

By: Farrar

H.R. No. 245

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Cleopatra Nia Williams of Houston has accomplished  
2 much in her 20 years, and this remarkable performer with the Houston  
3 Ballet Company is proving daily that her star will continue to rise  
4 ever higher in the years to come; and

5 WHEREAS, Born June 15, 1982, Ms. Williams exhibited  
6 exceptional ability early in life; at the age of three, she began  
7 her first ballet class and was noted by her instructor to be  
8 disciplined and focused, rare qualities in a child so young; and

9 WHEREAS, By the age of five, this prodigy danced in her first  
10 professional performance of *The Nutcracker* and was soon offered a  
11 scholarship to Margo Marshall's School of Ballet, home of City  
12 Ballet of Houston; in 1995, she was selected to join the elite  
13 Joffrey School of Ballet in New York City; and

14 WHEREAS, After declining the school's offer to stay an  
15 additional year, she returned to her hometown to attend the High  
16 School of Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA) in Houston and to hone  
17 her skills at the Houston Ballet Academy; and

18 WHEREAS, Demonstrating an unwavering dedication to her  
19 craft, Ms. Williams left HSPVA after being denied her request to  
20 attend afternoon ballet practice; placing ballet as her top  
21 priority, she successfully auditioned for the Houston Ballet  
22 Company and is currently part of the company's corps de ballet, in  
23 which capacity she has earned the admiration of countless patrons  
24 of the arts for her ability to convey emotion and expression through

1 the beauty of her movement; and

2 WHEREAS, Ms. Williams enjoys the support of her family in all  
3 of her endeavors; she is especially encouraged and adored by her  
4 mother, Lydia, who has raised this gifted young lady with the help  
5 of Cleopatra's grandparents, Cleola and Rudolph Williams, her  
6 great-great-grandmother Leola Williams, and her aunt and uncle,  
7 Regina and Clyde Williams; and

8 WHEREAS, A young woman of incredible dedication and talent,  
9 Ms. Williams has the tools necessary to achieve all of her goals,  
10 and stands as a role model to other young people who tenaciously  
11 work past any hurdles placed in their way to make their dreams a  
12 reality; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
14 Legislature hereby commend Cleopatra Nia Williams on her artistic  
15 achievement and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued  
16 success and happiness; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
18 prepared for Ms. Williams as an expression of high regard by the  
19 Texas House of Representatives.