



CONTACT: Melody M. McDowell
Chief Information Officer
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
312-371-8917 - Cell - melodyaka@aol.com - email

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA TO SALUTE FOUNDER ETHEL HEDGEMAN LYLE WITH MUSEUM EXHIBIT

Chicago, Illinois - May 29, 2010 - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will honor the legacy of its principal founder and St. Louis native Ethel Hedgeman Lyle in an exhibit that will feature graphic expressions of her remarkable life. The exhibit will be a highlight of the AKA Museum that will be on display at the St. Louis Convention Center during Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's conference July 9-16. The display is open to the public and is titled "Supreme" Essence: Embodiments of Service and Progress.

Lyle, who was also the Sorority's only honorary president, was one of 16 visionary women who founded Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority on the campus of Howard University in 1908. The commitment to service that was fashioned by the founders is credited with laying the foundation for an organization that has grown from 16 women on one campus, to 250,000 women in 975 chapters worldwide.

The exhibit shows the many ways in which Alpha Kappa Alpha has paid homage to Lyle—from an award and endowment that bear her name to historic markers that commemorate her vision for a sisterhood that would uplift humanity, Alpha Kappa Alpha's core mission. Selected writings by Lyle and rhetorical compilations of her contributions are also included.

In addition to the Exhibit, the Sorority will honor Lyle through ceremonies, rituals and other public and private tributes.

Also included in the AKA Museum will be a display of "Supreme" gowns worn by the current living presidents of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority* during celebrations, galas and other high-profile events. The exhibit is beautifully depicted in a multi-colored, multi-paneled diorama. When coupled with the tribute to Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, the exhibit powerfully embodies the essence of the Sorority's beauty and dynamism.

About Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is America's first Greek-letter organization founded in 1908 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 250,000 women in 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 and will preside over the conference. For more information on the exhibit, log on to www.aka1908.com.