

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 148

By Tate

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Stax Museum of American Soul Music upon receiving the 2015 Governor's Arts Award for Arts Leadership.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to commend those exemplary institutions that, through an abiding commitment to excellence, have made significant contributions to the arts and brought national acclaim to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable organization is the Stax Museum of American Soul Music, which received the 2015 Governor's Arts Award for Arts Leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Arts Awards were established in 1971 by the Tennessee Arts Commission to recognize those individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the cultural life of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Stax Records is one of the most influential music labels in the world, touting such music icons as Otis Redding, Isaac Hayes, Booker T. & the MGs, the Staple Singers, Rufus & Carla Thomas, Sam & Dave, and many others; and

WHEREAS, after the company was forced into involuntary bankruptcy in 1975, the original studios were demolished in 1989, leaving only a decrepit, empty lot; and

WHEREAS, the Stax Museum of American Soul Music, the world's only soul music museum, broke ground on April 20, 2001, and opened its doors on May 2, 2003. It has received thousands of visitors from around the world, greatly enhancing the State as an international tourist destination and generating millions of dollars for the economy; and

WHEREAS, the museum serves as a catalyst for the revitalization of the surrounding, historically rich community, known as "Soulsville, USA"; and

WHEREAS, the Stax Museum of American Soul Music was named the “Most Authentic American Experience in Tennessee” by *Time* magazine in 2008, and was cited by *National Geographic Traveler* magazine as being at the forefront of a cultural renaissance, making Memphis “one of the top twenty cities in the world to visit in 2013”; and

WHEREAS, the museum serves as the window to the world for its Stax Music Academy and The Soulsville Charter School; since 2008, all of the high school seniors from both of these institutions have gone on to college proving that a museum can be more than merely a tourist destination by helping to change lives; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the Stax Museum of American Soul Music upon receiving the 2015 Governor’s Arts Award for Arts Leadership, commend their extraordinary contributions to the arts, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in all their future endeavors.

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