

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 78

BY REPRESENTATIVE MORENO

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Tonya Boyd-Cannon for her extraordinary musical talents, her outstanding performance on *The Voice*, and for the tremendous pride she brings to the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to commend Tonya Boyd-Cannon, a gifted musical artist who was selected as a contestant on the eighth season of *The Voice*; and

WHEREAS, born in Mississippi and the daughter of a preacher, Tonya Boyd-Cannon grew up playing the saxophone and singing in choirs; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Boyd-Cannon resides in Chalmette with her loving and supportive husband and her daughter and son; she is a graduate of Warren Easton High School; upon her graduation, she became a back-up vocalist for Jean Knight and performed at Jazz Fest on numerous occasions and many other events; and

WHEREAS, she attended Dillard University and later accepted a job at the Orleans Parish Prison, where she became a deputy and worked with the prison's male inmate choir and later founded a jailhouse choir for women; currently, she teaches with the Little Village Youth Ensemble at Dillard University and serves as the music director at St. James AME Church and Austerlitz Street Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Boyd-Cannon recorded her debut album titled "Rise My Child" and after Hurricane Katrina, spent two years in Jackson, Mississippi, and was awarded a scholarship to study vocal performance and music at Tougaloo College; in 2011, Ms. Boyd-Cannon returned to New Orleans and tirelessly networked throughout the music community while teaching music and art; and

WHEREAS, she was a guest of the Stooges Brass Band at the 2012 Jazz Fest, and at the 2013 festival, she performed her own song, "In New Orleans"; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, she attended an open audition for the nationally televised talent show at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center; her fairly rare contralto voice earned her a ticket to a final audition in Los Angeles, California, and afterwards she received the call she had been waiting for, stating that she would sing for celebrity judges during the show's televised auditions; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Boyd-Cannon chose to sing Pharrell Williams' song, "Happy", for her blind audition and within minutes she captured the attention of the judges; she worked with Adam Levine to advance throughout the show's season; and

WHEREAS, during her time on *The Voice*, Ms. Boyd-Cannon shined in the spotlight of the national stage, and she has been a wonderful ambassador for the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of its communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon artists like Tonya Boyd-Cannon, who serves as an inspiration to others because of her integrity and her steadfast dedication to honing her craft; and

WHEREAS, Tonya Boyd-Cannon and her special talents serve as a shining example of the incredible talent in Louisiana, and upon her memorable and historic run on *The Voice*, she merits a special measure of sincere and heartfelt commendation and congratulations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Tonya Boyd-Cannon for her extraordinary musical talents and achievements; does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the wonderful way in which her music touches the lives of countless people throughout the state of Louisiana and the United States of America; and does hereby extend to her best wishes for continued success and happiness in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Tonya Boyd-Cannon.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE