

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY REPRESENTATIVE TALBOT

A RESOLUTION

To commend Meredith Graf for her outstanding achievements as a young Louisiana artist.

WHEREAS, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Graf, Meredith Graf is a ninth grade student at Louise S. McGehee School in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Meredith is a gifted artist who has won numerous awards and honors, including first place in the fourth through sixth grade division of the Louisiana Junior Duck Stamp competition in 2004; second place in the Ronald McDonald House Charities Louisiana State Art Contest in 2005; and honorable mention in the Federal Refugees State Arts Contest in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Meredith was named a *Gambit* magazine's "Forty Under 40" award winner in 2006; received a proclamation from the lieutenant governor's office for artistic achievement in 2007; and appeared on the television show *Next Generation* hosted by Jill Hezou in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Meredith completed an oil painting on canvas that depicted the Louisiana state flag with then United States Congressman Bobby Jindal's name and parishes on it, and the painting was hung in his Metairie congressional office; and

WHEREAS, Meredith has been honored by former President George W. Bush and was invited to the White House after she drew a portrait of his hands from a photograph that was taken on one of his visits to New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, while her family was evacuated after Hurricane Katrina, Meredith met artist Jim McQueen, who saw her budding talent and worked with her as her art teacher; and

WHEREAS, WWL-TV news anchor Mike Hoss interviewed Meredith and her family along with Jim McQueen in November of 2006, showing some of Meredith's artwork, including a portrait of basketball legend Bill Russell; and

WHEREAS, Meredith was recently honored by the New Orleans City Council and the Jefferson Parish Council, the latter of which honored her with a proclamation declaring March 3, 2010, as Meredith Graf Day in Jefferson Parish; and

WHEREAS, currently, Meredith has been selected to create an eagle sculpture with donated crystal, marble, granite, and redwood, which is being used as the first place award at the annual Endangered Species Day Art Contest sponsored by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Endangered Species Coalition, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, and the University of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, Meredith's work can be viewed at numerous venues, ranging from her own school to the office of New Orleans mayor-elect Mitch Landrieu, the offices of New York Life on Madison Avenue, and the office of Steve Sabol, president and founder of NFL Films; and

WHEREAS, Meredith's award-winning artwork was previously exhibited in the Old United States Mint in New Orleans and the executive office of the New Orleans Arena and was also featured on the official website of the NBA Champion Boston Celtics; and

WHEREAS, Meredith Graf merits a special measure of commendation for the tremendous pride and honor that she brings to her family, friends, school, and community, Jefferson Parish, the city of New Orleans, and the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Meredith Graf for her outstanding accomplishments as a young Louisiana artist, does hereby recognize and record for posterity her singular contributions to the celebration of art in Louisiana, and does hereby extend best wishes for continued happiness and success in all of her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Meredith Graf.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES