

Theta Phi Alpha Fraternity Founders' Day Proclamation 2008

Dear Sisters,

Happy Founders' Day! I cannot believe that this is the sixth and final Founders' Day Proclamation that I will write as National President. The past six years have been an amazing journey and I am proud of the work that we as a group of women have accomplished both individually and collectively.

During our history, our Fraternity has struggled like any other organization. We have had our good times and our more challenging times. Whether the year was 1912 or 2008, our sisters have lived our ritual promises to take care of our Fraternity and to advance the best interest of Theta Phi Alpha. We have seen our world change greatly and yet one thing has remained constant, our sisterhood has stood strong.

As we continue to move forward on various endeavors including the implementation of our Strategic Plan, we will continue to see growth and improvement. We will continue to welcome into our chain of sisterhood new links with new sisters, new chapters, and new alumnae associations entering the fold. We will continue to partner with university and college campuses as well as other organizations to do good work and to impact the world around us in a positive manner. Above all else, I hope that we continue to love Theta Phi Alpha and to take care of her as we have promised we would.

During the past six years, I have had the opportunity to visit chapters across the country. We have discussed happenings on a local and national level, we have discovered ways to improve The Fraternity, we have sat around and sang songs together, and most importantly, we have learned from one another. I have truly enjoyed experiencing sisterhood in so many ways. I will treasure the times we have shared. Know that you have had a great impact on my life and for that I thank you.

As I complete my final term as National President, I am proud of where we are in 2008. Through the efforts of two amazing Councils, our Fraternity is better today because of their gifts and talents. It has been an honor to serve with them and to serve you. We have laughed together, cried together, celebrated together, and even shared difficult moments together. In all of these experiences, my hope is that we have grown as women and as an organization. I am not the same person that I was when I took office in June 2002. Today, I am a woman who understands me better and how to work for something I really believe in.

My hope for each of us is that Theta Phi Alpha continues to be a part of our lives until the day we enter into the eternal chapter. That somewhere, somehow, Theta Phi

Alpha has touched our lives through the beauty of our ritual and the friendships that we have made. As I enter into a new phase in my role as a sister of Theta Phi Alpha, I am confident that the leadership that will follow me will take our Fraternity to an even better place than where we have been. We have endured as St. Catherine has challenged, now it is time to enjoy and achieve our greatness.

I will continue to pray that as we reflect on our Theta Phi Alpha experience, that we always remember where we have been, enjoy where we are, and have vision for where we hope to be.

Yours in the bonds of sisterhood,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mari Ann Callais".

Mari Ann Callais, AB
National President