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**ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA MOURNS THE LOSS OF  
OHIO CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES**



Chicago, Illinois – August 28, 2015 – Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® mourns the loss of legendary former Congressman Louis Stokes, Ohio’s first African American member of Congress.

Speaking on behalf of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority’s 283,000 members worldwide, International President Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson lauded Stokes as a “skillful and fearless advocate for the people of Ohio.” She said, “He was a gifted, courageous and constant mentor, veteran, lawyer, legislator, and friend who fervently fought for the rights of all people.”

Alpha Kappa Alpha honored Stokes in 1995 for championing the sorority’s Cleveland Job Corps program. Stokes helped to address legislative hurdles, enabling hundreds of Cleveland area residents to obtain and enhance job skills.

An influential and dedicated legislator, Stokes was elected to the House of Representatives in 1968, becoming Ohio's first black member of Congress. Stokes served 15 terms as a U.S. Representative in Congress taking on tough assignments including heading the House's Select Committee on Assassinations that investigated the slayings of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the late 1970s. In addition, among other high profile and notable assignments, he served on the Iran-Contra investigative committee, chaired the House Intelligence Committee, and led the House Ethics Committee twice during his long and distinguished tenure. Stokes also led the Congressional Black Caucus and was the first black on the House Appropriations Committee. These distinguished posts aided in his ability to protect Cleveland area jobs and provide funding to needed projects and services in Ohio.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority extends thoughts and prayers to the Stokes family and Ohio residents who knew, loved and were positively impacted by his incredible work and perseverance.

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