Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Beta Eta Chapter

Tribute to

Soror Loraine Richardson Green

January 19, 1996

The Ivy Hymn

Scripture Reading
(Psalms 121)

Prayer

Biographical Sketch

Placing of Ivy
(To the tune of "Trees")

"I Think that I Shall Never Know"
(Sung to the tune of "Trees")

"Alpha Kappa Alpha will live forever. Our programs will expand and develop to fit the changing needs of our dynamic society. I cannot imagine America without Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. The kind of woman that makes up Alpha Kappa Alpha will automatically carry on the ideals, traditions and programs that the Sorority believes in and will continue to render her service to America and the world." (Soror Loraine R. Green)

"I THINK I SHALL NEVER KNOW" (TUNE OF TREES)

I think that I shall never know
Another love that thrills me so,
Dwells in my heart by night, by day
As does my love for A.K.A.
I think that I need never fear
Where hearts are loyal, true and dear.

Secure I am at work, at play
Of such are these — the A.K.A.
I think when I shall come to die
There'll be no need of fear or sigh,
For if I've been an A.K.A.
Life owes me naught —
I've lived my day.

"THE IVY HYMN"

Pushing the clods of earth aside, Leaving the dark where foul things hide, Spreading its leaves to the summer sun, Bondage ended freedom won; So let my soul like the Ivy be; Rise, for the sunshine calls for thee.

Climbing up as the seasons go, Looking down upon things below: Twining itself in branches high, As if the frail thing owned the sky; So let my soul like the Ivy be; Heaven, not earth's the place for thee.

Wrapping itself 'round the giant oak, Hiding itself from tempest's stroke; Strong and brave is the fragile thing, For it knows one secret how to cling, So let my soul like the Ivy be; Hear the mighty One, Lean on Me.

Green are its leaves when the world is white; For the Ivy sings through the night, Keeping the hearts of oak awake, Till the flowers shall bloom and spring shall break; So let my soul through the winter's rain, Sing the sunshine back again.

Opening its green and fluttering breast, Giving the timid birds a nest, Coming out from the winter wild, To make wreath for the Holy Child. So let my life like the Ivy be; A help to man and a wreath for Thee.

Division of Education and Recreation of the Welfare Council of Metropolitan Chicago, her membership on the Chicago Board of Education, the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund, the Retired Teachers Association, the American Sociological Society and the Advisory Board of the Francis Parker School (North). She is an honorary member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society of Women and an honorary member of Kappa Delta Pi, an honor society in education.

She retired as a member of the Chicago Board of Education in 1969, from the Commission on Human Relations in 1967, and from the Teachers' Pension and Retirement Fund in 1969.

The church has played an important part in Mrs. Green's life. She has been affiliated with the Human Relations Committee of the Women's Division of the Chicago Federation of Churches, and she served as co-chairman of the Women's Division of the Chicago Branch of the Conference of Christians and Jews. Mrs. Green attends St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Chicago. She was confirmed and married in St. Augustine Episcopal Church in Kansas City where she served on the Altar Guild, the Women's Auxiliary, the Sunday School, the choir, and the Daughters of the King.

Mrs. Green is a dynamic speaker. She has lectured for Red Cross Bond Drives, for the NAACP, for the National Conference of Christians and Jews, for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and in many churches, colleges and universities.

Mrs. Green has received numerous awards and citations including plaques for service and dedication from the Chicago B'nai B'rith Women's Council, the Dorcas Art and Charity Club, the Oscar DePriest Charity Club, the Friends of the Harriet M. Harris YWCA, the Gaudeamus Club, Crane Junior College, the Citizens of Greater Chicago, the Washburne Trade School, and the Chicago Teachers Union. She is a member of the Chicago Hall of Fame.

The New Testament Missionary Baptist Church presented its Service Award to her, and the 1976 Outstanding High School Seniors conference, hosted by the Union League Club in conjunction with the Chicago Board of Education, was dedicated to Mrs. Green.

Mrs. Green's many activities have taken her throughout the country, to Europe on two occasions, to Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Mrs. Green spends her spare time researching and writing about blacks who have made outstanding contributions to human progress. Her major interests are the Wendell E. Green School and the Wendell E. Green Senior Citizens' Homes. She also enjoys donning jeans and working on her house including painting and electrical maintenance. She is truly a unique member of the Sorority.

