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Alpha Kappa Alpha Honors its Beloved Pearl, Dr. Mary Shy Scott, 23rd International President: A Pioneer, Visionary, Civil Rights Activist and Leader



(Atlanta, GA) July 7, 2016 - Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated will welcome a record 24,000 members and guests to Atlanta to convene its 67th International Conference. During this conference, the sorority will also pay homage to one of its beloved pearls, Dr. Mary Shy Scott, who served as the Conference Chairman in 1980 when this conference was last held in Atlanta.

Dr. Mary Shy Scott was a dedicated leader within Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and served as the 23rd International President from 1990 to 1994. Her administration focused on “Creative Strategies for Action: Addressing the Crises of the 1990’s” within the areas of “The Black Family, Ivy Academy, Health, and Political Advocacy.”

As a lasting tribute to all Dr. Scott has done for Alpha Kappa Alpha and the City of Atlanta, the City of Atlanta, in partnership with Alpha Kappa Alpha, will change the name of the former Historic Hartwell Heights Park to the Dr. Mary Shy Scott Memorial Park. The dedication will take place on Friday, July 8, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha and community residents are welcomed. The park had a total renovation and is located right around the corner from the home of Dr. Scott. Atlanta City Councilmember C. T. Martin led this initiative with the support of Mayor Kasim Reed and the city council.

Under Dr. Scott’s leadership, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated chartered an international chapter in London, England, helped to encourage reading through a partnership with the Library of Congress, completed the building of an addition to the sorority’s national headquarters in Chicago, and established a non-military memorial to those who fought at Pearl Harbor. The memorial was dedicated to the heroism of World War II Veteran Doris “Dorie” Miller, an African-American sailor and “unsung hero.”

In 1991, the sorority renewed the \$15.5 million federal contract to refurbish the AKA Cleveland Job Corps. With the newly-acquired skills taught by a dedicated core of members, thousands of young adults, ages 16-21, were offered training in alternative programs for education that transformed them from being unemployed and unskilled to becoming productive members of the workforce.

Dr. Scott also ensured the sorority’s history would be shared with the public when the Alpha Kappa Alpha Archives Center was officially opened at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University on November 6, 1993.

In 1953, Dr. Scott was initiated into the Kappa Omega chapter, the first chapter chartered in Atlanta and the oldest in the South Atlantic Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She served in a variety of leadership positions, including chapter president from 1967 to 1968, and as the 10th Regional Director for the South Atlantic Region from 1982 to 1986. The South Atlantic Region is the sorority's largest region, which covers Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

She was instrumental in chartering the Mu Pi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, on the campus of Spelman College, which was also her alma mater. She graduated from Spelman with her B.A. Degree. She later earned her M.A. Degree from New York University and completed post-graduate work in humanities at both New York and Georgia State University, where she became certified in supervision and administration.

Dr. Scott was an educator, elementary school music specialist, and motivational speaker whose commitment to education earned her an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Miles College in Birmingham, Alabama.

Her influence extended beyond the sorority to the City of Atlanta. She was a Class A member of the Human Rights Commission of the Atlanta City Council. The Dr. Mary Shy Scott papers, 1981-1996, 1999 are held at her alma mater, Spelman, and the Auburn Avenue Research Library.

Mary Shy Scott will always be remembered as an influential beacon of light and love that touched the minds and hearts of everyone with whom she came in contact. During the conference, Friday, July 8 and Saturday, July 9, Alpha Kappa Alpha will embody this beloved and service driven spirit with the dedication of a park in her name and with its 23 Moments of Service. Thousands of sorority members will volunteer their time providing 23 community service programs throughout the City of Atlanta. Service programs include building a playground with partner KaBOOM! packaging more than 100,000 meals, refreshing five local area playgrounds, collecting backpacks, school supplies, seasonal wraps, and used eyeglasses for children and families in the Atlanta and surrounding community, and making 29,000 dresses girls in Africa.

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About Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (AKA) is an international service organization that was founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1908. It is the oldest Greek letter organization established by African-American college-educated women. Alpha Kappa Alpha is comprised of more than 283,000 members in 993 graduate and undergraduate chapters in the United States, Liberia, the Bahamas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Germany, South Korea, Bermuda, Japan, Canada, South Africa and in the Middle East. Led by International President Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, L.H.D., Alpha Kappa Alpha is often hailed as "America's premier Greek-letter organization for African-American women." For more information on Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and its programs, visit AKA1908.com.