

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 881

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to welcome the touring production of *Fela!* to Dallas and to recognize the performers and production team for their support of nonprofit organizations in the community; and

WHEREAS, This exuberant and inspiring musical is based on the life of Fela Kuti, who was the creator of the Afrobeat musical genre; Mr. Kuti was a Nigerian musician and activist who used his gift for songwriting to exhort his countrymen to protest the tyranny of successive military dictatorships in Nigeria; and

WHEREAS, The touring production features an outstanding cast that includes recording artist Michelle Williams of Destiny's Child; it is produced by Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter and Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith and has received resounding international acclaim; and

WHEREAS, *Fela!* is impressively directed and choreographed by the award-winning choreographer Bill T. Jones; the original Broadway production won three Tony Awards in 2010; and

WHEREAS, The talented members of the *Fela!* cast and crew are also committed to helping the communities in which they perform, and in a fitting tribute to Mr. Kuti's keen sense of social justice, the production is donating a portion of the proceeds from the Dallas shows to local nonprofit organizations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby commend the cast and crew of *Fela!* on their outstanding production and extend to them sincere appreciation for their support of nonprofit community groups in Texas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for them as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

West

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the
above Resolution was adopted by
the Senate on May 13, 2013.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate