

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 329

BY REPRESENTATIVE WALTERS

COMMENDATIONS: Commemorates the one hundred sixth anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance

1 A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS, Alain Locke was a Harvard-educated writer, critic, and teacher who has
20 been referred to as the "dean" of the Harlem Renaissance; he described the cultural

1 movement as a "spiritual coming of age" in which African Americans transformed "social
2 disillusionment to race pride"; and

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

6 WHEREAS, the Harlem Renaissance's most significant contributors were
7 intellectuals, W.E.B. Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, Cyril Briggs, and Walter Francis White;
8 performers, Josephine Baker and Paul Robeson; writers and poets, Zora Neale Hurston, Effie
9 Lee Newsome, and Countee Cullen; visual artists, Aaron Douglas and Augusta Savage; and
10 an extraordinary list of legendary musicians, including Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Eubie
11 Blake, Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Ivie Anderson, Fats Waller, Jelly Roll
12 Morton, and many others; and

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

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

23 WHEREAS, the Harlem Renaissance provided African Americans with a new spirit
24 of self-determination and pride, a new social consciousness, and a new commitment to
25 political activism, all of which served as the foundations for the civil rights movement of the
26 1950s and 1960s.

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

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)]

HR 329 Original

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Walters

Commemorates the 106th anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance.