

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 76

BY SENATOR BROOME

A RESOLUTION

To commend Leonard Augustus Jr. for his contributions to the fine arts.

WHEREAS, Leonard Augustus Jr. is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, graduated from Scotlandville High School, served six years in the United States Army Reserves, and graduated from Southern University; and

WHEREAS, he is an acclaimed dancer, singer, actor, choreographer, and community activist, along with being the education program consultant for the Louisiana State Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, his dance career originated with The Dancers' Workshop, home of the Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre, and he has worked to expand the workshop program by attending annual Southwest Dance Conferences where renowned choreographers and teachers offer extended fine arts career instruction; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Augustus is the recipient of the 2010 Louisiana Division of the Arts Artist Fellowship award, participates in numerous master choreographers classes that tour throughout Louisiana, and mentors underserved children and adults who are interested in dance and theater; and

WHEREAS, following his belief that God is generous, he shares his mastered skills by supporting charitable organizations to raise money and awareness, and has reintroduced the art of dance in worship ceremonies and diverse venues where the community has named him a teacher, preacher, community builder, poet, activist, king of dance, counselor, and missionary; and

WHEREAS, volunteer efforts of Mr. Augustus include work at the Food Bank, the Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response Center, Susan G. Komen, the HIV/Aids Alliance for Region II, Inc., the Mid City Dance Project, the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association, the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, the Louisiana State University Athletic Department, Flashmob, Big Buddy, the Arc of East Ascension, Tulipa, Inc., and he serves on the board of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, appointed by the Louisiana State Department of Education superintendent; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Augustus has numerous performance roles as a dancer, choreographer, emcee, and director; he has served as emcee for the annual Louisiana Public Broadcasting membership drive; he has danced and choreographed in *CATS*, *A Chorus Line*, *42nd Street*, *Don Quixote*, and *West Side Story* with the Baton Rouge Little Theater; he has directed Big Buddy Annual Dancing with the Stars, "Dance Arty" with the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, and the film by Andre Chapoy, *Harvest of the Dead*; and

WHEREAS, he has also served as a local judge for the local FOX Network for *So You Think You Can Dance* and *American Idol*.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Leonard Augustus Jr. for his extraordinary contributions to the fine arts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mr. Leonard Augustus Jr.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE