

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 176

BY SENATOR MORRELL

A RESOLUTION

To commend Leonard Galmon upon receipt of a prestigious Ron Brown Scholarship and upon his acceptance by and plans to attend Yale University.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes the outstanding accomplishments Leonard Galmon has achieved in his eighteen years of life; and

WHEREAS, over five thousand college-bound students applied for the nation's leading scholarship program for African-American youth with only twenty-six students selected for the 2014 class of Scholars; and

WHEREAS, Ron Brown Scholars are selected on the basis of demonstrated academic excellence, leadership potential, social commitment, and financial need; and

WHEREAS, Leonard's success is deeply rooted in his own personal experience and life's journey; Leonard was born to a thirteen year old mother and lost his father to the streets of New Orleans when he was only four years old; and

WHEREAS, five years later the winds of Hurricane Katrina destroyed Leonard's home, which forced a nine year old Leonard to sleep on the Claiborne Avenue bridge while protecting his younger siblings, including a newborn; and

WHEREAS, while Leonard and his family were relocated in Houston, Leonard escaped into the world of books, reading three to four books each week, which influenced this young man to begin recognizing his potential; and

WHEREAS, upon Leonard's return to New Orleans, a few weeks into his high school freshman year he enrolled at Walter L. Cohen High School where he remained notwithstanding a one hour and forty-five minute commute to school each day; and

WHEREAS, Leonard joined the Cohen High art class in his sophomore year, which

was held in a cinder block room with only one window and one easel that his teacher donated; and

WHEREAS, with the paints his teacher gave him, a paintbrush that he picked up, and with a memory of the drawing lessons his Uncle Alfred had given him, Leonard produced his first masterpiece which was selected for a Contemporary Arts Center youth exhibit; and

WHEREAS, the summer of 2012 gave Leonard a bedroom of his own, his first ever after living with seven people in a shotgun house, and a desire to draw; and

WHEREAS, during his junior year at Cohen, Leonard continued his diligent studies and his art, but also developed a restlessness brewing deep inside that led him to enroll at Cohen College Prep and New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) for his senior year of high school; and

WHEREAS, Leonard knew from his days in Houston that he was going somewhere, but just not sure where; the counselors at Cohen College Prep were determined to help Leonard get there and assisted him in applying to top colleges outside New Orleans and Louisiana, to places Leonard had only heard of, as Leonard is the first in his family to apply to any college; and

WHEREAS, while at NOCCA many creative firsts were being made by Leonard: his first screenprint, his first time painting in oils, his first sculpture, his first photography class, his first woodcut, and his first distinctive voice as a young artist; and

WHEREAS, through Uncle Alfred and genetics, Leonard knew how to create, but he needed guidance and the opportunity to use the tools and techniques Leonard had never been exposed to; and

WHEREAS, recipients of the Ron Brown Scholarship dedicate themselves to enriching lives in their local communities and worldwide; and

WHEREAS, at eighteen years of age, Leonard Galmon has already enriched the lives of his family members, his many friends, the city of New Orleans, and the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the kind of man Leonard will become, one that cares deeply for his family and desires to make a positive difference in the lives of everyone he touches, is shown in his art work, which is filled with images of his precious siblings.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Leonard Galmon upon receipt of a prestigious Ron Brown Scholarship and upon his acceptance by and plans to attend Yale University.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana also highly commends Leonard Galmon for challenging himself by taking the road less traveled and not taking the easy, comfortable route, and for never giving up.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Leonard Galmon.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE