

By: Representative J. Richardson

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY,
INCORPORATED AND PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC., FOR
THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR COMMUNITIES, THE STATE
OF ARKANSAS, THE NATION, AND THE WORLD.

Subtitle

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SORORITY, INCORPORATED AND PHI BETA
SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC., FOR THEIR
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR COMMUNITIES, THE
STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE NATION, AND THE
WORLD.

WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., are forever linked by their sororal and fraternal bonds to each other and by their mutual devotion to uplifting their members' lives and serving their communities; and

WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated was founded January 16, 1920, at Howard University in Washington, D.C., during a time of often violent racial turmoil in the nation but also the Harlem Renaissance, one of the first important domestic movements of Black artists and writers in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated serves and advocates for health justice both domestically and globally and remains poised for perpetual service to mankind into its second century of existence and beyond;



and

WHEREAS, the members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated uphold the sorority's ideals of Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood, and Finer Womanhood; and

WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated has eight hundred seventy-five (875) chapters in the United States, two thousand five hundred (2,500) Friends of Zeta, and over two thousand (2,000) youth auxiliaries; and

WHEREAS, the members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated encourage achievement of academic excellence by all members and have given three million five hundred thousand dollars (\$3,500,000) to college students over the past five (5) years as well as the annual Pearl Anna Neal Scholarship, given every year since 2021 in the amount of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000); and

WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated is a community-conscious, action-oriented organization dedicated to transforming the lives of others, and has positively impacted over five million (5,000,000) people's lives via its one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) Z-Hope Programs and donations totaling more than eight million dollars (\$8,000,000); and

WHEREAS, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated was the first National Pan-Hellenic Council organization to centralize its operations in a national headquarters, to charter a chapter in Africa, to form auxiliary groups, and to be constitutionally bound to a fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated have included author Zora Neale Hurston, honorary members and singers Dionne Warwick and Chaka Khan, honorary members and actresses Vivica A. Fox and Tatyana Ali, and honorary member and attorney Anita Hill; and

WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., has been empowering generations of men since its founding at Howard University in Washington,

D.C., on January 9, 1914; and

WHEREAS, the founding of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., was based on a desire to judge each potential member on his own merits rather than his appearance or family connections and also a desire for the fraternity to serve as a mechanism to deliver services to the general community, thereby returning members' newly acquired skills to the communities from which they had come; and

WHEREAS, the members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., uphold the fraternity's ideals of "Culture for Service and Service for Humanity" and promote brotherhood, scholarship, and service; and

WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., has five hundred ninety-nine (599) active chapters; and

WHEREAS, members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., have been instrumental in the establishment of the Phi Beta Sigma National Foundation and the Phi Beta Sigma Federal Credit Union; and

WHEREAS, the members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., assisted with the 1920 founding of its sister organization, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, the members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., give five hundred seventy-six thousand (576,000) volunteer hours annually, mentor four thousand five hundred (4,500) young men annually, give one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) in scholarships to students annually, and have invested eighteen million dollars (\$18,000,000) in the Black Spend Initiative; and

WHEREAS, members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., have included scientist George Washington Carver, writers James Weldon Johnson and Dr. Alain LeRoy Locke, United States Congressman John Lewis, religious and political leader Al Sharpton, honorary members and actors Harry Belafonte, Blair Underwood, and Terrence Howard, honorary member and weather anchor Al

Roker, football star and television host Emmitt Smith, Olympic gold medalist Al Joyner, and honorary member and former Governor of Arkansas and former President of the United States William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognize and honor Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., for their contributions to their communities, the State of Arkansas, the nation, and the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be provided to the leaders of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.