



# City of Pittsburgh

510 City-County Building  
414 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

## Text File

**Introduced:** 5/26/2015

**Bill No:** 2015-1685, **Version:** 1

**Committee:** City Council

**Status:** Adopted

**WHEREAS**, Memorial Day Weekend has for years been “Alpha Weekend” for Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, Alpha Omicron Lambda Chapter to recognize a fraternal year of manly deeds, scholarship, and love for all mankind to the greater Pittsburgh Community; and,

**WHEREAS**, Alpha Phi Alpha’s motto is “FIRST of ALL, Servants of All, We Shall Transcend All”; and,

**WHEREAS**, May 1, 2015, marked the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the very first public celebration for fallen soldiers, conducted by former slaves to honor Black soldiers of the Civil War in Charleston, South Carolina; and,

**WHEREAS**, the 54<sup>th</sup> Infantry of Massachusetts represented the first Black Civil War regiment commissioned to service; and,

**WHEREAS**, Major Martin Delany, a Pittsburgh resident, was the first African-American field officer in the United States Army during the American Civil War; and,

**WHEREAS**, during World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen became the first African-American military aviators in the United States Armed Forces, while the American military was racially segregated; over 100 Airmen and Airwomen were from Western Pennsylvania; and,

**WHEREAS**, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall and Museum and curator John Ford have prepared the exhibit “Slave to Soldier”; and,

**WHEREAS**, on Friday, May 22, 2015, the Alpha Omicron Lambda Charities, a 501(c)3 of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, and the Alpha Wives Auxiliary will hold its **FIRSTS IN VALOR** program to honor 150 years of Black men and women and their families serving the United States of America.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh does hereby recognize, on behalf of Alpha Phi Alpha, the African-American veterans who served in the military and in active duty from the Civil War to today; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Council of the City of does hereby declare May 22, 2015, to be “**First in Valor Day**” in the City of Pittsburgh.