

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Barnett, Chassaniol,
McCaughn

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 12

1 A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE MISSISSIPPI
2 SENATE TO AWARD-WINNING ART PROFESSOR BRENT FUNDERBURK AS THE
3 RECIPIENT OF THE 2024 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN
4 VISUAL ARTS AND EDUCATION.

5 WHEREAS, the Governor's Arts Awards Program has announced its
6 2024 recipients, which include award-winning Art Professor Brent
7 Funderburk as the 2024 Governor's Arts Award recipient for
8 Excellence in Visual Arts and Education; and

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

15 WHEREAS, Brent Funderburk is a William L. Giles Distinguished
16 Professor Emeritus at Mississippi State University where he served
17 as Art Department head and taught for 36 years. He has been
18 recognized with the University's highest academic, teaching and
19 research honors, including the Southeastern Conference Faculty



20 Excellence Award (2016), the John Grisham Teaching Award, the
21 Ralph E. Powe Faculty Research Award, and the Burlington Northern
22 Faculty Excellence Award, among others; and

23 WHEREAS, an artist known for his exuberantly-hued watermedia
24 paintings as well as energetic teaching and lectures, Brent
25 Funderburk is a Charlotte, North Carolina, native who has worked
26 as a teacher/administrator for three universities in three states
27 for over 40 years. From a robust life of art practice and travel,
28 Funderburk has researched, produced, exhibited and lectured
29 passionately, working from life and in the studio in Starkville,
30 Mississippi. He has presented 34 one-person exhibitions across
31 the United States, and has been represented by galleries in
32 Jackson, Atlanta, Charlotte, New Orleans and Memphis, with work in
33 public and private collections across the United States and
34 abroad. His works are displayed at the Mississippi Museum of Art,
35 Ogden Museum of Southern Art, and Memphis-Brooks Museum of Art;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, Funderburk's artwork has been juried into over 100
38 regional, national and international shows, with numerous awards,
39 such as the International Society of Experimental Artists Award,
40 the Holbein Artist Award, and Isabey-Savoir Faire Award, at the
41 National Watercolor Society 100th International Open Exhibition
42 (San Pedro, California, 2020), the Artistic Excellence Special
43 Award I at the Missouri International Exhibition (Barcelona,
44 Spain, St. Louis, Missouri, 2020), the Juror's Special Award and



45 Certificate of Merit at the 6th Fabriano International Prize
46 (Fabriano, Italy, 2020), and had work that toured seven Chinese
47 museums in the Shenzhen International Watercolor Biennial
48 (2015-2016); and

49 WHEREAS, Brent Funderburk's work has been published widely,
50 in national/international periodicals such as *American Artist*,
51 *Artists Magazine*, *Creative Quarterly: The Journal of Art and*
52 *Design*, *Studio Visit*, *Watercolor Artist Magazine*, *Southwest Art*
53 and *Splash: The Best of Watercolor*. Funderburk's painting "One
54 to One" was chosen as cover art for the 2022 *Splash* annual
55 publication; and

56 WHEREAS, in 2010, Funderburk was named the Official Artist of
57 the USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi;
58 and

59 WHEREAS, regarded for his depth of research and enthusiastic
60 delivery, Funderburk has presented talks to over 100 museums,
61 universities and to professional organizations across the country.
62 He curated and lectured with the exhibition "Ecstasy - The
63 Mystical Landscapes of Walter Anderson" that toured four U.S.
64 museums (2008-2010) as well as spoken about Anderson in
65 association with the Smithsonian Institute exhibit "Everything I
66 See is New and Strange" (2003). In addition to presenting his
67 multi-media lectures, such as "A Halcyon Day! A Day in the Life of
68 Walter Anderson," "Deep Harvest" and "The Beathing Eye," he has
69 presented illustrated lectures on 20th Century visionary modern



70 American artists such as Will Henry Stevens, Robert Henri and
71 Edward Reep, subjects such as American watercolor, art and
72 architecture, and often about his own art; and

73 WHEREAS, Funderburk has taught courses dedicated to the
74 vision of Walter Anderson; "Sea Earth Sky" (80s), "Encounters"
75 (90s), and "Walter Inglis Anderson and American Art" (2018), has
76 led field classes in U.S. national parks, and has taught semester
77 courses in Vicenza (2007) and Rome (2016), Italy; and

78 WHEREAS, the artist is married to dancer/choreographer
79 Deborah Wyatt Funderburk, a retired university professor in Dance
80 at Mississippi State University. They have two adult sons and
81 reside in Starkville, Mississippi; and

82 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute and
83 express appreciation for the talent of a Mississippi artistic
84 leader who has made Mississippi a better place and exemplifies the
85 artistic traditions of our great state:

86 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
87 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby extend the recognition of the
88 Mississippi Senate to award-winning Art Professor Brent Funderburk
89 as the recipient of the 2024 Governor's Arts Award for Excellence
90 in Visual Arts and Education and extend our congratulations to an
91 artistic leader on this auspicious occasion.

92 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
93 Brent Funderburk as part of the Governor's Arts Awards
94 presentation and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

