

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 209

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Verrelli

SYNOPSIS

Designates January 5 of each year as “Kappa Alpha Psi Day” in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/22/2021)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating January 5 of each year as
2 “Kappa Alpha Psi Day” in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, Since its founding on January 5, 1911, Kappa Alpha Psi
5 Fraternity, Inc. has consistently supplied voice and vision to the
6 struggle of African Americans and people of color around the
7 world; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Kappa Alpha Psi, the 2nd oldest existing collegiate
9 historically Black Greek-letter fraternity, was founded on the
10 campus of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana by ten Black
11 college men who recognized the need for a strong bond of
12 brotherhood among Black students in an environment saturated in
13 racism; and
14 **WHEREAS**, Kappa Alpha Psi initially sought to raise the sight of Black
15 men and encourage them to accomplish more than what might
16 otherwise be realized or even imagined at Indiana University; and
17 **WHEREAS**, The visionary founders were Elder Waston Diggs, Byron
18 K. Armstrong, John M. Lee, Henry T. Asher, Marcus P. Blakemore,
19 Guy L. Grant, Paul W. Caine, George W. Edmonds, Ezra D.
20 Alexander, and Edward G. Irvin; and
21 **WHEREAS**, These men of vision decided the fraternity’s foundation
22 would be based on the reliance of high Christian ideals and the
23 purpose of achievement; and
24 **WHEREAS**, Kappa Alpha Psi has over 125,000 members with 700
25 undergraduate and alumni chapters in nearly every state of the
26 United States, and international chapters in Nigeria, South Africa,
27 West Indies, United Kingdom, Germany, Korea, and Japan; and
28 **WHEREAS**, Kappa Alpha Psi’s presence in New Jersey began with the
29 Newark Alumni Chapter in 1947, and further expanded with the
30 first undergraduate chapter in New Jersey, the Eta Delta Chapter at
31 Trenton State College in 1974; and
32 **WHEREAS**, Kappa Alpha Psi encourages achievement among its
33 members and community through the bond of fraternity, inspires
34 public service, and supports academic and educational institutions;
35 and
36 **WHEREAS**, While advocating their national service program, the
37 Guide Right Program, Kappa Alpha Psi focuses on the development
38 of young men through educational and occupational guidance; and
39 **WHEREAS**, Kappa Alpha Psi’s programs and charitable activities
40 include a “College Signing Day,” the opportunity to publicly reveal
41 and celebrate post-secondary education plans, college fairs and
42 financial aid workshops, promoting stop the violence, and serving
43 at “Feed the Hungry” campaigns; and
44 **WHEREAS**, Kappa Alpha Psi has 110 years of achievement in every
45 field of human endeavor, and includes among its members, Ralph
46 Abernathy, Wilt Chamberlin, Ben Jealous, Oscar Robertson, Arthur
47 Ashe, Johnnie Cochran, and Colin Kaepernick; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Kappa Alpha Psi continues to serve as a fraternity model
2 of operational excellence, and its social and political action
3 programming continues to change lives and transform communities;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper to designate a special day to
6 commend Kappa Alpha Psi for its programs and activities that
7 exemplify the importance of service to all mankind, and to
8 recognize the positive impact the fraternity continues to have
9 throughout the world, including in the State of New Jersey; now,
10 therefore,

12 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
13 *State of New Jersey:*

15 1. January 5 of each year is designated “Kappa Alpha Psi Day”
16 in the State of New Jersey to commemorate the founding of the 2nd
17 oldest existing collegiate historically Black Greek-letter fraternity,
18 and to recognize the contributions and achievements of Kappa
19 Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and its members.

21 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to issue an annual
22 proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of this State
23 to observe “Kappa Alpha Psi Day” with appropriate activities and
24 programs.

26 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

31 This joint resolution designates January 5 of each year as Kappa
32 Alpha Psi Day to commemorate the founding of the 2nd oldest
33 existing collegiate historically Black Greek-letter fraternity and to
34 recognize the contributions and achievements of Kappa Alpha Psi
35 Fraternity, Inc. and its members.

Founded on January 5, 1911, Kappa Alpha Psi's foundation is based on the reliance of high Christian ideals and the purpose of achievement. They encourage achievement among its members and community through the bond of fraternity, inspire public service, and support of academic and educational institutions. The fraternity has over 125,000 members with 700 undergraduate and alumni chapters in nearly every state of the United States, and international chapters in Nigeria, South Africa, West Indies, United Kingdom, Germany, Korea, and Japan.

Today, the fraternity continues to enrich the lives of its members who in turn become pillars in their community, in New Jersey and across the world. Given the extent to which Kappa Alpha Psi has become a model of excellence, it is fitting and proper to designate a day in its honor.