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AKA's INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT URGES MEMBERS TO PAY TRIBUTE TO KING ON THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

Chicago, Illinois – March 27, 2008 - On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's international president Barbara A. McKinzie urged the 200,000 members of the organization to celebrate his life and participate in activities saluting his legacy. She noted that a cross section of leaders—including members of the Sorority—would converge upon Memphis and Atlanta to participate in the events surrounding this historic day.

"Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. continues to be the civil rights standard bearer whose courage, conviction and resolve are a source of inspiration and pride to the world," said McKinzie. "As we approach the anniversary of his death, let us all reflect on his greatness and the legacy he left behind."

McKinzie praised the organizers of the 40th anniversary salute and encouraged Alpha Kappa Alpha members—and all citizens—to visit the exhibits and participate in the forums that will provide more insight into King's life.

She confirmed that members will be attending and leading events as a show of their reverence of this civil rights hero who, she said, "was taken from us too soon."

McKinzie also urged citizens to take the occasion to recommit to the concept of civil rights and human rights, to which Dr. King was deeply committed. She also reminded everyone of the work that still remains.

“While America has made progress, more has to be done to bridge the gap that separates blacks and whites,” observed McKinzie. She noted that her administration has focused on economics through her ESP program, which stands for Economics, Service and Partnerships. Alpha Kappa Alpha, she noted, has launched an intense offensive to close the gap through innovative programs being carried out at the 975 chapters worldwide. She added that the Sorority has established these ESP initiatives in the “spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.”

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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 200,000 women in over 975 chapters in the United States, the Caribbean, Canada, Germany, Korea, Japan and on the continent of Africa. Barbara A. McKinzie is the 27th International President. Because her term coincides with the 100-year anniversary, she is being hailed as the “Centennial National President.” McKinzie’s administration is marked by the theme: ESP, which stands for Economics, Service and Partnerships. For more information, log on to www.aka1908.com. For an archive of press releases, visit the online pressroom at <http://aka1908.com/site/pressroom/>