



## **SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY, INC. COMMEMORATES 98 TRAILBLAZING YEARS OF SISTERHOOD, SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE WITH OVER 100,000 MEMBERS ACROSS THE GLOBE**

**Cary, NC — November 9, 2020** - On Thursday, November 12, 2020, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. will celebrate its Founders' Day, marking 98 years of dedication to sisterhood, scholarship and service. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. chapters across the globe will come together during the month of November to commemorate the organization's recent achievements, outline its goals for the future and celebrate its illustrious legacy.

The sisters of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. have a legacy as trailblazers with societal contributions including:

- **Hattie McDaniel** - the first African American to win an Academy Award
- **Alice Allison Dunnigan** - the first African American female journalist to receive White House credentials, and the first black female member of the Senate and House of Representatives press galleries
- **Maritza Correia McClendon** - the first African American Female Olympic Swimmer and Medalist
- **Georgia Davis Powers** - the first Person of Color and the first African American elected to the Kentucky State Senate in 1967
- **Gwendolyn "Gwen" Sawyer Cherry** - the first African American woman to serve as a state legislator in Florida in 1970
- In 1948, **Sigma Gamma Rho** was one of the founding members of the American Council on Human Rights

Founded on the campus of Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana by seven young educators, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. now boasts more than 100,000 members in over 500 chapters across the U.S., Africa, Bahamas, Bermuda, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Canada, Germany and Korea.

"As we celebrate 98 years of community impact, social engagement, and committed partnership, I am reminded of the seven young educators who boldly created a sisterhood to address adversity, create meaningful solutions and empower women and youth. Fast forward to today, we walk in those dedicated footsteps, seeking to expand beyond identifying problems to defining ways to eradicate them, as we focus forward towards our Centennial," said Rasheeda S. Liberty, 25th International Grand Basileus.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. continues to put an emphasis on social action and community impact as part of its commitment to serve. In the midst of the current social unrest and global pandemic, the organization registered countless voters for this year's election, hosted a Voter Engagement Forum to educate communities about the power of their vote and worked with the

Oprah Winfrey Network's election initiative "OWN Your Vote" to mobilize women to make change; teamed with the NAACP for the "Get Out The Census" campaign to encourage the African American community to complete the census; partnered with Sisters Network, Inc., to provide free mammograms to underserved women in low income communities during Breast Cancer Awareness Month; and raised over \$160,000 on a goal of \$75,000 for St. Jude Children's Hospital. As they look toward the future, additional partnerships with USA Swimming, March of Dimes, and more underline the organization's dedication to making an impact in all sectors of society.

For more information about Sigma Gamma Rho and how you can support Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc, please visit <https://www.sgrho1922.org/>.

**ABOUT SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY, INC.**

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. was founded by seven educators on November 12, 1922, at Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. The sorority has more than 500 chapters in the United States, Bahamas, Bermuda, Canada, Germany, Korea, and the U. S. Virgin Islands. Members aim to enhance the quality of life within the community through public service, leadership development, and education of youth. Sigma Gamma Rho addresses concerns that impact society educationally, civically, and economically.

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On behalf of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.