

2023 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 181

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the ongoing achievements of David Arnold "Dee-1" Augustine Jr. in his roles as an educator, musician, activist, influencer, speaker, and entrepreneur.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the ongoing achievements of David Arnold "Dee-1" Augustine Jr. in his roles  
3 as an educator, musician, activist, influencer, speaker, and entrepreneur.

4 WHEREAS, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, David Arnold "Dee-1" Augustine  
5 Jr. displayed exceptional academic prowess during his time at Audubon Montessori School,  
6 showcased his intellectual and athletic abilities at Ben Franklin High School where he  
7 received the honor of being crowned homecoming king in his senior year, and subsequently  
8 graduated from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

9 WHEREAS, during his college years, he embarked on a music and hip-hop journey  
10 adopting the stage name Dee-1, combining the initial of his first name and the number one,  
11 symbolizing his aspiration to become the best version of himself, inspire others to do the  
12 same, and is furthering his artistic persona by uplifting and motivating people through his  
13 music and melodious modus vivendi; and

14 WHEREAS, Dee-1, driven by his personal commitment to accountability and  
15 self-improvement, made the choice to depart from RCA Records and establish Mission  
16 Vision Music, his own independent label, which has since transformed into a movement  
17 encompassing a podcast and speaker platform with his personal pledge of accountability and  
18 self-improvement with concentrations on *Being Real*, *Being Righteous*, and *Being*

1 *Relevant; and*

2 WHEREAS, in 2021, Dee-1 achieved a historic milestone in Louisiana, becoming  
3 the first rapper appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards to a statewide position on the  
4 Louisiana Council for the Success of Black Men and Boys, a position he dedicated to his late  
5 grandmother and as a tribute to his harmonious Mission Vision lifestyle; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Augustine extracts from his own life experiences to positively  
7 influence his audiences, and by tailoring his musical messages, podcasts, and speeches to  
8 bring about the most impact and relevance, while striving to interconnect the *G.O.L.D.* of  
9 each audience; that is their *Gifts, Opportunities, Leadership, and Dreams*; and

10 WHEREAS, his captivating speech and thought-provoking podcast episodes cover  
11 a wide array of engaging topics he named, Prioritizing the Mental Health of Student  
12 Athletes, Winning at the Game of Life, Defining and Achieving Real Success On and Off  
13 the Field, and Authentication; and

14 WHEREAS, while working as a middle school teacher, Dee-1 embarked on an  
15 impressive musical journey by releasing a series of mixtapes, including *It's Only the*  
16 *Beginning*, *Still We Rise*, and *I am Who I Am*, followed by the release of his debut studio  
17 album, *David & Goliath*, which marked the beginning of a consistent streak of musical  
18 achievements; moreover, he expanded his repertoire to include a notable New Orleans  
19 Saints-themed song titled, *Bring 'Em to the Dome*; and

20 WHEREAS, following tours beside renowned artists such as Lil Wayne, Lupe  
21 Fiasco, Drake, The Roots, Musiq Soulchild, and others, Dee-1's remarkable melodic  
22 expedition culminated in October 2010 when he was honored as the Artist of the Year at the  
23 NOLA Underground Hip Hop Awards; and

24 WHEREAS, through his ongoing musical ventures, Dee-1 continuously showcased  
25 his talents by releasing multiple albums that have gained national recognition, particularly  
26 his notable eighteen-song track list on a single album, capturing the attention of RCA  
27 Inspiration Records and leading to a record deal, while ultimately securing several  
28 noteworthy positions on Billboard's Top Ten chart; and

29 WHEREAS, following the release of *Against Us*, a culturally conscious album that  
30 addressed societal issues, Dee-1 shifted his focus to releasing songs that delved deeper into

1 his personal life and the further strengthening of his faith; and

2 WHEREAS, his hyper-energetic track titled, *Sallie Mae Back*, which celebrated the  
3 successful completion of his student loan payments, garnered critical acclaim from *Time*  
4 magazine as well as CNN, ESPN, *Forbes*, and with *The Washington Post* describing it as  
5 "the anthem of a generation"; and

6 WHEREAS, in addition to being recruited to compose the theme song titled *We are*  
7 *Undefeated* for EPSN's sports, race, and culture website, he also wrote the lyrics for the  
8 *F.A.S.T. Song* in collaboration with the American Heart Association, aimed at raising  
9 awareness about stroke warning signs and actions to take when a stroke occurs; and

10 WHEREAS, with its focus on providing students a historical lens into World War  
11 II, Mr. Augustine's 2021 documentary titled *The Manhattan Project: The Electronic Field*  
12 *Trip* was filmed in New Orleans, Louisiana, and garnered a Daytime Emmy nomination,  
13 resulting in a gratifying acknowledgment despite ultimately losing to the former first lady  
14 of the United States, Michelle Obama; and

15 WHEREAS, in addition to receiving consistent recognition and acclaim for his past,  
16 present, and upcoming discography, Mr. Augustine was again honored in 2021 with the  
17 prestigious Power of Image award by the NAACP, recognizing his influential impact and  
18 dedicated efforts in promoting positivity within impoverished communities; and

19 WHEREAS, David Arnold "Dee-1" Augustine Jr., widely recognized as Dee-1,  
20 deserves commendation for his unwavering dedication to educating and supporting  
21 impoverished communities through his caldron blend of music, art, and philanthropy, along  
22 with his inspiring conveyance of messages aimed at fostering a deeper faith in God, and  
23 encouraging the use of skills and talents for a more meaningful existence, all connecting his  
24 tireless pursuit to *Be Real, Be Righteous, and Be Relevant* in all things.

25 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
26 does hereby commend David Arnold "Dee-1" Augustine Jr., for his continued excellence as  
27 an educator, musician, activist, influencer, speaker, and entrepreneur.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
29 David Arnold Augustine Jr., critically acclaimed as Dee-1.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michelle B. Johnson.

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SR 181 Original	DIGEST 2023 Regular Session	Duplessis
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