Good evening. Thank you so much for your gracious invitation to address the 80th South Eastern Regional Conference of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. I am Roger Brown, Chancellor of The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and it is my pleasure to bring greetings to you on behalf of the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of the University.

I applaud your mission of “service to mankind.” Our world would indeed be a better place if more organizations and individuals adopted that same motto.

Here at UTC, the AKAs have a long history and were among the first African American student organizations to form on our campus, with the
Zeta Kappa undergraduate chapter being established in 1971. From the start, the chapter and its membership began to take a leadership role on our campus.

The first African American homecoming queen at UTC—Ms. Donna Somerville Price—was an AKA.

Ms Lydia Grafton, the first African American female to be elected president of our Student Government Association, was a sister of AKA.

Today, one of our top ranking business and finance administrators—Associate Vice Chancellor Vanasia Parks—is an AKA.

So you can see that your organization has and continues to play an important role on this campus.
I thank each of you for your leadership and service and I hope your conference is productive and meaningful.

Thank you and welcome.