

By: Mallory Caraway

H.R. No. 1207

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Throughout his noteworthy career in film,
2 television, and the theater, Louis Gossett, Jr., has distinguished
3 himself as an award-winning actor and a champion for racial
4 equality; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on May 27, 1936, in Brooklyn, New York, Louis
6 Gossett landed his first leading role as a 16-year-old in the
7 Broadway production of *Take a Giant Step* in 1953; he went on to
8 appear in the stage and film versions of *A Raisin in the Sun* in 1961,
9 as well as in numerous television series during the 1960s and 1970s;
10 in 1977, Mr. Gossett earned an Emmy for his portrayal of "Fiddler"
11 in the ABC miniseries *Roots*, and he won the Academy Award for Best
12 Actor in a Supporting Role in 1982 for his performance in *An Officer*
13 *and a Gentleman*; Mr. Gossett continued to seek diverse and
14 challenging roles, and he was featured in such projects as the
15 action adventure series *Iron Eagle* from 1985 through 1995 and in
16 *Diggstown* and *Toy Soldiers* in 1991; moreover, Mr. Gossett has
17 received additional industry accolades, including Golden Globes
18 and People's Choice awards, and he landed a role on the popular
19 science fiction television series *Stargate SG-1*; and

20 WHEREAS, Committed to socially themed pictures, Mr. Gossett
21 appeared in *To Dance with Olivia* in 1997 and *Jasper, Texas* in 2003,
22 and he also developed the Eracism Foundation, a nonprofit
23 organization that calls attention to issues of racism and
24 intolerance through entertainment; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Gossett's latest film, *The Least Among You*, is
2 being featured at the 2009 AFI Dallas International Film Festival;
3 inspired by a true story, the movie examines racial tension in the
4 aftermath of the 1965 Watts riots, and it received the Best Texas
5 Film and Audience Choice awards at the 2009 Texas Black Film
6 Festival, where Mr. Gossett was also chosen as Best Actor; and

7 WHEREAS, As a performer, Louis Gossett, Jr., has garnered
8 acclaim from critics and audiences alike, and by reaching beyond
9 his profession to advocate for social awareness and compassion, he
10 is an inspiration to many; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
12 Legislature hereby commend Louis Gossett, Jr., for his impressive
13 body of work and for his dedication to pursuing and maintaining the
14 highest standards in the performing arts and extend to him
15 gratitude for his support of the State of Texas; and, be it further

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

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