

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 177

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 2, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Senator BOB SMITH

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator NIA H. GILL

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

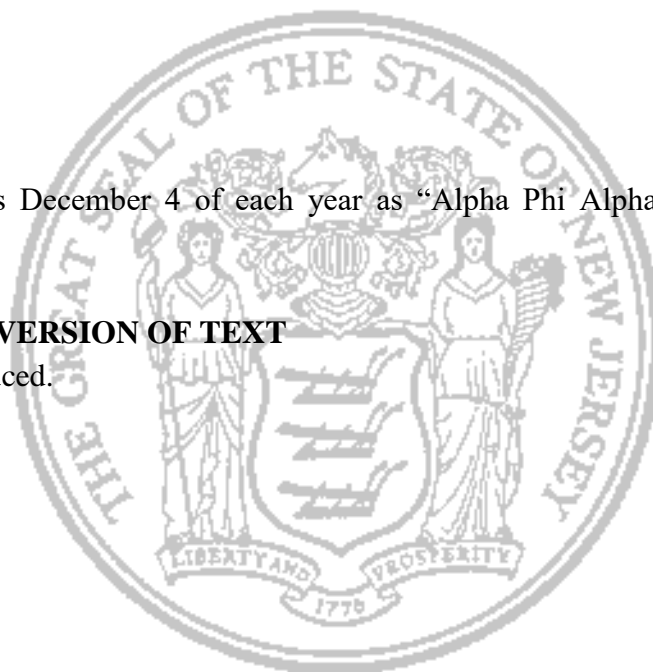
Assemblyman Wimberly, Assemblywomen McKnight, Vainieri Huttie, Timberlake, Assemblyman Conaway, Assemblywoman Jasey, Senators Singleton and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Designates December 4 of each year as “Alpha Phi Alpha Day” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/2/2021)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating December 4 of each year as
2 “Alpha Phi Alpha Day” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Since its founding on Tuesday, December 4, 1906, Alpha
5 Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has consistently supplied voice and vision
6 to the struggle of African Americans and people of color around the
7 world; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Alpha Phi Alpha, the first intercollegiate Greek-letter
9 fraternity established for African American men, was founded on the
10 campus of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, by seven college
11 African-American men who recognized the need for a strong bond
12 of brotherhood among African descendants in this country; and
13 **WHEREAS**, Alpha Phi Alpha initially served as a study and support
14 group for African American students who faced racial prejudice,
15 both educationally and socially, at Cornell University, but later
16 became a fraternity and evolved into a service organization that has
17 provided leadership and service opportunities for its members; and
18 **WHEREAS**, The visionary founders, known as the “Jewels” of the
19 fraternity, are Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene
20 Kinckle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray,
21 Robert Harold Ogle, and Vertner Woodson Tandy; and
22 **WHEREAS**, The Jewels and early leaders of the fraternity succeeded in
23 laying a firm foundation for Alpha Phi Alpha’s principles of
24 scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of
25 humanity; and
26 **WHEREAS**, Alpha Phi Alpha has over 700 college and alumni chapters
27 in the United States, Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Europe; and
28 **WHEREAS**, Alpha Phi Alpha’s presence in New Jersey started with the
29 founding of the Alpha Alpha Lambda alumni chapter in Newark in
30 1926 and further expanded with the first college chapter in New
31 Jersey, the Delta Iota chapter at Rutgers University-New Brunswick,
32 in 1950; and
33 **WHEREAS**, Alpha Phi Alpha develops leaders, and promotes
34 brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and
35 advocacy for our communities; and
36 **WHEREAS**, While advocating scholarship and excellence among its
37 members, Alpha Phi Alpha also recognized the need to help correct
38 the educational, economic, social, and political injustices faced by
39 African Americans and developed programs to address those
40 injustices; and
41 **WHEREAS**, Alpha Phi Alpha programs and charitable activities include
42 a college readiness campaign (“Go-to-High-School, Go-to-
43 College”), a voter registration and civic engagement campaign (A
44 Voteless People is a Hopeless People), a sexual education and
45 responsibility campaign (Project Alpha), and partnerships with the
46 March of Dimes, Boy Scouts of America, and Big Brother and Big
47 Sister of America; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Alpha Phi Alpha has long stood at the forefront of civil
 2 rights and social justice movements through its members, including
 3 but not limited to, Martin Luther King Jr., Adam Clayton Powell,
 4 Thurgood Marshall, Andrew Young, and Paul Robeson; and
 5 **WHEREAS**, Alpha Phi Alpha continues to enrich the lives of its
 6 members, who, in turn, become change agents and leaders within our
 7 communities as evidenced by its members funding academic
 8 scholarships for college students and its members engaging in
 9 community service projects and initiatives throughout the State; and
 10 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper to designate a special day to commend
 11 Alpha Phi Alpha for its programs and activities that exemplify the
 12 importance of service to all mankind and to recognize the positive
 13 impact the fraternity continues to have throughout the world,
 14 including in the State of New Jersey; now, therefore,

15
 16 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
 17 *of New Jersey:*

18
 19 1. December 4 of each year is designated “Alpha Phi Alpha
 20 Day” in the State of New Jersey to commemorate the founding of the
 21 first Black intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity and to recognize the
 22 contributions and achievements of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
 23 and its members.

24
 25 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to issue an annual
 26 proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of this State
 27 to observe “Alpha Phi Alpha Day” with appropriate activities and
 28 programs.

29
 30 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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35 This joint resolution designates December 4 of each year as
 36 “Alpha Phi Alpha Day” to commemorate the founding of the first
 37 Black intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity and to recognize the
 38 contributions and achievements of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and its
 39 members. Founded on December 4, 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha instills
 40 the values of leadership, scholarship, brotherhood, and community
 41 service. Today, the organization continues to enrich the lives of its
 42 members who in turn become agents of change both here in New
 43 Jersey and across the world. Given the extent to which Alpha Phi
 44 Alpha has, and will continue to be, a force for positive change, it is
 45 fitting and proper to designate a day in its honor.