

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 79

BY REPRESENTATIVE KATRINA JACKSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Ransom Rambo for his significant achievements and contributions as a Louisiana artist and to urge and request the state Department of Education and public school governing authorities to review his "Faces of Freedom" lithograph, which honors African-American heroes, to take note of its historic and educational value, and to consider incorporating it into the seventh grade curriculum for American history.

WHEREAS, artist Ransom Rambo is a native of Alexandria, Louisiana, and spent his formative years in Georgetown, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rambo studied at Northeast Louisiana University, now the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and the Commercial Art College in Baton Rouge and developed his distinctive style through his work on commissioned paintings and art restoration in such cities as New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Natchez, Memphis, Charleston, Houston, and El Paso; and

WHEREAS, one of Mr. Rambo's most important works is a lithograph entitled "Faces of Freedom", a dramatic collection of original oil portraits honoring African-American heroes; and

WHEREAS, this lithograph includes portraits and short biographies, presented in a time-line fashion, of Frederick Douglass, who was born into slavery, escaped to the North, became a leader in the Abolitionist Movement, authored several books, and was the United States Ambassador to Haiti; Harriet Tubman, who was born into slavery, escaped and was a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad, and led hundreds of slaves to freedom, earning the nickname "Moses"; Booker T. Washington, who was born into slavery, began working at the age of nine, and ultimately served as the president and principal developer of Tuskegee

University; George Washington Carver, who was born into slavery, an agriculture instructor at Tuskegee, and a longtime researcher of peanuts, sweet potatoes, and cotton; Thurgood Marshall, Civil Rights activist and the first African-American justice on the United States Supreme Court; Dorothy Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women, administrator, educator, and social activist; and Rosa Parks, who made history when she refused to give up her bus seat, sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott; and

WHEREAS, this lithograph is of true educational value and could be an excellent resource in the teaching of American history, which is covered in seventh grade in schools throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rambo's other works include an incredible variety of content, including other portraits, antebellum homes, murals, pastoral scenes, landscapes, still lifes, and religious scenes, and his oilfield scenery hangs in offices and banks across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rambo also illustrated a book about Africa written by Nona Freeman and did the cover art for *King Cotton and Old Glory* by Dr. William Banks Taylor, and his near-life-size Biblical interpretations include "Risen Christ", "Never Too Late", "Pentecost", and "Late Harvest"; and

WHEREAS, an active member of his community, Mr. Rambo is involved in the historical restoration of the Bank of Pollock building in Pollock, Louisiana, built in 1907, and a member of the Historical Society in Grant Parish; and

WHEREAS, Ransom Rambo's work occupies a special place in the artistic landscape of his native Louisiana and America as a whole, and it is fitting to recognize its historical importance and its potential role in the education of Louisiana's students.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Ransom Rambo for his significant achievements and contributions as a celebrated Louisiana artist and does hereby urge and request the state Department of Education and public school governing authorities to review Mr. Rambo's "Faces of Freedom" lithograph, which honors African-American heroes, to take note of its historic and educational value, and to consider incorporating it into the seventh grade curriculum for American history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Ransom Rambo, the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the state superintendent of education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE