

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY SENATORS ADLEY AND PEACOCK

A RESOLUTION

To commend Moonbot Studios in Shreveport upon winning the Oscar for Best Animated Short Film for *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore* at the Eighty-Fourth Annual Academy Awards on February 26, 2012.

WHEREAS, Moonbot Studios was founded in 2009 by partners William Joyce, Alissa Kantrow, Lampton Enochs, and Brandon Oldenburg; and

WHEREAS, in July 2009, with financial support from the Louisiana Department of Economic Development, Moonbot Studios began production on its first project, the animated short film, *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore*; and

WHEREAS, production on the film was completed in November 2010, and the film was submitted and accepted to a number of national and international film festivals; and

WHEREAS, during 2011, the film won accolades at dozens of film festivals, including "Best Animated Short" at Cinequest Film Festival, Cleveland International Film Festival, SIGGRAPH, Seattle International Film Festival, and Chicago International Children's Film Festival and "Audience Awards" at Florida Film Festival, Palm Springs International Festival of Short Films, and Austin Film Festival; and

WHEREAS, in December 2011, *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore* was chosen as one of the ten films in contention for an Academy Award nomination out of a field of eighty-five films and in January 2012, the film received a nomination; and

WHEREAS, at the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles, California, directors William Joyce and Brandon Oldenburg were awarded Oscars for Best Animated Short Film of the year; and

WHEREAS, shortly after production on the short film was completed, Moonbot Studios began production on an iPad app based on the Morris Lessmore film and story; and

WHEREAS, the app was completed with support from the Louisiana Economic Development FastStart Program and with assistance from Twin Engines Labs of Shreveport, and was launched in May 2011, and quickly became a top selling iPad app; and

WHEREAS, the Morris Lessmore iPad app was named to the Apple iTunes Hall of Fame and was named "App of the Year" by Apps Magazine; and

WHEREAS, a second app was launched in January 2012, "The Numberlys", which was immediately named Apple "App of the Week"; and

WHEREAS, in July 2012, *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore* will be published in hardcover form by Simon and Schuster as the first title in a series of books under the Moonbot Books imprint; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Louisiana eagerly await future projects by Moonbot Studios which will surely delight and amaze audiences everywhere; and

WHEREAS, William Joyce, Brandon Oldenburg, and everyone at Moonbot Studios merit a sincere and heartfelt measure of commendation for their accomplishments in the art and entertainment industry and for the tremendous pride and honor they bring to the Shreveport community and the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend William Joyce, Brandon Oldenburg, and Moonbot Studios in Shreveport upon winning the Oscar for Best Animated Short Film for *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore* at the Eighty-Fourth Annual Academy Awards, recognizes and records for posterity this memorable and historic accomplishment, and extends to the entire Moonbot Studios family best wishes for continued success and happiness in all of their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to William Joyce and Brandon Oldenburg.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE