

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 47

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Cylk Cozart for receiving the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Knoxville Urban League.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we all can be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Cylk Cozart, recipient of the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Knoxville Urban League, a fitting recognition of his brilliant career in film and television and his tireless commitment to improving his community; and

WHEREAS, a Knoxville native, Mr. Cozart exhibited his athletic prowess on the football field and the basketball court throughout high school, ultimately earning him a basketball scholarship to King College in Bristol, Tennessee, where he studied child psychology; and

WHEREAS, after college, he launched a professional basketball career that was unfortunately cut short by an injury in the NBA's Summer Pro League in Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, never one to give up, Mr. Cozart pursued a successful modeling career in Miami, after which he began to expand his talents into acting, relocating to New York to hone his craft and studying at the American Repertory Theatre under the esteemed tutelage of actor and director Robert Redford; and

WHEREAS, Cylk Cozart now has thirty films and more than twenty television shows to his credit, including films such as *Conspiracy Theory*, *Love Affair*, and *In the Line of Fire* and television shows such as *Sister, Sister*, *Walker, Texas Ranger*, and *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, he even had the opportunity to showcase his impressive basketball skills in the celebrated classic *White Men Can't Jump*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cozart also serves as co-chairman of the production entity P.O.V. Planet, whose 2000 Summer Paralympic Games film “Spirit of Life” earned a Videographer Award, an Aurora Award, a New York Film Festival Bronze Award, and a Telly Award; and

WHEREAS, while pursuing his illustrious career in show business, however, Cylk Cozart always maintained a strong passion for volunteerism and channeled it into charitable work with underprivileged youth; and

WHEREAS, as the director of entertainment/education for his 501(c)3 non-profit foundation, Keeping Dreams Alive (KDA), Mr. Cozart offers mentoring to children and teenagers from junior high school through college and assists in identifying scholarships for deserving students; and

WHEREAS, he also hopes to establish an arts-based charter school named The Dream Academy for underserved children, ages four through eighteen, with plans to open in 2013-2014; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with children, Mr. Cozart advocates on behalf of various organizations, serving as a spokesperson for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, a founder of the “Hoops for Hope” basketball charity game, a founder of the Cylk Cozart Celebrity Classic All-Star Basketball Game to benefit the Toni Stroman Fund, a celebrity spokesperson for the National Make-A-Wish Foundation and The Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and a celebrity supporter for the National Tourette Syndrome Association, The Lupus Foundation of America, The National Indian Council, and many others; and

WHEREAS, Cylk Cozart epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Cylk Cozart for his dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRENCE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Cylk Cozart on receiving the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Knoxville Urban League, thank him for his tireless service to the people of this State and Nation, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

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