

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1726

A RESOLUTION recognizing Kevin Willmott for his outstanding accomplishments in writing and directing and for his contributions to American film and education.

WHEREAS, Kevin Willmott grew up in Junction City, Kansas, and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in drama from Marymount College in Salina, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, After graduation, he returned to Junction City, where he began working as a civil rights activist fighting for the rights of those living in poverty, establishing two Catholic Worker shelters for the homeless and forcing the integration of several long standing segregated institutions; and

WHEREAS, Kevin went on to earn a Masters of Fine Arts degree in dramatic writing from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts; and

WHEREAS, He is known for work that combines his passion for creativity, social justice and contemporary issues; and

WHEREAS, Kevin has written and directed several films, including Ninth Street, C.S.A.: The Confederate States of America and Jayhawkers; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, Kevin collaborated with filmmaker Spike Lee to write the script for Chi-Raq; and

WHEREAS, This collaboration would eventually produce the film BlackKkKlansman, which earned an Academy Award and a British Academy Film Award in 2018, both for best adapted screenplay; and

WHEREAS, Following the success of BlackKkKlansman, the pair co-wrote Da 5 Bloods, which was released to critical acclaim and named the Best Film of 2020 by the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his prolific career in filmmaking, Kevin is a professor of film and media studies at the University of Kansas: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we recognize Kevin Willmott for his outstanding accomplishments in writing and directing and for his contributions to American film and education; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send enrolled copies of this resolution to Kevin Willmott, Kathy Willmott, Ruth Willmott, Matt Jacobson and Senators Faust-Goudeau, Francisco and Haley.

Senate Resolution No. 1726 was sponsored by Senators Faust-Goudeau, Francisco and Haley.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*