By: Representative Gibbs (72nd)

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 53

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC., ON THE OBSERVANCE OF THE 2021 "ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY DAY AT THE CAPITOL," WHICH WILL BE VIRTUAL THIS YEAR, FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AS THEY REMAIN "SUPREME IN SERVICE TO ALL MANKIND."

WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority Day at the Capitol will be May 6, 2021, with all three states in the Southeastern Region, Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee, combined, and this year's celebration will be virtual for Connection Committees and AKA members from the Southeastern Region; and

WHEREAS, recent events such as the viral witnessing of the death of George Floyd and the January 6, 2021, United States Capitol insurrection have exposed riffs in the relationships between police and the communities they protect and serve; and

WHEREAS, trust between law enforcement agencies and the people that they protect and serve is essential in a democracy; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement and the communities they protect and serve are grappling with new challenges and the increased

complexity as both work for safer communities, crime prevention and building trust across demographic lines in an era of economic disparity, social media and identity politics; and

WHEREAS, members of AKA acknowledge and respect the work and dedication of public safety officer members who put their lives at risk every day to serve and protect the public without regard to race, color, and creed, and furthermore, recognize the complex challenges that law enforcement confronts and faces throughout this state; and

WHEREAS, police departments, elective officials, individual officers, public safety unions and community leaders all have roles to play in putting an end to systemic racism, dysfunctional cultures and abusive practices in law enforcement wherever they exist, and the women of AKA support programs that take a comprehensive and inclusive look at community-based initiatives addressing core issues, such as poverty, education, health and safety; and

WHEREAS, while much work remains to be done to address many long-standing issues and challenges, not only within the field of law enforcement, but also within the broader criminal justice system, trust between law enforcement agencies and the people they protect and serve is key to the stability of our communities and to the integrity of our criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to acknowledge the contributions of such organizations as Alpha Kappa Alpha

Sorority, Inc., where its members devote their talents, time and energy in excess of two million hours of community service advancing effective initiatives fostering a better and equal quality of life for all individuals, especially the individuals of the great State of Mississippi:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN, That we do hereby commemorate Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., on the observance of the 2021 "Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Day at the Capitol," which will be virtual this year, for their outstanding service to the community as they remain "Supreme in Service to all Mankind."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be furnished to committee representatives of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Mississippi chapters and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.