

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 72

Recognizing the artistic and cultural contributions of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the 50th Anniversary of the first performance of Alvin Ailey's masterwork, "Revelations".

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 17, 2011

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the artistic and cultural contributions of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and the 50th Anniversary of the first performance of Alvin Ailey's masterwork, "Revelations".

Whereas Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is recognized as one of the world's great dance companies;

Whereas Congress has recognized the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater as one of our Nation's most important cultural ambassadors;

Whereas at the age of 29, founder Alvin Ailey first premiered the dance work, Revelations, on January 31, 1960, at the famed 92nd Street Y in New York City;

Whereas Revelations is set to spirituals and draws inspiration from Ailey's memories as a child growing up in Texas,

and from the work of African-American writers such as James Baldwin and Langston Hughes;

Whereas since its premiere, *Revelations* has been seen by more than 23 million theatergoers, in 71 countries, and on 6 continents, making it the most widely seen works of modern dance;

Whereas *Revelations* was performed in front of a worldwide audience as part of the opening ceremonies of the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City;

Whereas *Revelations* has been performed for 5 U.S. Presidents, including at the inaugurations of President Carter in 1977 and President Clinton in 1993;

Whereas *Revelations* captures the faith and perseverance of the African-American people, and has influenced, and was influenced by, African-American cultural heritage and the social fabric of the United States; and

Whereas *Revelations* is beloved by people around the world, and its universal themes illustrate the strength and humanity within all of us: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Senate honors the Alvin Ailey
- 2 American Dance Theater as it celebrates the 50th anniversary
- 3 of the dance work *Revelations*.

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