

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 49

BY SENATORS HARRIS, ABRAHAM, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CATHEY, CLOUD, CORTEZ, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HENSGENS, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT, TARVER, WARD AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To commend Dawn Harris Jeffries on the accomplishment of her Doctor of Philosophy presentation addressing "Social mobility for girls born into poverty: How do African-American women born into poverty achieve middle class status?"

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Dawn Harris Jeffries, Executive Director and Founder of Girls Light Our Way, for her extraordinary achievements as a scholar, financial advisor, and mentor; and

WHEREAS, Dawn is a graduate of St. Mary Dominican High School in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Dawn began her career on Wall Street as a bank examiner for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York focusing on U.S. branches for foreign banks and international branches of U.S. banks; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Dawn joined Merrill Lynch where she has been employed for over twenty years as a financial advisor and a variety of management positions, including serving as vice president and manager of the audit function for the Capital Markets Bank operations based in Europe, Asia, and Africa, and she has held a global supervisory role with oversight for nearly one trillion dollars in client assets; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, after mentoring girls individually for more than a decade, Dawn initiated a pilot program for girls which led to the creation of Girls Light Our Way (GLOW), a nonprofit organization which provides tools for mental, physical, and nutritional wellness, self-efficacy, and financial literacy; and

WHEREAS, a PhD candidate at Benedictine University, with a discipline focused on Values-Driven Leadership, Dawn Harris Jeffries will defend her dissertation relative to developing a model and synthesizing the social genome model "Strong Start" outcomes for girls in low income areas; and

WHEREAS, through her hard work and dedication, Dawn Harris Jeffries' career has been full of accomplishments, which has been highlighted in local newspapers, business magazines, and publications; and

WHEREAS, Dawn has served on the board of directors of the Community Foundation of Central Illinois, Tri-County Urban League Girl Scouts of Central Illinois, and the Children's Home Association of Central Illinois Foundation, and is past president of the Illinois State Medical Society Alliance; and

WHEREAS, Dawn Harris Jeffries is a member of the Central Illinois Chapter of The Links, Inc., and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., serves on the board of directors for the Peoria Medical Society Alliance, and is a grant reviewer for the Heartland of Illinois United Way; and

WHEREAS, Dawn has devoted her life believing in justice, equality, respect, and service, especially for underserved girls and she could not have been so devoted without her best friend and the love of her life, her husband James M. Jeffries III, MD, FACS; and

WHEREAS, Dawn Harris Jeffries is an extraordinary and inspiring individual whose helpful and devoted actions have consistently gone far and above the call of duty, and she merits a special measure of commendation for the tremendous pride and honor she brings to her family, mentees, and friends as she prepares to defend her dissertation as a PhD candidate.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dawn Harris Jeffries, Executive Director and Founder of Girls Light Our Way, for her extraordinary achievements as a scholar, financial advisor, and mentor, does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the positive impact she has had on the countless girls whose lives she has touched, and does hereby extend to her best wishes for success and happiness in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dawn Harris Jeffries.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE