

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 281

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD

A RESOLUTION

To commend David Arnold "Dee-1" Augustine, Jr., for his accomplishments as an educator, musician, activist, influencer, and entrepreneur.

WHEREAS, David Arnold Augustine, Jr., is a native of New Orleans and graduate of Ben Franklin High School and Louisiana State University; and

WHEREAS, while in college, Mr. Augustine embarked on a music and hip-hop journey; he adopted the stage name "Dee-1" and cultivated an artistic persona aimed at uplifting and motivating people through his music and melodious modus vivendi; and

WHEREAS, Dee-1 possessed a personal commitment to accountability and self-improvement, which motivated him to depart from RCA Records and establish his own independent label, Mission Vision Music; his label has since transformed into a movement encompassing a podcast and speaker platform with his personal pledge of accountability and self-improvement; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Dee-1 achieved a historic milestone in Louisiana by 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 draws from his own life experiences to positively influence his audiences, and he tailors his musical messages, podcasts, and speeches to bring about the most impact on each audience; and

WHEREAS, his podcast episodes cover a wide array of topics including the mental health of student-athletes, defining and achieving real success on and off the field, and more; and

WHEREAS, while working as a middle school teacher, Mr. Augustine 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, and Musiq Soulchild, 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 showcases his talents, particularly with his notable eighteen-song track list on a single album, which led to a contract with RCA Inspiration Records and secured 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; 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 ESPN's sports, race, and culture website, Mr. Augustine 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, Mr. Augustine also produced a World War II documentary in 2021 titled *The Manhattan Project: The Electronic Field Trip*, which was filmed in New Orleans and garnered a Daytime Emmy nomination; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Augustine was 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., is most deserving of the highest recognition for his unwavering dedication to educating and supporting impoverished communities through music, art, and philanthropy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend David Arnold "Dee-1" Augustine, Jr., for his accomplishments as an educator, musician, activist, influencer, and entrepreneur and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he continue to prosper in all of his endeavors.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES