

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.217

Reps. Robinson, Guerra, Brenda Carter, Brixie, Wittenberg, Sowerby, Kennedy, Tate, Yancey, Gay-Dagnogo, Byrd, Garrett, Anthony, Whitsett, Tyrone Carter, Kuppa, Elder, Bolden, Haadsma, Peterson, Inman, Warren, Stone, LaFave, Filler, Coleman, Mueller, Jones, Kahle, Love, Garza and Shannon offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to honor the centennial anniversary of Zeta Phi
2 Beta Sorority, Incorporated, and declare January 16, 2020, as Zeta
3 Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Founders' Day in the state of
4 Michigan.

5 Whereas, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, was founded on
6 January 16, 1920, on the campus of Howard University in Washington,
7 D.C. on the founding principles of Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood
8 and Finer Womanhood; and



1 Whereas, The founders of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.,
2 believed in the need for a new and different type of Greek-letter
3 organization and acted upon that need. To these women, Zeta was
4 more than an organization; it was a movement, a belief system that
5 reflected, at its core, the desire to provide true Service, to
6 embrace Scholarship, to set a standard for Sisterly Love and to
7 define the noble concept of Finer Womanhood. This belief has
8 sustained and encouraged Zetas around the world to hold fast to the
9 ideals initiated and developed by its earliest members; and

10 Whereas, The five founders of Zeta, Arizona Cleaver Stemons,
11 Pearl Anna Neal, Myrtle Tyler Faithful, Viola Tyler Goings, and
12 Fannie Pettie Watts were strong, principled coeds who possessed a
13 great deal of modesty, strength of character and pride in academic
14 achievement. The Founders, the Five Pearls, are indeed a worthy
15 foundation upon which to base the illustrious Zeta Phi Beta
16 Sorority, Inc.; and

17 Whereas, These five coeds envisioned a sorority which would
18 directly affect positive change, chart a course of action for the
19 1920s and beyond, raise the community's consciousness, encourage
20 the highest standards of scholastic achievement, and foster a
21 greater sense of unity among its members; and

22 Whereas, These women believed that sorority elitism and
23 socializing overshadowed the real mission for progressive
24 organizations and failed to address fully the societal mores, ills,
25 prejudices, and poverty affecting humanity in general and the black
26 community in particular; and

27 Whereas, Since its inception, Zeta has continued its steady
28 climb into the national and international spotlight with programs
29 designed to demonstrate concern for the human condition. Zeta Phi

Beta Sorority, Inc. is honored to have formed many wonderful community-based partnerships over the past 100 years. Community service programs include Z-Hope (Zetas Helping Other People Excel), the National Educational Foundation, the Elder Care Initiative, Stork's Nest, Zeta Prematurity Awareness Program, Adopt-A-School, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, International Women of Color, and Triple Negative Breast Cancer; and

Whereas, The organization has been innovative in that it has chronicled a number of firsts. It was the first National Pan-Hellenic Council organization to centralize its operations in a national headquarters, first to charter a chapter in Africa, first to form auxiliary groups, and first to be constitutionally bound to a fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.; and

Whereas, The sorority takes pride in its continued participation in transforming communities through volunteer services from members and its auxiliaries. Zeta Phi Beta has chartered hundreds of chapters worldwide and has a membership of over 100,000; and

Whereas, Sorority members from Michigan have contributed to the deep centennial history of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. In 1941, the Omega Alpha Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, was established at Wayne State University in Detroit. In 1943, Soror Mary Watson Stewart of Detroit became the Central Regional Director for Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated; and

Whereas, In 1947, the sorority's regions were reorganized and renamed. The Great Lakes Region was created and Michigan was included; and

Whereas, In 1958, Founder Myrtle Tyler Faithful was present as

1 her daughter, Frances Faithful, became a charter member of Zeta
2 Beta Zeta Chapter in Flint, Michigan; and

3 Whereas, Soror Ione Hartley Gibson of Beta Omicron Zeta
4 Chapter of Detroit, served as Associate Director for the Great
5 Lakes region from 1955 to 1960. Soror Frances Faithful of Zeta Beta
6 Zeta of Flint served as the next Associate Director from 1960 to
7 1962. Both were appointed by Great Lakes Regional Director, Soror
8 Margaret Irby; and

9 Whereas, The official Michigan State Organization for the
10 sorority was born under the leadership of Soror Ione Hartley Gibson
11 as State Director. It was Soror Ione Hartley Gibson who initiated
12 the first State Meeting in 1967, with four chapters, Beta Omicron
13 Zeta, Zeta Beta Zeta, Zeta Nu Zeta and Zeta Omega Zeta; and

14 Whereas, The Michigan State Organization of Zeta Phi Beta
15 Sorority, Incorporated, under the leadership of State Director
16 Angela Philmore, continues to provide scholarship, sisterhood and
17 service to the great state of Michigan, as an integral part of the
18 Great Lakes Region with eighteen Graduate Chapters, eleven
19 Undergraduate Chapters, nine Amicae Auxiliaries and sixty-three
20 Youth affiliates (14 Archonettes, 20 Amicettes, and 29 Pearlettes);
21 and

22 Whereas, The Michigan State Organization of Zeta Phi Beta
23 Sorority, Incorporated, successfully completed their 52nd
24 leadership conference in Novi, Michigan on September 27-28, 2019,
25 and is committed to preserving the historical summer resort cottage
26 in Idlewild, Michigan, called Birch Haven. In 1937, Soror Violette
27 Neatley Anderson, the first black woman to practice law in the
28 state of Illinois, the first black woman to be admitted to practice
29 before for the Supreme Court of the United States and the eighth

1 Grand Basileus of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, bequeathed
2 the Michigan cottage to the sorority; and

3 Whereas, In September 2005, Ione Hartley Gibson who served as
4 the Great Lakes Regional Director from 1962 to 1969 was honored
5 with a room dedicated to her memory at Birch Haven. Soror Gibson
6 served Zeta Phi Beta Sorority in multiple capacities, including
7 resident agent to Birch Haven; and

8 Whereas, As Zeta Phi Beta Sorority has completed 100 years of
9 Finer Womanhood and reached the 100th birthday milestone, it
10 retains its original zest for excellence and is "One Zeta: Unified,
11 Mobilized, Zetarized". It espouses the highest academic ideals that
12 has resulted in its members serving in groundbreaking roles in all
13 fields of endeavor. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. is poised for
14 perpetual service to mankind into her second century and beyond;
15 now, therefore, be it

16 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
17 this legislative body honor the centennial anniversary of Zeta Phi
18 Beta Sorority, Incorporated, and declare January 16, 2020, as Zeta
19 Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Founders' Day in the state of
20 Michigan; and be it further

21 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
22 Valerie Hollingsworth Baker, 25th International President of Zeta
23 Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, to Connie V. Pugh, the Great Lakes
24 Regional Director for Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, and to
25 Angela Philmore, Director, Michigan State Organization, Zeta Phi
26 Beta Sorority, Incorporated, at the national headquarters for Zeta
27 Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated.