

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 184

BY SENATOR BROOME

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Maresa Adalyn Watson, a recent graduate of Scotlandville Magnet High School, on being selected as a recipient of the 2013 Gates Millennium Scholarship.

WHEREAS, it is with great honor and pride that the members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned that Maresa Adalyn Watson, a recent graduate of Scotlandville Magnet High School in Baton Rouge, has received the 2013 Gates Millennium Scholarship; and

WHEREAS, Maresa, president of her senior class, was in the top two percent of her class and carried an un-weighted GPA of 3.8 and a weighted GPA of 4.35, has a composite score of 29 on the ACT, and is a National Achievement Participant; and

WHEREAS, she placed first in the District English IV Literary Rally this year and second in the District English III Literary Rally in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Maresa also earned several scholarships, including Scotlandville High School Alumni Scholarship, Tulane University Book Award, Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society Award, Pelican State Credit Union Scholarship, as well as scholarships from Southeastern Louisiana University, University of Louisiana in Lafayette, Georgia State University, and other colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, during the summer after her tenth grade year, her mother enrolled her in a five-week summer enrichment program called the Sankofa Academy and Maresa strongly believes that her participation in this academy enhanced her study skills in the critical thinking skills she needed to maximize her intelligence to the best of her abilities; and

WHEREAS, despite facing several hindrances in life, she remained strong and focused on her education; in the fourth grade, she suffered from a bout with Bell's Palsy; in the fifth grade, Hurricane Katrina destroyed her home and before the family found adequate housing, her family slept on the floor of a church for two months; her father was incarcerated when she was in the seventh grade; and, in February of this year, her brother was diagnosed with cancer; and

WHEREAS, Maresa Adalyn Watson is the daughter of Troy Norflin Watson of Baker and Kevin Tyrone Watson Sr. of New Orleans; her maternal grandparents are Bernadine Edwards of Clinton, and Alvin Norflin of Yonkers, New York; her paternal grandparents are Henry and Wyonia Thais Watson of Bridge City, Louisiana; and she is the youngest among four brothers, Christopher, Alvin, Kevin Jr., and Henry Watson; and

WHEREAS, Maresa Adalyn Watson, through her dedication and focus on her education and her academic accomplishments, has brought honor and recognition to herself and a source of pride to her family, her school, her community, and her state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Maresa Adalyn Watson on being selected as a recipient of the 2013 Gates Millennium Scholarship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana extends to Maresa Adalyn Watson best wishes for a bright future and great success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the Resolution be transmitted to Maresa Adalyn Watson.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE