

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 329

BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTERS

A RESOLUTION

To commemorate the one hundred sixth anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance.

WHEREAS, the Harlem Renaissance emerged after World War I as the Great Migration brought an array of African American artists and scholars to the Harlem neighborhood in New York City; the cultural explosion was widespread and occurred in Cleveland, Los Angeles, and other cities impacted by the migration; and

WHEREAS, the Harlem Renaissance is among the most significant eras of cultural expression in American history, encompassing poetry and prose, painting and sculpture, jazz and swing, and opera and dance, and the movement united these diverse art forms by emphasizing their realistic presentations of what it meant to be Black in America; and

WHEREAS, Zora Neale Hurston was an anthropologist, folklorist, and prolific writer who cared deeply about African American people and culture and broke literary norms by focusing her work on the experience of Black women; she is often referred to as the "Queen of the Harlem Renaissance" for her impact and contributions during the era; she co-founded the nation's oldest Black collegiate newspaper, *The Hilltop*, during her time as a student at Howard University; she also established the school of dramatic arts at Bethune-Cookman College in 1934; she is considered among the greatest writers of the twentieth century, and her work continues to influence writers throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Alain Locke was a Harvard-educated writer, critic, and teacher who has been referred to as the "dean" of the Harlem Renaissance; he described the cultural movement as a "spiritual coming of age" in which African Americans transformed "social disillusionment to race pride"; and

WHEREAS, Langston Hughes described the movement's diverse art as an "expression of our individual dark-skinned selves," and he identified a new militancy in African Americans' assertion of their civil and political rights; and

WHEREAS, the Harlem Renaissance's most significant contributors were intellectuals, W.E.B. Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, Cyril Briggs, and Walter Francis White;

performers, Josephine Baker and Paul Robeson; writers and poets, Zora Neale Hurston, Effie Lee Newsome, and Countee Cullen; visual artists, Aaron Douglas and Augusta Savage; and an extraordinary list of legendary musicians, including Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Eubie Blake, Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Ivie Anderson, Fats Waller, Jelly Roll Morton, and many others; and

WHEREAS, Harlem became a central location of American culture at the height of the movement; the neighborhood was a bustling hub of African American-owned and run publishing houses and newspapers, music companies, playhouses, nightclubs, and cabarets; the movement's literature, music, and fashion defined "cool" for all Americans, regardless of race, and its influence spread across the globe; and

WHEREAS, the Harlem Renaissance brought notice to the great works of African American art and inspired future generations of artists and intellectuals; the movement shared a portrait of African American life, identity, and culture with the world and radically redefined how people of other races viewed and understood African Americans and their experience; and

WHEREAS, the Harlem Renaissance provided African Americans with a new spirit of self-determination and pride, a new social consciousness, and a new commitment to political activism, all of which served as the foundations for the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commemorate the one hundred sixth anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance and does hereby recognize the outstanding contributions made by African Americans to the cultural identity of the United States.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES