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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 951

Offered October 27, 2025

Commending the Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Patron—LeVere Bolling

WHEREAS, for 100 years, the Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., has promoted sisterhood, demonstrated transformational community leadership, and enhanced the quality of life in Richmond and beyond through generous service programs; and

WHEREAS, chartered on October 24, 1925, the Upsilon Omega Chapter was the fourth chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the first Black sorority in Richmond; the charter members of the chapter were Marion Sydney Mayo (Brown), Leah Virginia Lewis, Ruth Marie Thomas (Hargrave), and Gladys Powell, led by founding president Zenobia Gustava Gilpin (Henderson), M.D.; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, the Upsilon Omega Chapter has been a steadfast force for educational advancement, civic engagement, and community uplift; generations of chapter members have faithfully implemented national themes and goals and demonstrated their own creativity, vitality, and initiative by developing a wide range of signature local programs; and

WHEREAS, Upsilon Omega Chapter hosts the AKA Shoe Bank, the Young Artists' Showcase, the Future Young Leaders Program, among many others, and the chapter supports community-focused efforts in health, economic wealth-building, education, and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, Upsilon Omega Chapter upholds a longstanding tradition of awarding scholarships to worthy local students and has awarded up to \$20,000 annually since 1986 to empower young people and help them achieve their academic goals; and

WHEREAS, Upsilon Omega Chapter's reach has extended far beyond the Commonwealth by providing vital support to communities in need around the world through initiatives such as the Zimbabwe Well Project and the African Village Project; and

WHEREAS, Upsilon Omega Chapter sponsors and provides guidance for three undergraduate chapters, Alpha Eta Chapter at Virginia Union University, Theta Rho Chapter at Virginia Commonwealth University, and Rho Mu Chapter at the University of Richmond; and

WHEREAS, members of the Upsilon Omega Chapter have served Alpha Kappa Alpha at the regional, national, and international levels, including Janet Jones Ballard, who proudly served as the 22nd international president of the sorority; and

WHEREAS, the Upsilon Omega Chapter has received numerous accolades and honors over the years, including the placement of a state Historical Highway Marker recognizing the chapter in 2025; the chapter has twice been selected to host Alpha Kappa Alpha's boule, a periodic international membership meeting, in 1935 and 1990; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., hereby be commended on the occasion of its 100th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for the chapter's legacy of service to the Richmond community and beyond.

INTRODUCED

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