

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY REPRESENTATIVES BOUIE, BAGNERIS, CARPENTER, GARY CARTER, COX, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GLOVER, HALL, JIMMY HARRIS, HUNTER, JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JENKINS, JORDAN, TERRY LANDRY, LYONS, MARCELLE, DUSTIN MILLER, NORTON, PIERRE, PRICE, AND SMITH AND SENATORS BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, CARTER, COLOMB, MORRELL, PETERSON, AND TARVER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Ernest James Gaines, world renowned novelist, short story writer, and teacher, for his many accomplishments and upon his receipt of the Urban League of Louisiana Equal Opportunity Award.

WHEREAS, Ernest James Gaines was born in Pointe Coupee Parish; and

WHEREAS, because there was no high school for African Americans in his parish at that time, at the age of fifteen, he moved to California, joining his mother and stepfather, to attend high school; and

WHEREAS, after his high school graduation and serving his country in the United States Army, Mr. Gaines enrolled at San Francisco State University, where he began publishing stories in the university's quarterly literary journal; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gaines attended graduate school at Stanford University, where he focused on creative writing; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, he accepted the position of "writer-in-residence" at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, Mr. Gaines published *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*; in 1983, he published *A Gathering of Old Men*; and in 1999, he published *A Lesson Before Dying*, which is one of his most critically acclaimed novels; and

WHEREAS, before his retirement in 2004, Mr. Gaines won numerous awards including the Louisiana Humanist of the Year Award, the National Humanities Medal, and a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, he was also made a Chevalier of the French Order of Arts and Letters;
and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gaines is among the most widely read and highly respected contemporary authors of African American fiction.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Ernest James Gaines for his many accomplishments and upon his receipt of the Urban League of Louisiana Equal Opportunity Award; does hereby recognize and record for posterity his exceptional literary achievements; and does hereby extend to him best wishes for continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Ernest James Gaines.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE