

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 82

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To commend and recognize Lavaille Lavette on the release of her new book *Jayylen's Juneteenth Surprise*.

WHEREAS, New York Times best-selling author, editor, and publisher Lavaille Lavette's greatest joy is telling stories about people, places, things, and events that should not be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, her latest book, *Jayylen's Juneteenth Surprise* is a beautifully illustrated Little Golden Book about one young boy's first experience celebrating Juneteenth, a national holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Lavaille Lavette infuses the culture and heritage of Louisiana in her writings and in her newest book *Jayylen's grandfather explains the musical style zydeco and teaches Jayylen to play the frottoir*; and

WHEREAS, the book's illustrations are simple but effective and include enjoyable details such as the Elijah McCoy poster that hangs on Jayylen's bedroom wall and the shrimp and grits that the family eats for dinner; and

WHEREAS, a resident and native of Opelousas, Louisiana, Ms. Lavette is a graduate of Opelousas Catholic School and Southern University; and

WHEREAS, Lavaille Lavette has bachelor degrees in mathematics and accounting, a Masters in Education Management, and has worked as an investment broker, schoolteacher, school district administrator, speech writer, and marketing executive; and

WHEREAS, an educational expert, Ms. Lavette served as the Special Advisor to the United States Secretary of Education, Dr. Rod Paige, from 2001 to 2005; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lavette is a founding board member and the first president of the Houston-Luanda Africa Sister City Association, a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer, a mentor with The Hay Center, a fundraiser for foster care programs, involved in a number of international charitable ventures, and has served on the board of directors of the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, Aspiring Youth Foundation, and Foxshire Foundation; and

WHEREAS, beyond her work in publishing, community engagement, nonprofit and the marketing spheres, Ms. Lavette is co-founder of Every Child An Author, a mission to make every child in America a published author, one grade level at a time; and

WHEREAS, combining a "do it all" philosophy with a multi-faceted background, Ms. Lavette advocates for disadvantaged youth in the United States and Africa.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and recognize Lavaille Lavette on the release of her new book *Jayylen's Juneteenth Surprise*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Lavaille Lavette.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE