HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 833

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ethel Hedgeman Lyle.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body take great pleasure in paying tribute to those individuals who sacrificed personal concerns and safety to help bring about equality for all their fellow Americans; and

WHEREAS, one such notable citizen was Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, the founder of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, the first Greek-letter sorority for African-American women, which was established in 1908; and

WHEREAS, 110 years later, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, has chapters across the nation and around the world, uniting millions of women in a global organization with a mission to improve the quality of life for all; and

WHEREAS, a brave agent of change and bold visionary, Ethel Hedgeman Lyle raised her voice in support of women at a time when doing so was unwelcome, especially by African-American women; and

WHEREAS, a true pioneer and a woman of faith, Ethel Hedgeman Lyle pushed against America's segregated culture and brought about a powerful change for her community, female African-American college students, and for women of color everywhere; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her remarkable legacy, the United States Postmaster General is considering placing Ethel Hedgeman Lyle's image on a United States Postal Service commemorative stamp; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize the life and legacy of Ethel Hedgeman Lyle; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, founder of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority, Incorporated, and applaud her personal courage and strength of character in establishing the first Greek-letter sorority for African-American women.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.