

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 227

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Dr. Melissa Harris-Perry upon her selection as the keynote speaker at the American Association of University Women National Convention.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Harris-Perry is an American author, political scientist, and liberal political commentator with a focus on African American politics and the host of the Melissa Harris-Perry television show on MSNBC; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Harris-Perry was born in Seattle, Washington and raised between the cities of Charlottesville and Chester, Virginia where she attended Thomas Dale High School, and is the youngest of five children; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Harris-Perry is heir to the esteemed intellectual and enlightening pedigree of her parents, as her father William M. Harris Sr., was dean of Afro-American affairs at the University of Virginia, and her mother Diana Gray, taught at a community college and worked for nonprofit organizations with the admirable focus of assisting poor communities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harris-Perry received a bachelor of arts in English from Wake Forest University in 1994, a doctor of philosophy in political science from Duke University in 1999, and an honorary doctorate degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harris-Perry taught political science at the University of Chicago from 1999 to 2005, taught politics and African American studies as an associate professor at Princeton University from 2006 to 2010, and is currently a professor of political science at Tulane University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harris-Perry is the author of *Barbershops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought*, which focuses on the methods African

Americans use to develop political ideas through ordinary conversations in places like barbershops, churches, and popular culture; and

WHEREAS, this particular work won the 2005 W.E.B. DuBois Book Award from the National Conference of Black Political Scientists and the 2005 Best Book Award from the Race and Ethnic Politics Division of the American Political Science Association; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harris-Perry was the key note speaker for the Unitarian Universalist Association on "Faith and Reason: Race, Justice, and American Political Life" in 2009; and

WHEREAS, MSNBC announced on January 5, 2012 that Harris-Perry would host her own weekend show, which would begin airing on February 18, 2012; and

WHEREAS, she became motivated to better understand the role of the black church in political movements during her tenure as a master of divinity student at Union Theological Seminary of New York City; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harris-Perry considers her Wake Forest mentor, Dr. Maya Angelou, to be her most important inspiration for becoming a professor; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harris-Perry currently lives in New Orleans, Louisiana, is married to 2010 mayoral candidate James Perry, and the very proud mother of her daughter, Parker; and

WHEREAS, her interests and affiliations include the study of African American political thought, black religious ideas and practice, and social and clinical psychology, and active membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, on June 9 through 12, 2013, the motivated and empowered members of the American Association of University Women will visit the great city of New Orleans to celebrate their national convention with the theme "Breaking through Barriers: Leading across Generations"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Harris-Perry has been selected as a keynote speaker for the American Association of University Women National Convention.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Melissa Harris-Perry upon her selection as the keynote speaker at the American Association of University Women National Convention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Melissa Harris-Perry.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES