

House Resolution 1382

By: Representative Buckner of the 130th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Mr. Song Byeok and inviting him to be recognized by the House of
2 Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Song Byeok is a renowned Korean contemporary artist who lived a former
4 life as a propaganda artist in North Korea; and

5 WHEREAS, while in North Korea, Mr. Song was ordered to use his talents to create works
6 showing Kim Jong-Il beaming at a rising sun and angry workers shaking their fists at
7 American soldiers and forced to adhere to exact orders of the artworks' form, color, and style;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Song escaped from North Korea in 2002 after enduring imprisonment,
10 torture, and the loss of family members to famine; and

11 WHEREAS, this amazing artist's journey to artistic freedom and his great sacrifice have been
12 chronicled in numerous international media outlets, including *Newsweek Japan*, *The*
13 *Christian Science Monitor*, and *The Wall Street Journal*; and

14 WHEREAS, from February 17-26, Mr. Song will exhibit 20 acrylic paintings, including six
15 pieces never before seen by the public, at The Goat Farm, an acclaimed visual and
16 performing arts center in Atlanta; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Song has been invited to share his life story and art during a two week tour
18 of Georgia's cultural and academic hubs at Emory University, Georgia State University, and
19 the Georgia Institute of Technology; and

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

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the members of this body commend Mr. Song Byeok for his amazing artistic abilities and
24 struggle for freedom and invite him to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a
25 date and time to be determined by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
27 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Song Byeok.