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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 1953, he attended the  
8 University of Chicago; in 1957, he earned his bachelor's degree  
9 in art education from the School of the Art Institute of  
10 Chicago; from 1957 to 1958, he traveled and studied in England,  
11 France, Spain, and Italy under the Art Institute of Chicago's  
12 James Nelson Raymond Foreign Travel Fellowship; and

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

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

1 contributed to his fascination with animal and insect forms;  
2 and

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

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

22 WHEREAS, Richard Hunt has produced more than 130 public  
23 site specific sculptures, including a cross and candelabra for

1 St. Matthew's Methodist Church in Chicago in 1970, Fight Forms  
2 for Midway Airport, and freeform for the State of Illinois  
3 Office Building (now James R. Thompson Center) in Chicago; he  
4 has created many other sculptures, color lithographs, and  
5 drawings, including memorials to Martin Luther King, Jr. and  
6 the Freedmens Bureau; he has also recently been chosen to  
7 create a commemorative for Ida B. Wells in Bronzeville in  
8 Chicago; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1971, Richard Hunt became the first  
10 African-American sculptor to be accorded a retrospective at the  
11 Museum of Modern Art in New York; throughout the years, he has  
12 received Guggenheim, Ford, and Tamarind Fellowships, and  
13 awards from the Art Institute of Chicago, including the Logan,  
14 Palmer, and Compana prizes; he holds numerous honorary degrees  
15 from prestigious universities and has been elected to  
16 membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the  
17 National Academy of Design; he has also served on the National  
18 Council of the Arts, as a commissioner of the Smithsonian  
19 Institution's National Museum of American Art, and as a juror  
20 for Maya Lin's Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C. ;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, In 2008, Richard Hunt became the inspiration for  
23 the "Richard Hunt Fine Arts Room" within the newly-built campus  
24 of Christ the King Jesuit College Preparatory High School in

1 order to give young people the opportunity to pursue the fine  
2 arts and motivate them through his extraordinary example of  
3 creativity and his artistic vision; and

4 WHEREAS, Richard Hunt serves as a model of hard work,  
5 integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of  
6 Illinois; therefore, be it

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

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 presented to Richard Hunt as a symbol of our esteem and  
15 respect.