10 beta site college campuses worldwide where residents were taught technology skills, which all 300 undergraduate chapters implemented;

Whereas AKA initiated ABCs for HBCUs (Advocates for Black Colleges), which resulted in more than \$650,000 distributed to Black colleges and strengthened Alpha Kappa Alpha's long-standing position as a board member of the United Negro College Fund;

Whereas AKA made an historic \$1,000,000 donation to Howard University;

Whereas under the McKinzie Administration, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority members have been “spectacular achiev-

ers” through the establishment of its position as a global influence when the United Nations’ Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) granted AKA special consultative status;

Whereas AKA was inducted into the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest ever sit down dinner in the history of conventions worldwide, when 16,206 members dined at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center during the Centennial Celebration;

Whereas AKA has served as a servant to services nationally by donating and helping to build Habitat for Humanity Homes for 2 families displaced by Katrina from New Orleans and Gulfport, Mississippi, and in so doing, performed 1,150 hours of construction work and, in July 2007, became the first organization of its kind to make such a donation;

Whereas AKA distributed food to more than 400 New Orleans families in one day through a partnership with Feed the Children;

Whereas AKA fanned out to communities worldwide as part of President Barack Obama and the First Lady’s Day of National Service;

Whereas AKA has served as servants to service on a global level by cementing a \$500,000 partnership with Liberian President and AKA member Ellen Johnson Sirleaf to build the Omega Market Village that will provide financial and other support for the empowerment of Liberian women market traders and to help restore their livelihood as they recover from 14 years of civil war;

Whereas AKA has served as strong guardians of the sorority by assuring that all chapters are in compliance with the

rules and regulations of the organization through an extensive evaluation of each chapter;

Whereas AKA revamped the Membership Intake Process as a way to institutionalize the sorority's value system and reduce inactivity;

Whereas AKA increased the membership 15 percent, doubled the sorority's revenue, and pursued a professional investment strategy that beat market performance that helped increase the organization's assets by \$8,000,000;

Whereas AKA created a communications arm that blitzed the media with news about the organization and generated over \$2,000,000 in free exposure including global coverage that elevated AKA's brand and cemented its position and stature as one of the world's foremost service organizations;

Whereas under McKinzie's inspired leadership, Alpha Kappa Alpha members have been philanthropists;

Whereas AKA members and chapters donated over \$130,000 to CARE's Haiti Disaster Fund;

Whereas AKA stepped up and contributed during crises that upended members and citizens including the raging fires in California, the floods in Texas, and the oil spill on the Gulf Coast;

Whereas AKA contributed over \$500,000 to Alpha Phi Alpha's Memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

Whereas as partners, AKA collaborated with Africare to focus on challenges confronting the continent of Africa, Chase Bank to create homeownership opportunities for members, Loop21 to gauge the 2010 State of Black America, and many more;

Whereas AKA served as proactivists when AKA coordinated a formidable voter registration and education campaign whose reach extended to hard-to-penetrate areas and to formerly apathetic citizens;

Whereas this all-out offensive resulted in record numbers of citizens joining the voter rolls, becoming more politically empowered, and casting their vote in the historic 2008 election;

Whereas AKA spearheaded and led a March to the Capitol steps in a massive show of solidarity by Black Greek organizations;

Whereas the Unity March culminated in the presentation of a Unity Resolution that was presented to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi;

Whereas AKA spoke out against injustice and in support of equality wherever it occurred including Don Imus' comments about the Rutgers women's basketball team, the Jena Six, and global hunger;

Whereas as preservers of Alpha Kappa Alpha's Legacy, AKA instituted a program to preserve, maintain, and protect Alpha Kappa Alpha's legacy by continually collecting and storing documents and maintaining them at Howard University's Moorland Spingarn Collection;

Whereas the AKA Collection includes the digitized Ivy Leaf, AKA's official magazine, mementoes, letters, papers, documents, photographs and other memorabilia that captures the 102-year-old legacy of AKA and serves as a repository for researchers and others interested in the comprehensive history of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority;

Whereas AKA donated the Centennial Traveling Exhibit to the Washington Historical Society (valued at \$450,000),

and produced documentary films celebrating 100 years of sisterhood and service;

Whereas AKA acted as protectors and mounted a variety of initiatives to protect, uplift and inspire women and girls Nationwide and worldwide, including on the continent of Africa; and

Whereas AKA has been progressive in implementing a “best in class” leadership development program that created a core of highly knowledgeable and qualified members to lead the nation and world as problem solvers and service providers during the challenging times that lie ahead: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) acknowledges the leadership of immediate
3 past international president Barbara Mckinzie of the
4 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and her efforts
5 on behalf of the sorority to fulfill its motto of “serv-
6 ice to all mankind”;

7 (2) salutes the efforts of the Alpha Kappa
8 Alpha Sorority, Inc., on a domestic and international
9 level; and

10 (3) recognizes the significance of Alpha Kappa
11 Sorority, Inc., as an organization that continues to
12 make a global impact worldwide.

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