Chapter No. 2041
13/HR07/R2166
EW/gj

3/22/13

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 91

Originated in House _____ Clerk

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 91

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING CASSANDRA "CASSI" DAVIS FOR HER DISTINGUISHED ACTING CAREER AND FOR RECEIVING THE NAACP IMAGE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACTRESS IN A COMEDY SERIES FOR THE SECOND TIME IN 2013.

WHEREAS, Cassandra "Cassi" Davis, a native of the booming metropolis of Holly Springs, Mississippi, is an actress who has had numerous roles on stage, on television and in the movies, but she is best known for her role as matriarch Ella Payne on *Tyler Perry's House of Payne*, which was one of the highest rated sitcoms on cable television; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of the late John and Catherine Davis of Holly Springs, Cassi grew up there with her three siblings and graduated from Holly Springs High School in 1984, and then she headed for Atlanta to attend the prestigious all-women Spelman College; and

WHEREAS, at Spelman, Cassi majored in music with a concentration in vocal performance to learn to be a gospel singer, leaving school only one credit hour short of graduating because

she was not allowed to perform religious music during her senior recital, but she returned to Spelman in 2008 to complete her degree and graduated in December of that same year; and

WHEREAS, Cassi got her start in acting in local theater, and she had appeared in several movies and on television when director and writer, Tyler Perry, began contacting her about acting in some of his plays, but she turned him down until she finally took a part in his musical play, *Madea Goes to Jail*, which was a hit; and

WHEREAS, as Tyler Perry's success continued to grow, Cassi was cast in more parts in his various productions until he decided to create a television show with her in a lead role, *Tyler Perry's House of Payne*, which premiered in June 2006 and ran for a total of 254 episodes until August 2012, more episodes than any other television series of any genre with a predominantly African-American cast; and

WHEREAS, Cassi grew up in the church and sang in the choir since she was age 5, and she credits her devout, born-again Christian faith as the main reason behind her professional success and she often exclaims, "God Did It!"; and

WHEREAS, in her acting roles, Cassi brings to the screen a wealth of personality and warmth to match her great talent, and she has been recognized for her acting skills with several awards, including receiving Best Supporting Actress by the NAACP Theatre Award Committee (Los Angeles Chapter) in 2004 and the NAACP Image

Award for Outstanding Actress in a Comedy Series in 2010 and again in 2013 for her role in *House of Payne*; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to commend impressive accomplishments of Mississippi natives, such as Cassi Davis, and it is with great pride that we recognize this respected and distinguished actress who has brought honor to the State of Mississippi:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN, That we commend and congratulate Cassandra "Cassi" Davis of Holly Springs, Mississippi, for her distinguished acting career and for receiving the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actress in a Comedy Series for the second time in 2013.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be furnished to Cassi Davis and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
March 19, 2013

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ADOPTED BY THE SENATE
March 22, 2013

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE