

2017-J1676

Senate Resolution No. 1676

BY: Senator MONTGOMERY

HONORING Lynn Nottage upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Drama

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize those artistic individuals whose creative talents and commitment to writing contribute to the enrichment of their community and the world, and to pay homage to a woman whose life of writing stands out as an inspiration to others; and

WHEREAS, From time to time this Legislative Body takes note of certain extraordinary individuals it wishes to recognize for their valued contributions to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Lynn Nottage upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for *Sweat*, her timely play about a steel factory in Reading, Pennsylvania, and the resulting economic and racial chaos in that working-class town where friendships and family ties are irreparably damaged; she is the first female playwright to receive this prestigious award for the second time; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the Pulitzer Prize for Drama is bestowed upon an American author who has written an original play dealing with American life; and

WHEREAS, Lynn Nottage is a Brooklyn-based playwright and a screenwriter whose plays have been produced widely in the United States and throughout the world; Sweat, the recipient of the 2015-2016 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, was written on commission, and presented at the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon, in July of 2015, and then at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. in January of 2016; and

WHEREAS, On November 3, 2016, Sweat premiered Off Broadway at The Public Theater; after a sold out run, the play moved to Broadway where it officially opened at Studio 54 on March 26, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Lynn Nottage's other productions include By The Way, Meet Vera Stark, Intimate Apparel, Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine, Crumbs from the Table of Joy, Las Meninas, Mud, River, Stone, as well as Por'knockers; all of these exceptional plays have won numerous awards; and

WHEREAS, In 2009, Lynn Nottage won her first Pulitzer Prize for her play entitled Ruined, which takes a look at the impact of the brutal civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and its horrific impact on women; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Lynn Nottage is developing a multimedia performance installation, This is Reading, which will re-animate the historic Franklin Street Railroad Station in downtown Reading; and

WHEREAS, Lynn Nottage is also working with composer Ricky Ian Gordon

on adapting her play Intimate Apparel into an opera; and

WHEREAS, Moreover, Lynn Nottage is the co-founder of Market Road Films, a production company whose most recent projects include "The Notorious Mr. Bout," "First to Fall," and "Remote Control"; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, Lynn Nottage has developed original projects for HBO, Sidney Kimmel Entertainment, Showtime, This is That and Harpo; she is also the writer/producer on the Netflix series "She's Gotta Have It," directed by Spike Lee; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her awards for her plays, this incredibly talented woman has been the recipient of numerous accolades including the PEN/Laura Pels Master Playwright Award, Literature Award from The Academy of Arts and Letters, a Columbia University Provost Grant, the Doris Duke Artist Award, The Joyce Foundation Commission Project and Grant, the Madge Evans-Sidney Kingsley Award, the MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship, the Steinberg "Mimi" Distinguished Playwright Award, the Nelson A. Rockefeller Award for Creativity, The Dramatists Guild Hull-Warriner Award, the inaugural Horton Foote Prize, the Helen Hayes Award, the Lee Reynolds Award, and the Jewish World Watch iWitness Award; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, Lynn Nottage has earned the National Black Theatre Fest's August Wilson Playwriting Award, a Guggenheim Grant, Lucille Lortel Fellowship and Visiting Research Fellowship at Princeton University; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Brown University and the Yale School of Drama, Lynn Nottage serves as an Associate Professor in the Theatre Department at Columbia School of the Arts; and

WHEREAS, Committed to the cultural enrichment of the citizens of the State of New York, Lynn Nottage is a vital member of the Boards of Directors of BRIC Arts Media Bklyn, Donor Direct Action, Second Stage and the Dramatists Guild; recently, she completed a three-year term as an Artist Trustee on the Board of the Sundance Institute; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed playwright has given not only of her time and energies but also of her competence, intelligence and leadership and consequently has been designated for special honor; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when artistic creators of such remarkable talent and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor Lynn Nottage upon the occasion of her designation as recipient of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Drama; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Lynn Nottage.