

## Alpha Kappa Alpha Day at the Tennessee State Capitol

Capitol Hill in Nashville Tennessee will never be the same as over a hundred sorors from the state of Tennessee gathered for AKA Day on the Hill; Wednesday, April 18, 2007. The opening session began with welcome from Tennessee Connection Chairman, Soror Janice Woodard in the House Chamber, along with greetings from our Centennial South Eastern Regional Director Soror Juanita Sims Doty and our International Connection Chairman, Vanessa Rogers Long. The Honorable Jimmy Naifeh, Speaker of the House of Representatives welcomed sorors to the hill and expressed his thanks for our presence and commitment as we gather each year. Tennessee Black Caucus of State Legislators greeted us throughout the day.

Marilyn Robinson, President of the Nashville chapter of the NAACP joined with us and thanked us for making a difference in the lives of those that we touch and for our commitment in the region to becoming members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) by the South Eastern Regional Conference's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

The Honorable Johnny Shaw, representing the 80<sup>th</sup> District in Bolivar, Tennessee, and Representative Barbara Cooper, representing the 86<sup>th</sup> District in Memphis, Tennessee, joined us and expressed their appreciation to us for our commitment of coming to Capitol Hill each year and shared House Bills that we should be aware of. Bills discussed addressed Voting in Tennessee, Families First, Operation Fair Share, Tennessee Student Assistance Award (TSAA); bills which addressed amending TCA Title 49 and numerous other bills addressing Education and Budget concerns.

Sorors gathered for a working lunch where Representative Cooper shared with us the process of how Bills are adopted and encouraged chapter members to become more involved in the political process. Soror Zelmarine Murphy, International Connection Committee member, encouraged us to write letters, send post cards and make phone calls to our local Legislators to encourage them to support a bill or not to support.

We convened in the House Chamber at 2:30 pm for the adoption of Resolution HJR #369 recognizing Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. its platforms and leaders of the South Eastern Region. Extra Special Politician awards were presented to Representatives Barbara Cooper and Tommie Brown and former Representative Edith Taylor Langster. Visit [www.legislature.state.tn.us](http://www.legislature.state.tn.us); House of Representative link; Video Streaming link and select April 18 2007. Forward the video to 24:00 and view this momentous event.

The day concluded with a picture with Governor Phil Bredesen on the steps of the State Capitol. Sorors, let us remain committed, focused and concerned about the issues which greatly impact our local communities. Let us become the powerful advocates for Economic, Social and Political change as directed by our Centennial Supreme Basileus Barbara A. McKinzie.

*Soror Janice J. Woodard, Chairman  
Kenya Newby, Co-Chairman*

