

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 176

BY SENATOR MORRELL

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Leonard Galmon upon receipt of a prestigious Ron Brown Scholarship and his acceptance by Yale University.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Leonard Galmon upon receipt of a prestigious Ron Brown Scholarship and  
3 upon his acceptance by and plans to attend Yale University.

4 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
5 recognizes the outstanding accomplishments Leonard Galmon has achieved in his eighteen  
6 years of life; and

7 WHEREAS, over five thousand college-bound students applied for the nation's  
8 leading scholarship program for African-American youth with only twenty-six students  
9 selected for the 2014 class of Scholars; and

10 WHEREAS, Ron Brown Scholars are selected on the basis of demonstrated academic  
11 excellence, leadership potential, social commitment, and financial need; and

12 WHEREAS, Leonard's success is deeply rooted in his own personal experience and  
13 life's journey; Leonard was born to a thirteen year old mother and lost his father to the streets  
14 of New Orleans when he was only four years old; and

15 WHEREAS, five years later the winds of Hurricane Katrina destroyed Leonard's  
16 home, which forced a nine year old Leonard to sleep on the Claiborne Avenue bridge while  
17 protecting his younger siblings, including a newborn; and

18 WHEREAS, while Leonard and his family were relocated in Houston, Leonard

1 escaped into the world of books, reading three to four books each week, which influenced  
2 this young man to begin recognizing his potential; and

3 WHEREAS, upon Leonard's return to New Orleans, a few weeks into his high school  
4 freshman year he enrolled at Walter L. Cohen High School where he remained  
5 notwithstanding a one hour and forty-five minute commute to school each day; and

6 WHEREAS, Leonard joined the Cohen High art class in his sophomore year, which  
7 was held in a cinder block room with only one window and one easel that his teacher  
8 donated; and

9 WHEREAS, with the paints his teacher gave him, a paintbrush that he picked up, and  
10 with a memory of the drawing lessons his Uncle Alfred had given him, Leonard produced  
11 his first masterpiece which was selected for a Contemporary Arts Center youth exhibit; and

12 WHEREAS, the summer of 2012 gave Leonard a bedroom of his own, his first ever  
13 after living with seven people in a shotgun house, and a desire to draw; and

14 WHEREAS, during his junior year at Cohen, Leonard continued his diligent studies  
15 and his art, but also developed a restlessness brewing deep inside that led him to enroll at  
16 Cohen College Prep and New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA) for his senior year  
17 of high school; and

18 WHEREAS, Leonard knew from his days in Houston that he was going somewhere,  
19 but just not sure where; the counselors at Cohen College Prep were determined to help  
20 Leonard get there and assisted him in applying to top colleges outside New Orleans and  
21 Louisiana, to places Leonard had only heard of, as Leonard is the first in his family to apply  
22 to any college; and

23 WHEREAS, while at NOCCA many creative firsts were being made by Leonard: his  
24 first screenprint, his first time painting in oils, his first sculpture, his first photography class,  
25 his first woodcut, and his first distinctive voice as a young artist; and

26 WHEREAS, through Uncle Alfred and genetics, Leonard knew how to create, but  
27 he needed guidance and the opportunity to use the tools and techniques Leonard had never  
28 been exposed to; and

29 WHEREAS, recipients of Ron Brown scholarships dedicate themselves to enriching  
30 lives in their local communities and worldwide; and

1           WHEREAS, at eighteen years of age, Leonard Galmon has already enriched the lives  
2 of his family members, his many friends, the city of New Orleans, and the state of Louisiana;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, we know what kind of man Leonard will become by looking at  
5 Leonard's art work, which is filled with images of his precious siblings, to know that  
6 Leonard Galmon is a man that cares deeply for his family and desires to make a positive  
7 difference in the lives of everyone he touches.

8           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
9 does hereby commend Leonard Galmon upon receipt of a prestigious Ron Brown  
10 Scholarship and upon his acceptance by and plans to attend Yale University.

11           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana also  
12 highly commends Leonard Galmon for challenging himself by taking the road less traveled  
13 and not taking the easy, comfortable route, and for never giving up.

14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
15 Leonard Galmon.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Cathy Wells.

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DIGEST

Morrell

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