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Soror Coachman,

Attached you will find the nomination for Soror Patricia Jones (140536) member of the Kansas City (MO) Alumnae Chapter (349) for the "**Frankie Muse Freeman**" award.

If you have any additional questions, you can contact me at president@dstkcmo.org or (816) 668-7539.

Sisterly,

Jacqueline A. Dillard, President
Kansas City (MO) Alumnae Chapter
Member Number: 211458



FRANKIE MUSE FREEMAN

Soror Patricia Jones

Greetings Soror Coachman,

In recognition and honor of our 14th National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Soror Frankie Muse Freeman, Esq., I would like to nominate Soror Patricia Jones for the Frankie Muse Freeman Award.

Soror Jones was called to activism at a very young age. As a student at Greenwood Elementary in Kansas City, at the age of 4, Soror Jones frequently found herself following the older kids in the neighborhood to school. When it was time to go to school, her and the older kids would enter the building, walk a few ways through the tunnel to class, only to find out at the end of that tunnel she was lost. The older students had scattered off to class leaving her alone. After enough times of getting lost, Soror Jones realized, I have to do this on my own. This small test of finding her own way was the beginning of her courage and independence throughout her life. A rebel was born.

Soror Jones was active in high school. She was a cheerleader and a member of the Cynthians Literary Society, which helped shape and hone her communication, social, and leadership skills that she has used in every facet of her life. She left for college in the fall of 1968 where she headed to Prairie View A&M College in Prairie View, TX. The rebel we were introduced to at 4 years old was finding her voice. It was at Prairie View A&M where she immersed herself in the student activities, which garnered the trust of students, faculty, and many alike for her advocacy of the needs of the students and the conditions and injustices on campus.

Because her passion was strong, in 1971, Soror Jones led a protest over the conditions the students endured, which led to an uprising of the administration building. The Administration building was locked down, staff was locked out, and once the administrators realized they had lost control of the student body, it was apparent that forceful actions would soon follow; as it had during that time, during that era. The aftermath of the demonstration led to arrests, high bonds set, school hearings were held, many students were dismissed from school, and yet a change was bound to come. As a result of her courage, leadership and fight for social justice, a political soul emerged out of Soror Jones.

After college Soror Jones became a classroom teacher; many would agree, another display of courage. Sometime around 1975 the teachers voted to strike for higher pay and better working conditions. A stranger to living dormant, Soror Jones was one of many on the picket lines protesting and fighting for the rights of educators.

Her demonstration of bravery as a young teacher was the beginning of her alliance with the teacher's union; beginning at the local level, moving to the state level and eventually to an outspoken advocate on the National level with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

While working with AFT, Soror Jones had a prosperous career where she was an endless advocate, advisor, trainer; and she traveled all over the world sharing her knowledge and expertise. Through her international work, she courageously went places and worked with people that many would have failed to engage with, support, let alone serve. Soror Jones worked with Lech Walesa, the former Polish President, who started his career as a trade union organizer working with educators. Soror Jones placed herself in small communities where a black face had never been seen and being a woman, was a double negative. Soror Jones has an array of stories she tells about her travels around the world. One story that speaks to her character is one she shares when she visited a small village in Budapest. Soror Jones was mistaken for a "woman of the evening" for which, she clearly set the record straight. Her candid personality won the hearts of the Budapest family who had her for dinner on more than one occasion, it was another opportunity to make new friends in a new place, as she always did. Rights for teachers were also significant in Budapest as it was in the United States. Soror Jones was committed to workers everywhere.

Soror Jones still participates in school board meetings with a sixth sense to read between the lines revealing the hidden agendas. Soror Jones speaks out and up for students, teachers, and paraprofessionals who are affected by decisions that may come out of those school board meetings. Missing a meeting and being silent was not an option. Soror Jones will tell you, "I have something to say and I'm go' say it." School board members and community leaders know her by name, and they know to stay on their toes when her hand is raised.

During her advocacy endeavors, Soror Jones honors God and family first. Soror Jones is the first one to support her family; and this was demonstrated when she stepped in to assume guardianship of her great nephew Jaylen, while still finding the time, patience and energy to care for other family members sick and shut in.

Soror Jones is a member of St. James United Methodist Church where she wears several hats. Aside from her commitment to the many ministries at St. James, the one that is true and dear to her heart is the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee. As a member of this committee, Soror Jones was charged to bridge the gap between the Pastor's vision and the concerns of the congregation; injustices are common places, even in the church. Soror Jones made sure member's voices were heard and the pastoral staff was accountable to their members.

Through all the twist and turns her professional career has taken her; through all the shouting, picketing, and posting bonds, she still found time throughout her career to spread her labor of love for Delta. Soror Jones was initiated into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in 1980 through the Kansas City (MO) Alumnae Chapter. She has been a loyal and committed since her initiation.

In 1985, Soror Jones was reading the National Delta Journal and saw in her reading, they were honoring women for various accomplishments. Soror Jones felt the members of the Kansas City

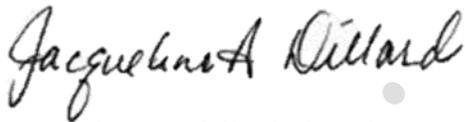
Missouri Alumnae Chapter should be doing the same for Sorors in the chapter. From her idea a vision and program was conceived.

For 30 years, the Kansas City Missouri Alumnae Chapter has celebrated women from all backgrounds, careers, political views and artistic abilities through our Annual Women of Courage Program. Among our first honorees in 1985 was Joanne Collins, Jessie Nave-Carpenter (Past Regional Director), and Carol Coe. From the first honorees to now, we've recognized over 100 women, with Soror Jones being our most recent recipient of this most distinguished honor. Her vision will continue for another 30 years and beyond.

Currently, Soror Jones serves as a Co-Chair for our Social Action Committee. Her connections, commitment, knowledge, and foresight ensures we keep our community engage on the issues involving us, and the steps we need to take to address those barriers that are keeping us physically, and at times mentally restrained. Soror Jones is also strategically involved with the restaurant workers in Kansas City, speaking out for fair pay, while canvassing our community schools to ensure our high school seniors are registering to vote for upcoming elections.

When considering who I could nominate for this award, I couldn't think of another Soror who would be more fitting for a prestige and historic honor such as the Frankie Muse Freeman Award. Soror Jones achievements in the area of civil rights, pay equity and the underrepresented are a testament of her receiving such a prestigious honor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jacqueline A. Dillard, President
Kansas City (MO) Alumnae Chapter

