

Senate Resolution 166

By: Senator Sims of the 12th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Arthur Berry; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Arthur Berry is the recipient of the 2012 Governor's Award for the Arts and
3 Humanities; and

4 WHEREAS, the Governor's Award honors an outstanding individual who has made a
5 significant contribution to Georgia's civic and cultural vitality through service to the
6 humanities or excellence in the arts; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Berry was born in 1923 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and spent his early years in
8 Houston, Texas, where he studied at the Houston College for Negroes before his education
9 was interrupted by a call to active service in the military from which he was honorably
10 discharged as a World War II veteran; and

11 WHEREAS, upon returning to civilian life, Mr. Berry began his studies at Fisk University
12 in Nashville, Tennessee, where he was an understudy of the renowned artist and late Harlem
13 Renaissance master Aaron Douglas, who inspired him to embark on a lifelong pursuit of art
14 as a career; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Berry obtained a master's degree from Columbia University before he
16 began his distinguished career as an educator teaching African American art, art education,
17 design, drawing, painting, and sculpture at Alabama A&M University, Florida A&M
18 University, Grambling State University, and Albany State University, where he served as
19 chair of the Art Department from 1967 to 1988; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Berry's lasting impact on the Albany State University campus is palpable
21 and is embodied in the sculpture he was asked to create following the 1994 flood; his
22 sculpture is ASU's first and only sculpture and was voted one of the seven most iconic and
23 historic emblems of Historically Black Colleges and Universities culture; and

24 WHEREAS, he was a founding member of the Albany Art Guild, a member of the National
25 Conference of Artists, and chairman of the Albany-Dougherty Historic Preservation
26 Commission, and he is a past vice president and current patron member of the Albany
27 Museum of Art; and

28 WHEREAS, he has been united in love and marriage to his college sweetheart, Sylvia, for
29 59 years, and the two are blessed with two remarkable sons and two cherished grandchildren;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, the ability to simultaneously stimulate curiosity and admiration for art and all
32 it encompasses, while making art and the mind of the artist more accessible and less
33 intimidating, is the true genius of Mr. Arthur Berry.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
35 congratulate Mr. Arthur Berry on being named the 2012 Governor's Award for the Arts and
36 Humanities recipient, commend him for his tremendous efforts in enriching young minds
37 through art education, and wish him many more years of success, health, and happiness.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed to
39 transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Arthur Berry.