



HR0799

LRB097 20563 GRL 66165 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Richard Howard  
4 Hunt for his many achievements as a sculptor; and

5           WHEREAS, Richard Hunt was born on September 12, 1935, in  
6 Chicago; he attended Chicago Public Schools before attending  
7 the University of Illinois in Chicago; in 1957, he earned his  
8 bachelor's degree in education from the University of Chicago;  
9 from 1957 to 1958, he traveled and studied in England, France,  
10 Spain, and Italy under the James Nelson Raymond Foreign Travel  
11 Fellowship; and

12           WHEREAS, Richard Hunt served his country as a member of the  
13 United States Army from 1958 to 1960; and

14           WHEREAS, Richard Hunt is well known throughout the world  
15 for his abstract sculpture; he began sculpting in his teens,  
16 modeling in clay and carving in his bedroom at home; he later  
17 created a studio in the basement of his father's barbershop; as  
18 a teen, he was intrigued by metalwork at the African collection  
19 of Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History, where his mother,  
20 a librarian, frequently took him, while his work in a  
21 zoological lab at the University of Chicago contributed to his  
22 fascination with animal and insect forms; and

1           WHEREAS, From 1953 to 1957, Richard Hunt attended the Art  
2 Institute of Chicago, where he focused on sculpture, especially  
3 welding, and studied lithography; while at the institute, he  
4 was exposed to the work of the sculptors Julio Gonzales and  
5 David Smith, to whom he has attributed inspiration to use  
6 direct-metal techniques to transform steel, aluminum, copper,  
7 and bronze into sculpture; using a welding torch as his mallet  
8 and chisel, he transformed found objects, garbage, and auto  
9 parts found on industrial sites into plant-like and insect-like  
10 forms; in 1959, he won his first award at an annual show for  
11 artists in the Chicago area; and

12           WHEREAS, By 1960, Richard Hunt had become a major  
13 open-form, direct-metal sculptor in the art world; at this  
14 time, he began to combine closed with open forms, calling them  
15 "hybrid figures"; in the 1970s, he added inventive Baroque  
16 flourishes to his forms so that solids seemed both to penetrate  
17 voids and to be penetrated by them; he later began to gradually  
18 move away from his early calligraphic work, instead turning to  
19 closed contours and solid shapes; and

20           WHEREAS, Richard Hunt has produced more than 55 public site  
21 sculptures, including a candelabra for St. Matthew's Methodist  
22 Church in Chicago in 1970; he has also created many color  
23 lithographs and drawings; and

1           WHEREAS, In 1971, Richard Hunt became the first  
2 African-American to be accorded a retrospective at the Museum  
3 of Modern Art; throughout the years, he has received  
4 Guggenheim, Ford, and Tamarind Fellowships, awards from the Art  
5 Institute of Chicago, and Logan, Palmer, and Compana prizes; he  
6 also holds numerous honorary degrees from prestigious  
7 universities and has served on the National Council of the Arts  
8 and as a commissioner of the Smithsonian Institution's National  
9 Museum of American Art; and

10           WHEREAS, Richard Hunt serves as a model of hard work,  
11 integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of  
12 Illinois; therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
14 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
15 we congratulate Richard Howard Hunt for his many achievements  
16 as an artist and thank him for serving as an exemplar in the  
17 African-American community and as a source of inspiration  
18 during Black History Month; and be it further

19           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to Richard Hunt as a symbol of our esteem and  
21 respect.