

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 748

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The accomplished television, film, and stage actor
2 James Avery is visiting the State Capitol on this day, April 14,
3 2005, providing a welcome opportunity to commend him on his
4 successful career; and

5 WHEREAS, A New Jersey native, Mr. Avery began his college
6 career at Virginia State University, but he left school after a year
7 and joined the U.S. Navy; after serving his country in Vietnam, he
8 settled in San Diego, where he wrote poetry and television scripts
9 for PBS, winning an Emmy and a scholarship to the University of
10 California at San Diego; he earned a bachelor's degree in drama and
11 literature at UCSD and later received an honorary doctorate from
12 his earlier alma mater, Virginia State; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Avery is perhaps best known for his role as
14 Philip Banks on the enormously popular NBC television series, *The*
15 *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, which ran from 1990 to 1996; his other
16 innumerable credits include recurring roles on executive producer
17 Will Smith's *All of Us* on UPN, Showtime's *Soul Food*, and Lifetime's
18 *The Division*, and he has previously had recurring roles on such
19 popular series as *Murder One*, *L.A. Law*, and *Hill Street Blues*; he
20 has guest-starred on *NYPD Blue*, *That '70s Show*, *C.S.I.*, *The Jamie*
21 *Foxx Show*, and *Dharma and Greg* and has appeared in original movies
22 for the Disney Channel and ABC, among others; his feature film work
23 includes *Third Wish*, *The Brady Bunch Movie*, and *Dancing in*
24 *September*, which was selected as an official entry in the 2001

1 Sundance Film Festival; and

2 WHEREAS, In addition to hosting the critically acclaimed
3 travel and adventure PBS series, *Going Places*, he has lent his
4 distinctive voice to more than a dozen animated features and
5 television shows, including *Aladdin*, *Spider-Man*, and *Dr. Doolittle*
6 2; and

7 WHEREAS, Equally at home in the theater, this classically
8 trained actor most recently impressed critics and audiences alike
9 in a 2004 Los Angeles production of August Wilson's *Ma Rainey's*
10 *Black Bottom*; he has also appeared in numerous Shakespeare plays
11 over the years, including performing the lead role in *Othello* at the
12 Oregon Shakespeare Festival; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Avery also finds time to give back to his
14 community; as the son of a schoolteacher, he recognizes the
15 importance of education and educators and serves as a spokesperson
16 for CalTeach, California's Teacher Recruitment Campaign; just as
17 passionate about supporting our troops at home and abroad, he has
18 made USO visits to Guam and the Marshall Islands in January 2005, to
19 Korea in 2003, and to Kosovo, Macedonia, and Bosnia in 2002; and

20 WHEREAS, In an address to the 1996 graduating class of
21 Virginia State University, James Avery advised the predominantly
22 African American student body that each generation stands on the
23 shoulders of the generation that came before, and while this gifted
24 and compassionate artist continues to excel in his own career, he
25 has clearly supplied strong and sturdy shoulders for the next wave
26 of young African American actors and actresses; now, therefore, be
27 it

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1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
2 Legislature hereby extend a hearty Texas welcome to James Avery
3 and, in honor of his visit, recognize April 14, 2005, as James Avery
4 Day at the State Capitol.