

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 490

Recognizing the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for 50 years of service to the performing arts.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 31 (legislative day, MARCH 13), 2008

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

SEPTEMBER 23 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 17), 2008

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for 50 years of service to the performing arts.

Whereas the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (AAADT) is widely recognized as one of the world's premier modern dance companies;

Whereas AAADT is dedicated to promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience, to preserving the heritage of modern dance, and to bringing modern dance to people around the globe;

Whereas, over its 50-year history, AAADT has performed for an estimated 21,000,000 people in 48 States and in 71 countries on 6 continents;

Whereas AAADT tours more than any other performing arts company in the world;

Whereas AAADT's signature work, "Revelations", has been seen by more people around the globe than any other work of dance;

Whereas AAADT performs works by both emerging and established choreographers from throughout the United States and the world;

Whereas AAADT's home in New York City, The Joan Weill Center for Dance, is the largest facility dedicated exclusively to dance in the United States;

Whereas Alvin Ailey, founder of AAADT, received the United Nations Peace Medal in 1982;

Whereas President George W. Bush recognized AAADT and Artistic Director Judith Jamison with the National Medal of Arts in 2001, making AAADT the first dance company to be so honored;

Whereas AAADT has performed for United States Presidents and foreign leaders throughout the company's 50-year history, including performances in 1968 for President Johnson, in 1977 at the inaugural gala for President Carter, in 1993 at the inaugural gala for President Clinton, and in 2003 at a state dinner honoring President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya;

Whereas, over the years, AAADT has brought the culture of the United States to audiences around the world with performances at such historic events as the Rio de Janeiro International Arts Festival in 1963, the first Negro Arts Festival in Dakar, Senegal, in 1966, the fabled New Year's Eve performance for the Crown Prince of Morocco in 1978, the Paris Centennial performance at the Grand

Palais Theatre in 1989, 2 unprecedented engagements in South Africa in 1997 and 1998, the 1996 and 2002 Olympic Games, the 2005 Stars of the White Nights festival in St. Petersburg, Russia, and the 2006 Les étés de la danse de Paris festival in Paris, France;

Whereas AAADT annually provides more than 100,000 young people from diverse cultural, social, and economic backgrounds with the opportunity to explore their creative potential and build their self-esteem through its Arts in Education and Community Programs, which includes 9 Ailey Camps in cities across the United States;

Whereas Ailey II, the junior company to AAADT, reaches more than 69,000 people each year through its inspiring performances and outreach activities while touring to smaller communities in more than 50 North American cities; and

Whereas the Ailey School, accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance, provides the highest quality training consistent with the professional standards of AAADT, including a Certificate Program, a Fellowship Program, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program in conjunction with Fordham University: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes and commends the Alvin Ailey
3 American Dance Theater (AAADT) for 50 years of
4 service as a cultural ambassador of the United
5 States to the world, by bringing world-class Amer-
6 ican modern dance to an estimated 21,000,000 peo-
7 ple around the globe;

1 (2) recognizes that AAADT has been a true
2 pioneer in the world of dance by establishing an ex-
3 tended cultural community that provides dance per-
4 formances, training, and community programs to all
5 people while using the beauty and humanity of the
6 African-American heritage and other cultures to
7 unite people of all ages, races, and backgrounds; and

8 (3) recognizes that Ailey II, the prestigious
9 Ailey School, and the extensive and innovative Arts
10 in Education and Community Programs of AAADT
11 train future generations of dancers and choreogra-
12 phers while continuing to expose young people from
13 communities large and small to the arts.

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