

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 112

BY SENATOR BROOME

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize and commend Dr. Rama Mohanty on a lifetime of achievements and for his commitment to promoting world peace.

WHEREAS, as a young boy in India, Rama Mohanty obtained funding to attend high school by winning a debate on the topic of freedom and then, with the assistance of a scholarship, was able to go to college at Utkal University in Odisha, while tutoring high school students to pay for room and board, ending up the top graduate in his class; and

WHEREAS, he received a scholarship for his academic excellence and obtained a masters degree at Ranchi College finishing at the top of his class and was awarded a scholarship to attend Penn State University in physics where three years later, he obtained a PhD, the youngest student in his class; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rama Mohanty was recruited by Benjamin Mayo of Morehouse College in Atlanta to serve as professor and chair of the Physics Department there; and

WHEREAS, while at Morehouse, Dr. Mohanty became acquainted with Dr. Martin Luther King and learned that they both followed the teachings of Mahatma Ghandi; and

WHEREAS, he later served at the University of California at Berkeley in the 1960s, then as Chairman of Physics at New York State University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mohanty moved to Louisiana in 1976 and has served as a professor in the Department of Physics at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge and a physics instructor at Louisiana State University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, until his retirement in 2010; and

WHEREAS, he is the head of the Louisiana University of Medical Sciences organized to eliminate the current shortage of primary care medicine providers in certain areas of the state by proposing an LCME accredited school of medicine to train qualified students who demonstrate dedicated interest in practicing primary care medicine in an area of need; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mohanty established the Institute of All Nations for Advanced

Studies, Inc., in 1964 which began under the co-chairmanship of former United States Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg and former United Nations Ambassador Arthur S. Lall and in which he serves as General Secretary; and

WHEREAS, he was moved to form the institute by the brutal murder of thousands of innocent people, including children and women, as a result of religious and communal rioting in his native India, which he witnessed as a high school student and which convinced him that the promotion of inner peace within each individual is vital to the establishment of meaningful world peace; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the institute adopted a resolution designating October 1 annually as World Peace Day; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mohanty is the founder and member of the Louisiana World Peace Day Committee which has sponsored World Peace Day activities since 1998, the purpose of which, as stated by Dr. Mohanty is "to create in the minds of people in Louisiana, and around the world, love and respect for one another"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rama Mohanty is a very unique individual, a man of genuine intellect and high integrity with a genuine compassion for humankind and an unrelenting drive for the cause of world peace; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Rama Mohanty, for his efforts, was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and commend Dr. Rama Mohanty for his lifetime achievements and his commitment to promoting world peace for the betterment of humankind.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that best wishes are hereby extended for a full recovery and a long life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dr. Rama Mohanty.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES