

2018 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY REPRESENTATIVE HALL

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Morris Taft Thomas for his many accomplishments

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Morris Taft Thomas for his many accomplishments as a Louisiana artist.

3 WHEREAS, Alexandria artist Morris Taft Thomas is well-known for his sculptures
4 and paintings that grace many Louisiana spaces; his works have been collected by such
5 luminaries as President Jimmy Carter, the late South African President Nelson Mandela, and
6 blues great B.B. King; and

7 WHEREAS, noted artist Morris Taft Thomas is a native of New Orleans; he attended
8 Southern University Laboratory School and received his bachelor's and master's degrees
9 from Southern University in Baton Rouge; he continued to pursue studies at Trinity
10 University, McNeese State University, and Louisiana State University; and

11 WHEREAS, in Alexandria, Mr. Thomas taught junior high school for twelve years;
12 he served as a principal in the Rapides Parish school system for twenty-five years, and later
13 was an adjunct professor of art history at Louisiana State University of Alexandria; and

14 WHEREAS, his art ranges from realism to contemporary abstraction; Mr. Thomas
15 works in many media, including stone, wood, clay, paint, and pencil; his inspiration is often
16 drawn from a combination of African art and his native Louisiana heritage; and

17 WHEREAS, Morris Taft Thomas's works have won over one hundred awards; in
18 2001, he was selected as a representative of the state of Louisiana to create a Christmas
19 ornament to be featured on the White House Christmas tree; in 2008, he received the
20 Governor's Art Award from Governor Mike Foster, naming him "Louisiana Professional
21 Artist of the Year"; and

1 WHEREAS, some of Mr. Thomas's public works are located at Grambling State
2 University, the Alexandria Museum of Art, the Southern University Museum of Art, the
3 Abbeville Museum of Art, the White House Archives, and throughout the city of Alexandria;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, he is also a gifted author and dynamic poet; he is the author of
6 *Contributions of Negro Artists in Louisiana* and *Eminent Black Artists in Louisiana*; and

7 WHEREAS, Morris Taft Thomas's work occupies a special place in the artistic
8 landscape of his native Louisiana and America as a whole.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
10 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Morris Taft Thomas for his many
11 accomplishments as a Louisiana artist and does hereby recognize and record for posterity
12 the special place he holds in the annals of art history in the state of Louisiana and throughout
13 the world.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
15 to Morris Taft Thomas.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 30 Original

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Commends Morris Taft Thomas and recognizes for his many accomplishments as a Louisiana artist.