

SENATE RESOLUTION 184

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Archie Moss, Jr., for his meritorious service to his students and their families as principal of Bruce Elementary School in Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should specially recognize those outstanding citizens who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education and learning environments for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Archie Moss, Jr., is one such estimable individual, who is the principal of Bruce Elementary School in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Moss recently received national attention when he was featured on a segment of *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* for his work with his students and their families; during the program, Ms. DeGeneres and Box Tops for Education presented the school with a check for \$25,000, to the shock and delight of Mr. Moss; and

WHEREAS, as principal of Bruce Elementary School, Archie Moss coaches step and basketball teams, runs a mentorship program, and hands out his phone number to parents, taking their calls day or night; and

WHEREAS, Principal Moss and his faculty and staff provide food, school supplies, and clothing to the students of Bruce Elementary School, and they take pride in being a family for their scholars; they have remained committed to staying connected with students during the COVID-19 pandemic and outside of the regular school year; and

WHEREAS, Archie Moss reads books to his students each week on Facebook Live, which students can go back and rewatch; Mr. Moss makes an effort to find books with suitable messages to reach the wide age range of his students that feature characters who look like them; and

WHEREAS, as an African-American gentleman who leads a student body and staff primarily composed of African-American individuals, Archie Moss felt compelled to speak out about the protests for racial equality and justice that have occurred in Memphis and cities around the world following the senseless killing of George Floyd; and

WHEREAS, in a letter to his school family, Principal Moss expressed his conviction that now is not a time to remain silent, offered validation for their feelings during this difficult time, and invited boys of color in grades three through twelve to attend a webinar that would serve as an online safe space and an opportunity to reflect on recent events; and

WHEREAS, Principal Moss wants his students to know that he sees them for who they are, not as negative stereotypes seen in the news media; they matter, and their voices matter; and

WHEREAS, Archie Moss epitomizes the dedicated principal who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend Archie Moss, Jr., for his meritorious service to his students and their families as principal of Bruce Elementary School in Memphis and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.