

Assembly Resolution No. 1418

**BY:** M. of A. Chandler-Waterman

**COMMEMORATING** the 104th Anniversary of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., to be celebrated on November 12, 2026

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of organizations devoted to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 104th Anniversary of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., to be celebrated on Thursday, November 12, 2026; and

**WHEREAS,** Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. was organized on November 12, 1922, at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana, by seven young educators: Mary Lou Allison Gardner Little, Dorothy Hanley Whiteside, Vivian Irene White Marbury, Nannie Mae Gahn Johnson, Hattie Mae Annette Dulin Redford, Bessie Mae Downey Rhoades Martin, and Cubena McClure; and

**WHEREAS,** Sigma Gamma Rho holds the unique distinction of being the only member of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) founded at a predominantly white institution and the only NPHC sorority founded as a professional organization; and

**WHEREAS,** Guided by its enduring slogan, "Greater Service, Greater Progress," the sorority has grown into an international service organization with over 100,000 members and more than 500 chapters worldwide, including the United States, Canada, Germany, and the United Arab Emirates; and

**WHEREAS,** The mission of Sigma Gamma Rho is to enhance the quality of life for women and their families through community service, civil action, and social action, focusing on education, health awareness, and leadership development; and

**WHEREAS,** The sorority delivers essential community programming through initiatives such as Project Cradle Care, raising awareness of Black maternal and infant health; Swim 1922, addressing disproportionate drowning rates; the Women's Wellness Initiative, focusing on physical, mental, and emotional health; and Operation BigBookBag, equipping at-risk children with school supplies; and

**WHEREAS,** Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. demonstrates its commitment to health and youth through Project Reassurance, the Hattie McDaniel Cancer Awareness & Health Program, and affiliate groups like the Rhoer Club for teenage girls and the Rhosebud Club for girls ages 8 to 11; and

**WHEREAS,** Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. remains steadfast in fostering civic engagement by addressing social inequalities and

improving community well-being through advocacy, legislative support, and community service; members actively register voters, host voter engagement forums, and partner with organizations like the NAACP for census and election campaigns, while championing activism regarding human trafficking, violence against women and girls, and the organization of peaceful protests; and

**WHEREAS,** New York State is home to a vibrant community of Sigma Gamma Rho members who join a global sisterhood of trailblazers that have made significant contributions across all fields, including entertainment icons like Hattie McDaniel and MC Lyte; sports trailblazers like Maritza McClendon and Carmelita Jeter; distinguished writers like Beverly Jenkins; and public servants in the U.S. House of Representatives and the New York City Council; and

**WHEREAS,** It is the practice of this Legislative Body that when an organization of such noble aims and accomplishments is brought to our attention, it should be recognized and applauded by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 104th Anniversary of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., to be celebrated on November 12, 2026; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.