

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 253

By Camper

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Robdarius "RobenX" Brown, Human Rights Champion for the United Nations.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing a young gentleman who courageously promotes dignity, respect, and equality for all persons while touching the hearts and minds of thousands more through his music, disseminating a powerful message of hope and tolerance; and

WHEREAS, Robdarius "RobenX" Brown of Memphis, a recording artist, model, and albinism advocate, recently visited Geneva, Switzerland, to participate in events celebrating United Nations (UN) Human Rights Day; he contributed to a roundtable discussion featuring the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and performed for youth from around the world, receiving a standing ovation; and

WHEREAS, RobenX will now serve as an international human rights activist and work closely with the United Nations, which has recognized him as a Human Rights Champion, in the coming years; and

WHEREAS, born with albinism, Robdarius Brown speaks candidly about his experiences with albinism and the bullying and intense trauma that he experienced because of the disorder; to escape this negativity and prejudice, he created the alter-ego "RobenX," which serves as a positive outlet for him to create hip hop music encouraging people to treat each other with respect and dignity; and

WHEREAS, RobenX first caught the public's eye when a Memphis news station aired a segment on him that highlighted his love for music and his utilization of music to combat the bullying he endured because of his albinism; and

WHEREAS, the UN later invited him to share his story via video during a humanitarian campaign and describe his journey to gain self-confidence, self-worth, and acceptance of his unique identity; this year, the UN invited this courageous and talented young man to share his testimony in person; and

WHEREAS, prior to journeying to Switzerland, Robdarius Brown appeared in a UN awareness campaign that supported the 70th anniversary of Human Rights Day, which is dedicated to promoting the dignity and worth of every person; and

WHEREAS, Robdarius "RobenX" Brown frequently speaks at schools across the Memphis area on topics such as "Overcoming Adversity" and "Change Starts With You"; he has partnered with Extreme Dreams USA to provide an introduction to music production for students that also incorporates confidence-building techniques; and

WHEREAS, Robdarius "RobenX" Brown has distinguished himself as a passionate advocate for albinism, human rights, and the compassion that resides within us all, and he is most deserving of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Robdarius "RobenX" Brown, Human Rights Champion and international human rights activist for the United Nations, pay tribute to his bravery and perseverance in overcoming adversity, and thank him for sharing his inspiring life story to help others gain confidence and a positive self-image.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.