

Senate Resolution 845

By: Senators Jackson of the 2nd and Jones of the 10th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. and recognizing March 2, 2020, as Phi Beta
2 Sigma Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. was founded on January 9, 1914, at Howard
4 University in Washington, D.C., by three young African American men. The founders, Most
5 Honorable Abram Langston Taylor, Most Honorable Leonard Francis Morse, and Most
6 Honorable Charles Ignatius Brown, wanted to organize a Greek letter fraternity that would
7 truly exemplify the ideals of brotherhood, scholarship, and service; and

8 WHEREAS, the founders deeply wished to create an organization that viewed itself as "a
9 part of" the general community rather than "apart from" the general community. They
10 believed that each potential member should be judged by his own merits, rather than his
11 family background or affluence and without regard to race, nationality, skin tone, or texture
12 of hair. They desired for their fraternity to exist as part of an even greater brotherhood which
13 would be devoted to the "inclusive we" rather than the "exclusive we"; and

14 WHEREAS, from its inception, the founders also conceived Phi Beta Sigma as a mechanism
15 to deliver services to the general community. Rather than gaining skills to be utilized
16 exclusively for themselves and their immediate families, they held a deep conviction that
17 they should return their newly acquired skills to the communities from which they had come.
18 This deep conviction was mirrored in the fraternity's motto, "Culture For Service and Service
19 For Humanity"; and

20 WHEREAS, today, Phi Beta Sigma has blossomed into an international organization of
21 leaders. No longer a single entity, members of the fraternity have been instrumental in the
22 establishment of the Phi Beta Sigma National Foundation, the Phi Beta Sigma Federal Credit
23 Union, and the Sigma Beta Club Foundation. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, founded in 1920 with
24 the assistance of Phi Beta Sigma, is the sister organization of the Fraternity.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
26 commend the members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. for their service to the community
27 and the country and recognize March 2, 2020, as Phi Beta Sigma Day at the state capitol.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
29 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Phi Beta Sigma
30 Fraternity Inc.