



Contact: Melody M. McDowell
Chief Information Officer
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
312-371-8917 - cell
melodyaka@aol.com - e-mail

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA CELEBRATES PRESIDENT OBAMA'S INAUGURATION

Washington, D.C. – January 20, 2009 - Inauguration Day - 12 Noon

“It’s the ultimate embodiment of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream!”

That was the sentiment of Barbara A. McKinzie, international president of Alpha Kappa Alpha, following Barack H. Obama’s swearing in as President of the United States of America.

Overcome with emotion after personally observing this “transformational moment” in history, McKinzie reflected on the occasion’s symbolism and deeper meaning.

“To witness a democracy of civilized humans that has evolved to a level of sophistication, intelligence, spirituality and self awareness that promotes celebrating differences in its world leader, who possesses these same characteristics yet looks different than the majority population, is a miracle.”

Viewing January 20, 2009 through the prism of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s dream, McKinzie said that Obama’s ascension to the presidency underscores the reality that America has now raised itself to a new level of consciousness. She noted that President Obama’s message of hope had transcended race and this had galvanized the nation instead of dividing it.

“This seminal day in America underscores the country’s progress in racial relations. It is also a moment that satisfies Dr. King’s yearning for a time when people would be judged based on the content of their character and not the color of their skin.”

“Mr. Obama’s inauguration signals a shift that will have favorable reverberations within this larger, global democracy. Against the long arc of history, this continues and strengthens America’s legacy,” she declared.

Speaking on behalf of Alpha Kappa Alpha's 225,000 members in 975 chapters worldwide, McKinzie said she was inspired by President Obama's call to Americans to devote their lives to service.

"This is the lofty ideal upon which Alpha Kappa Alpha was founded in 1908, and through our good works and good deeds, we have improved the lives of those we've touched and the communities we have impacted. So, we are uplifted by his message and support and embrace his administration's service rallying cry."

McKinzie also extended best wishes to Michelle Obama, and their daughters Sasha and Malia. "They have been a model of poise and decorum throughout this campaign, and this culminating moment is a tribute to their grace. With such a strong anchor cocooning President Obama, the nation's ship of state has a new captain with a steady hand. His ability to navigate the overwhelming challenges ahead will be made easier because he is strengthened by a loving family."

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About Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is America's first Greek-letter organization founded in 1908 by, and for, African-American college women. Headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, it is one of the world's leading service organizations. The Sorority's members have made a commitment "to serve all mankind" through a nucleus of more than 225,000 women in over 975 chapters in the United States, the Caribbean, Canada, Germany, Korea, Japan and in the continent of Africa. Barbara A. McKinzie is the 27th International President. McKinzie's administration is marked by the theme: ESP, which stands for Economics, Service and Partnerships. AKA celebrated its Centennial in 2008 and is now beginning its second century of making an impact on the world through Sisterhood and Service. For more information, log on to www.aka1908.com.