



## Founders' Day Proclamation April 30, 2023

Happy Founders' Day!

In September I had the honor of attending the Centennial Celebration for Kappa chapter at the University of Pittsburgh. The weekend was a wonderful celebration of sisterhood with friends reconnecting and new bonds being made - all because of Theta Phi Alpha.

At the celebration, attendees were fortunate to hear words of wisdom from Irene Caliendo, Kappa. Irene is a wearer of the Guard of Honor, a Sapphire Circle member, has served the Fraternity in many roles including on the Grand Council, and was the chapter president at Kappa's 50th celebration. Irene's words resonated with me and I would like to share them with you.

"Kappa remains standing in some measure due to the efforts of every person in this room and of some who are unable to be with us today. Kappa remains standing because of those who went before and who gave of themselves and shared their talents and their time and their friendship and their sisterhood. Kappa exists in 2022 because many sisters routinely lived our values and our creed. Many sisters exhibited loyalty, justice, wisdom, truth, honor, and faith to the benefit of Kappa and our sisters and we continue to build on it all."

As I heard Irene's words, I thought all of us could substitute Theta Phi Alpha for Kappa. Theta Phi Alpha is celebrating 111 years of sisterhood because of our members, past and present, who have invested their energies, abilities and talents to our sisterhood. We have evolved as an organization and will continue to do so to stay relevant to our members and future members.

Irene continued with these words. "Membership for life - this is what it means. A lifetime of friendship, a lifetime of meaningful relationships, a lifetime of sharing our accomplishments and milestones, our happiness, and our sorrow. And a lifetime of contribution to Kappa and to Theta Phi Alpha."

As I listened to Irene's words, I felt like Irene was saying everything my heart feels about Theta Phi Alpha. As we celebrate Founders' Day, think about the fond memories you have because of Theta Phi Alpha and the special sisters who are a part of these memories, the connections that continue today, and the memories you have yet to make. Think about who you share your life with, and who wouldn't be there if it wasn't for Theta Phi Alpha. Celebrate our Ever Loyal, Ever Lasting sisterhood by treasuring the gift of Theta Phi Alpha membership for life.

Yours in the Bonds of Sisterhood,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin Henkenius".

Kristin Henkenius, Alpha Pi  
National President