

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTERS

COMMENDATIONS: Commemorating the Martha's Vineyard African-American Film Festival on the occasion of its twenty-fourth anniversary and its role in elevating Black excellence in film

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend and recognize the Martha's Vineyard African-American Film Festival for  
3 twenty-four years of Black excellence in film and for its significant contributions to  
4 cinema, culture, and education.

5 WHEREAS, the Martha's Vineyard African-American Film Festival (MVAAFF) was  
6 founded in 2002 by the husband-and-wife team, Stephanie and Floyd Rance, to celebrate and  
7 showcase films created by or prominently featuring Black filmmakers, actors, and  
8 storytellers; and

9 WHEREAS, the MVAAFF has grown into a nationally recognized and highly  
10 regarded nine-day annual cultural event held in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts, featuring  
11 screenings, panel discussions, networking events, and special celebrations such as the  
12 Summer White Party and Black Excellence Brunch; and

13 WHEREAS, the MVAAFF is recognized as an Oscar-qualifying festival for short  
14 films, underscoring its prominence in the film industry, while serving as a platform for  
15 independent and studio films, including documentaries and short films that highlight the  
16 creative achievements of Black artists and Black voices; and

17 WHEREAS, for more than two decades, the MVAAFF has attracted influential  
18 figures in the film industry and cultural leaders, fostering community engagement and  
19 supporting emerging Black filmmakers through educational programs, mentorship, and  
20 workshops; and

1           WHEREAS, the MVA AFF draws national and international audiences to Martha's  
2 Vineyard, contributing to the local economy and promoting the island as a center for cultural  
3 celebration and artistic excellence; and

4           WHEREAS, films and filmmakers presented at the festival have earned national  
5 recognition, awards, and acclaim, with the MVA AFF playing a key role in amplifying Black  
6 voices in the film industry; and

7           WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana wishes to  
8 recognize and honor the MVA AFF for its enduring contributions to celebrating and  
9 advancing Black artistry in film, culture, and education.

10           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
11 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate the Martha's Vineyard  
12 African-American Film Festival on the occasion of its twenty-fourth anniversary for its  
13 significant impact on the film industry and the elevation of Black voices in global cinema.

14           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature  
15 of Louisiana encourages the continued growth and success of the festival in advancing Black  
16 artistry, storytelling, and cultural excellence.

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
18 founders of the Martha's Vineyard African-American Film Festival, Stephanie and Floyd  
19 Rance, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to cinema and the arts.

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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 113 Original

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Walters

Commends the Martha's Vineyard African-American Film Festival (MVA AFF) on the occasion of its 24th anniversary and recognizes its contributions to Black excellence in film, culture, and education.