



Contact: Melody M. McDowell  
Chief Information Officer  
202-249-4128 – D.C. Convention Office  
312-371-8917 – Cell  
melodyaka@aol.com

### **Michelle Obama Accepts Invitation to Join Alpha Kappa Alpha as Honorary Member**

Washington, D.C. – July 14, 2008 - Barbara A. McKinzie, Alpha Kappa Alpha's international president, announced that Michelle Obama has accepted Alpha Kappa Alpha's invitation to join the Sorority as an Honorary Member, which is AKA's highest honor. McKinzie said that the induction date and time have not yet been determined. However, it will not occur during the Sorority's weeklong convention.

The announcement was made during the organization's public meeting on Sunday, July 13, which was the official kickoff of its Centennial Convention. Following the "surprise" announcement, the more than 20,000 members assembled erupted into applause and cheers.

Once the rite of induction has taken place, Obama will join over 225,000 members in 975 chapters from over the globe who are committed to "sisterhood and service."

"It's great!" declared McKinzie when asked to comment about Obama's pending induction.

While the international president would not divulge details about the series of events leading up to the climactic announcement, she simply stated: "Michelle Obama was invited to join Alpha Kappa Alpha and she accepted."

The criteria for consideration as an Honorary Member is that prospects have made outstanding achievements that set them apart in their communities and careers.

As an accomplished African American female, Michelle Obama's record of excellence makes her an ideal candidate for honorary membership into the Sorority. She is an attorney, a healthcare executive, community activist and change agent.

Alpha Kappa Alpha's Honorary Members cross all industries and disciplines. They are fighters for civil and human rights, college presidents, deans, rural and urban teachers, lawyers, judges, high-ranking government officials and legislators, captains of industry and entrepreneurs, poets, musicians, entertainers and artists, engineers, accountants, architects and physicians. Like Obama, they are role models.

A partial listing of Honorary Members includes Maya Angelou, Alicia Keys, Gladys Knight, former astronaut Mae Jemison and the late Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, Marian Anderson and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Among those who will be inducted into the Sorority on July 15 during the convention include physician and medical consultant for the hit show *Grey's Anatomy*, Dr. Zoanne Clack; automotive industry trailblazer Deborah S. Stewart-Parker; Rutgers University women's basketball coach C. Vivian Stringer; and advertising industry giant Carol H. Williams. Dr. Wangari Muta Maathai\* – environmental and political activist from Kenya and the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize will also be installed but is unable to attend.

A complete listing of Honorary Members can be accessed by logging on to AKA's web site at [www.aka1908.com](http://www.aka1908.com).

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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 in 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 Partnership. For more information, log on to [www.aka1908.com](http://www.aka1908.com). For an archive of press releases, visit the online pressroom at <http://aka1908.com/site/pressroom/>*