Loraine Richardson Green, the second Supreme Basileus, is an example of a woman who is ageless in her outlook and personal philosophy. This attitude is reflected in the following statement by her:

> *"Alpha Kappa Alpha will live forever. Our programs will expand and develop to fit the changing needs of our dynamic society. I cannot imagine America without an Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. The kind of woman who makes up Alpha Kappa Alpha will automatically carry on the ideals, traditions, and programs that the Sorority believes in and will continue to render her service to America and the world."*





LORAINE RICHARDSON GREEN

Loraine Richardson Green was born in Kansas City, Missouri, to Joseph and Sarah Richardson. The other children in the family were Nan, Mary, Sarah, Olga, and Joseph, Jr.

Mrs. Green credits her grandmother with being the first major influence in her life. When she first encountered racial hostility and name-calling, Mrs. Green turned to her grandmother for comfort and advice. Her grandmother soothed the child explaining that as a child of God, Loraine should disregard the hostility of others.

Loraine Richardson began her education in Kansas City at the Garrison Elementary School and graduated as Valedictorian of her seventh grade class. She attended Lincoln High School where she was also Valedictorian. She attended the University of Kansas in Lawrence for two years. She then married Wendell E. Green and transferred to the University of Chicago, where in 1918, she received a Bachelor's Degree with honors, majoring in English with a minor in the social sciences. She won a fellowship in sociology for high scholastic attainment as an undergraduate and in 1919 she received her Master's degree in sociology.

She received a research assistantship for doctoral studies which she pursued for two years, completing the course requirements for the advanced degree.

Loraine Green began her long association with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in

Beta Chapter while she was a student at the University of Chicago. She attended the second Boule in Chicago in 1919, presided over by Nellie Quander. At this Boule, Loraine Green was elected the second Supreme Basileus. She presided over the third Boule in Cleveland and the fourth in Indianapolis. The fifth Boule in Kansas City, Missouri and the sixth Boule in Baltimore, Maryland.

Between the third and fourth Boules, all chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha were asked to send Mrs. Green written material pertinent to the Sorority. She typed all the articles and assumed the financial responsibility for printing and the first yearbook, the *Ivy Leaf,* which was distributed at the Indianapolis Boule.

She was the first Supreme Basileus to receive a string of pearls awarded for service to the Sorority in general and her work with the *Ivy Leaf* in particular.

Other highlights of Mrs. Green's tenure include adoption of the design for the coat of arms, modification of the pin, the initiation of the Founders' Day celebration, the adoption of chapter charters and membership certificates, and the recognition of definite geographical regions, now a permanent part of the Sorority structure. A national program in vocational guidance also was begun. Under Mrs. Green's leadership, Alpha Kappa Alpha grew from a few loosely coordinated chapters to a strong national organization with a widely circulated official publication, the *Ivy Leaf.*

After her term in office, Mrs. Green continued her affiliation with Beta and Theta Omega Chapters. To raise money for scholarships, she wrote and directed a number of plays. She has spoken often at chapter and regional meetings and served as the general chairman of the 1933 Boule, celebrating Alpha Kappa Alpha's Silver Anniversary.

The Greens had no children. Her husband became a Circuit Court Judge and was very active in Chicago civic affairs. He died on August 23, 1959. An elementary public school and a public housing development for senior citizens have been named for him.

Mrs. Green chooses to define her career as that of a professional volunteer. She taught for a short period and was a social worker briefly. While a graduate student at the University of Chicago, Mrs. Green received a small honorarium for her supervision of thirty-five students assigned to assist with her research project. She insists, however, that as a volunteer, she has worked and is working as diligently as any full-time worker and adds that she probably enjoys her activities more!

In the city of Chicago, her name has been synonymous with community and civic work since 1919. Her activities include membership on the Board of Education of the city of Chicago for eleven years beginning in 1958, membership on the board of the Chicago Urban League, chairman of the Public Affairs Committee of the South Parkway YWCA, and co-chairman of the Woman's Division of the national Conference of Christians and Jews, and Human Relations Committee of the Woman's City Club. In 1952 she was appointed by the Mayor of Chicago to the Chicago Recreation Commission and in 1953 to the Advisory Committee to the Chicago Board of Health. She was appointed by the Governor of Illinois to the Advisory Board of Illinois Hospital for the Care and Education of Crippled Children in 1953, and to the advisory board of the Illinois Training School for Girls. Mrs. Green served on the Chicago Commission on Human Relations from 1948 to 1967.

Mrs. Green's commitment to education is shown by her chairmanship of the