

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 184

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAINES

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Ava Marie DuVernay, an American director, screenwriter, film marketer, and film distributor, for her many accomplishments

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Ava Marie DuVernay, an American director, screenwriter, film marketer, and
3 film distributor, for her many accomplishments.

4 WHEREAS, born on August 24, 1972, in Long Beach, California, Ava Marie
5 DuVernay attended Saint Joseph High School, where she graduated in 1990; she furthered
6 her education at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she graduated with a
7 bachelor of arts degree in 1995; and

8 WHEREAS, throughout her college years, Ms. DuVernay became interested in
9 producing for broadcast journalism; she interned at CBS News and worked on the national
10 evening news with Connie Chung and Dan Rather during the O.J. Simpson murder trial; and

11 WHEREAS, Ms. DuVernay decided to focus on publicity; after her college
12 graduation, she worked at FOX, Savoy Pictures, and other public relations firms for four
13 years before she formed her own agency, The DuVernay Agency, later known as DVA
14 Media + Marketing, in 1999; and

15 WHEREAS, her award winning marketing and publicity firm has provided strategy
16 and execution for more than one hundred film and television projects by many famous
17 directors, such as Steven Spielberg, Clint Eastwood, Michael Mann, Robert Rodriguez,
18 Kevin Smith, Bill Condon, Raoul Peck, and Gurinder Chadha; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2008, Ms. DuVernay made her feature directorial debut with the
20 documentary *This Is the Life*, a history of Los Angeles' Good Life Cafe's arts movement; in
21 2011, her first narrative feature film titled *I Will Follow*, starring Salli Richardson-Whitfield,

1 was released theatrically; Ms. DuVernay's aunt, Denise Sexton, served as the inspiration for
2 this film; and

3 WHEREAS, Roger Ebert recognized *I Will Follow* as one of the best films he had
4 seen about coming to terms with the death of a loved one; the film was also an official
5 selection of the American Film Institute Fest, the Pan-African Film Festival, and the
6 Urbanworld and Chicago International Film Festival; and

7 WHEREAS, at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival, Ms. DuVernay won the Best
8 Director prize for her second feature film, *Middle of Nowhere*; she became the first African
9 American woman to receive this award; and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. DuVernay also directed and co-wrote the movie *Selma*, a twenty
11 million dollar budget movie produced by Plan B Entertainment; and

12 WHEREAS, the unforgettable story chronicles the tumultuous Selma movement
13 organized and led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Southern Christian Leadership
14 Conference, and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee; culminated by the
15 courageous events of "Bloody Sunday" and the historic "Selma to Montgomery March", the
16 film vividly depicted the institutional challenges and brutality faced by the committed
17 protest organizers and brave marchers; and

18 WHEREAS, *Selma* is recognized as being one of the most powerful movies ever
19 produced; it pulls together a very complex series of elements into a single narrative flow
20 while accurately displaying the heart, spirit, sacrifices, and ultimate triumph of the Civil
21 Rights Movement; and

22 WHEREAS, the movie was released on December 25, 2014, and was nominated for
23 Best Picture and Best Song by the Academy Awards; and

24 WHEREAS, for her work with *Selma*, Ms. DuVernay was the first black female
25 director nominated for a Golden Globe Award and the first black female director to have a
26 film nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture; and

27 WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize and commend Ava Marie DuVernay, an
28 American director, screenwriter, film marketer, and film distributor, upon her many
29 accomplishments and for the great pride she brings to the film industry.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
2 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Ava Marie DuVernay for her many
3 accomplishments as an American director, screenwriter, film marketer, and film distributor
4 and does hereby extend to her every good wish of success in all her future endeavors.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
6 to Ava Marie DuVernay.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 184 Original

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