

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 281

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD

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

1 A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

14 WHEREAS, in 2021, Dee-1 achieved a historic milestone in Louisiana by becoming  
15 the first rapper appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards to a statewide position on the  
16 Louisiana Council for the Success of Black Men and Boys, a position he dedicated to his late  
17 grandmother and as a tribute to his harmonious Mission Vision lifestyle; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Augustine draws from his own life experiences to positively  
19 influence his audiences, and he tailors his musical messages, podcasts, and speeches to bring  
20 about the most impact on each audience; and

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

4           WHEREAS, while working as a middle school teacher, Mr. Augustine embarked on  
5 an impressive musical journey by releasing a series of mixtapes including *It's Only the*  
6 *Beginning*, *Still We Rise*, and *I am Who I Am*, followed by the release of his debut studio  
7 album, *David & Goliath*, which marked the beginning of a consistent streak of musical  
8 achievements; moreover, he expanded his repertoire to include a notable New Orleans  
9 Saints-themed song titled, *Bring 'Em to the Dome*; and

10           WHEREAS, following tours beside renowned artists such as Lil Wayne, Lupe  
11 Fiasco, Drake, The Roots, and Musiq Soulchild, Dee-1's remarkable melodic expedition  
12 culminated in October 2010 when he was honored as the Artist of the Year at the NOLA  
13 Underground Hip Hop Awards; and

14           WHEREAS, through his ongoing musical ventures, Dee-1 continuously showcases  
15 his talents, particularly with his notable eighteen-song track list on a single album, which led  
16 to a contract with RCA Inspiration Records and secured several noteworthy positions on  
17 Billboard's Top Ten chart; and

18           WHEREAS, following the release of *Against Us*, a culturally conscious album that  
19 addressed societal issues, Dee-1 shifted his focus to releasing songs that delved deeper into  
20 his personal life and the further strengthening of his faith; his hyper-energetic track titled,  
21 *Sallie Mae Back*, which celebrated the successful completion of his student loan payments,  
22 garnered critical acclaim from *Time* magazine as well as CNN, ESPN, Forbes, and with *The*  
23 *Washington Post* describing it as "the anthem of a generation"; and

24           WHEREAS, in addition to being recruited to compose the theme song titled *We Are*  
25 *Undefeated* for ESPN's sports, race, and culture website, Mr. Augustine wrote the lyrics for  
26 the *F.A.S.T. Song* in collaboration with the American Heart Association, aimed at raising  
27 awareness about stroke warning signs and actions to take when a stroke occurs; and

28           WHEREAS, Mr. Augustine also produced a World War II documentary in 2021  
29 titled *The Manhattan Project: The Electronic Field Trip*, which was filmed in New Orleans  
30 and garnered a Daytime Emmy nomination; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Augustine was honored in 2021 with the prestigious Power of  
2 Image Award by the NAACP, recognizing his influential impact and dedicated efforts in  
3 promoting positivity within impoverished communities; and

4           WHEREAS, David Arnold "Dee-1" Augustine, Jr., is most deserving of the highest  
5 recognition for his unwavering dedication to educating and supporting impoverished  
6 communities through music, art, and philanthropy.

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

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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)]

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HR 281 Original

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