

House Resolution 599

By: Representatives Abdul-Salaam of the 74th, Brooks of the 63rd, Bryant of the 160th, Morgan of the 39th, Gordon of the 162nd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Georgia's Artist of the Year, Mr. Gilbert Young, and inviting him and Dr.
2 Amelia Platts Boynton to be recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Mr. Gilbert Young is a nationally renowned artist,
5 muralist, and art conservator; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Young is the only artist in the world to create a painted portrait of a United
7 States President and have it signed by the subject with his piece depicting President Barack
8 Obama, *History + Hope = Change*; and

9 WHEREAS, his world famous painting, *He Ain't Heavy*, featuring an African American man
10 reaching down his hand over a wall to lift up another man, has made an impact on artists,
11 teachers, politicians, musicians, and countless others; and

12 WHEREAS, he served for 27 years as the director and conservator of the multimillion dollar
13 University of Cincinnati Fine Art Collection and was named Artist-in-Residence to the
14 university in 1994; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Young is the first artist to perform live onstage accompanied by an entire
16 orchestra while creating a commemorative work with his 2003 performance in honor of the
17 Cincinnati POPS Orchestra; and

18 WHEREAS, he has been commissioned to create numerous prestigious works, including the
19 Hattie Dorsey Award; a portrait of Georgia's Attorney General, Thurbert Baker; the Salute
20 to Greatness Award for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Non-violent Social Change;
21 and a portrait of Cincinnati's first African American mayor, Theodore M. Berry; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Young has been recognized with numerous honors and accolades, including
23 a Pallet Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Heritage Arts Festival, an Image of the
24 Week Award from *Advertising Age*, an *Applause Magazine* Image Maker Award, and a *Nip*
25 *Magazine* 25th Anniversary Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Arts; and

26 WHEREAS, this talented artist serves on the boards of the Cincinnati based nonprofit
27 organization, Project ArtReach, as curator of visual arts and the Heritage Arts Festival in
28 Atlanta, and he is a frequent lecturer at schools and colleges around the country; and

29 WHEREAS, in his latest in a series of works featuring icons of African American history,
30 Mr. Young captures one hundred years of voting rights and Civil Rights activism by Dr.
31 Amelia Platts Boynton in *Mine Eyes Have Seen*; and

32 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of
33 this distinguished artist be appropriately recognized.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body commend the incredible talent and work of Mr. Gilbert Young and
36 recognize him as Georgia's Artist of the Year, and invite him and Dr. Amelia Platts Boynton
37 to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and time to be designated by the
38 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
40 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Mr. Gilbert Young and Dr.
41 Amelia Platts Boynton.