

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 181

BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, following the release of *Against Us*, a culturally conscious album that addressed societal issues, Dee-1 shifted his focus to releasing songs that delved deeper into his personal life and the further strengthening of his faith; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE