

2018 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 30

BY REPRESENTATIVE HALL

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, some of Mr. Thomas's public works are located at Grambling State University, the Alexandria Museum of Art, the Southern University Museum of Art, the

Abbeville Museum of Art, the White House Archives, and throughout the city of Alexandria;  
and

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES