



Founders' Day Proclamation 2007

Dear Sisters,

Happy Founders' Day!

A recent magazine headline jumped out at me — it said “what a difference a year makes.” How simple and how true. In last year’s Proclamation, I shared events that had touched the lives of the people in our world, our community, our Fraternity. This year, once again, sisters have felt the impact of the war in Iraq, national disasters in different parts of our country, and personal loss and struggles. Through all of these challenges, I continue to be amazed and proud of the contributions that Theta Phi Alphas are making in our world.

Inside our Fraternity, “what a difference a year makes” also holds true. In the past twelve months, Theta Phi Alpha has gone through many changes. We added two new positions to the Grand Council, continued to expand the opportunity for young women to join new colonies and chapters of Theta Phi Alpha, and embarked on a strategic planning process that will guide our Fraternity for years to come. This Proclamation gives me the opportunity to reflect on our past history, current needs, and future goals.

Our Fraternity has been on a journey for the past 95 years. There have been times when it might have been easier for sisters to say: the work is too much, it is “just a sorority.” However, dedicated and courageous women believed — and continue to believe — that we are more than “just a sorority.” Theta Phi Alpha, through both good and bad times, is a family. Our Theta Phi Alpha family often extends to our biological or situational families, and this makes us even stronger. We help, comfort, and support each other in countless ways, which is what families do.

I am proud of our family. Through our extension work, strategic planning, and many other efforts, sisters all across the country are working to secure the future of our Fraternity. Women of vision and passion have guided us throughout the years and have given us the responsibility to ensure the vitality of Theta Phi Alpha for generations to come. The process is not an easy one, but one that will ensure Theta Phi Alpha’s strength and vibrancy.

As I talk about Theta Phi Alpha, I love the fact that we are a diverse group of women, with very strong opinions, but that underneath it all, we all share the common belief that this thing we call sisterhood really does matter. We come from very different backgrounds, cultures, lifestyles, and see the world through a wide variety of lenses, but we remain united in our love for Theta Phi Alpha and our goals for her success.

Please know how important each one of you is to Theta Phi Alpha. It does not matter if you were initiated in the early 1900s or this April 2007. Together, we are moving in a direction that is exciting. Together, we can achieve our goals. And each one of us needs to do our part. Today, as part of

Founders' Day, I am asking each and every sister to evaluate what Theta Phi Alpha has added to your life and I am asking that you commit to give back to Theta Phi Alpha. Living our "Ever Loyal, Ever Lasting" Vision Statement is a responsibility we all share.

As we move forward during this 2006-2008 biennium, it's important that we recognize how much Theta Phi Alpha benefits from each sister's gifts and talents. Being in a sorority is about giving to others and receiving love in return, and no matter where you came from, you are going somewhere new because your path came together with Theta Phi Alpha for a reason. Our journey may not always be a smooth one, but it will always be an adventurous and worthwhile one. On this Founders' Day, I urge you to fully join the journey of making Theta Phi Alpha the best she can be.

I am so proud to call you my sisters. Sometimes I struggle to understand what it is that I ever did to be worthy of sharing this experience with such amazing women. This is my fifth Founders' Day Proclamation and I find myself feeling five times — no, five hundred times — as proud as I did when I wrote my first one. I am blessed to have all of you in my life. We are all blessed to have Theta Phi Alpha and each other.

Thank you for all you do and all you give to show your love of Theta Phi Alpha. My thoughts and prayers are with you all always.

Yours in the bonds of sisterhood,

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

Mari Ann Callais, AB
National President