

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Frazier, Michel,
Barnett, Jackson (11th), Thomas

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 538

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE
2 MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO ABSTRACT ARTIST AND ARTS EDUCATOR MARY
3 LOVELACE O'NEAL AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2022 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARD
4 FOR EXCELLENCE IN VISUAL ART.

5 WHEREAS, the Governor's Arts Awards Program has announced its
6 2022 recipients, which include Mary Lovelace O'Neal for Excellence
7 in Visual Art; and

8 WHEREAS, established in 1988, Governor's Arts Awards are
9 given to individuals and organizations to recognize outstanding
10 work in the artistic disciplines, as well as arts-based community
11 development and arts patronage in Mississippi. The awards are
12 presented in partnership with the Governor's Office and signify
13 the important relationship between government and the arts; and

14 WHEREAS, Mary Lovelace O'Neal is a celebrated contemporary
15 Abstract Artist and Arts Educator. Her work in mixed media,
16 painting, and printmaking explores personal narratives, as well as
17 themes of social justice and contemporary debates; and

18 WHEREAS, O'Neal grew up in Jackson in the 20th Century, where
19 her creative talents and strong spirit were nurtured, especially



20 by her creative father, a Professor of Music at Tougaloo College.
21 Mary developed her interest in art, education and social issues
22 while growing up in Mississippi and Arkansas. This was the
23 beginning of a journey that has taken Mary around the world and
24 made her one of the leading women in the Black Arts Movement; and

25 WHEREAS, as a young art student at Howard University, Mary
26 studied under David Driskell, who became her lifelong mentor and
27 friend. In 1963, Mary Lovelace O'Neal was awarded a scholarship
28 for a summer program at the Skowhegan School of Painting and
29 Sculpture, where she studied painting. While at Howard, she
30 became active in Civil Rights and student movements; and

31 WHEREAS, while working on a Master of Fine Arts Degree from
32 Columbia University, O'Neal developed her breakthrough *Lamp Black*
33 series. Using a material she was first introduced to at
34 Skowhegan, O'Neal applied layers of very dark powdered pigment to
35 unstretched canvases to create these striking works; and

36 WHEREAS, Mary went on to teach at the University of
37 California, Berkeley, where she was the first African American in
38 the Department of Art Practice to earn tenure and the first
39 African American to chair the department; and

40 WHEREAS, O'Neal has exhibited nationally and internationally,
41 including a recent exhibit at the Mnuchin Gallery in New York City
42 titled *Chasing Down the Image*. She is a recipient of the Artist
43 En France Award and was selected to represent Mississippi in the
44 Committees Exhibition at the National Museum of Women in the Arts



45 in Washington, D.C. Mary is Professor Emeritus, University of
46 California, Berkeley. She and her husband, Patricio Moreno Toro,
47 also a painter, reside in Oakland, California, and maintain a
48 studio in Merida, Mexico; and

49 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute and
50 express appreciation for the talent of a World-Class Mississippi
51 Abstract Artist and Arts Educator who has made Mississippi a
52 better place and exemplifies the artistic traditions of our great
53 state:

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
55 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
56 we do hereby extend the recognition of the Mississippi Legislature
57 to Mary Lovelace O'Neal, the recipient of the 2022 Governor's Arts
58 Award for Excellence in Visual Art, and extend our congratulations
59 to an important Mississippi Artist on this auspicious occasion.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
61 Mary Lovelace O'Neal as part of the Governor's Arts Awards
62 presentation and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

