

House Resolution 644

By: Representatives Olaleye of the 59th, Holly of the 116th, Adeyina of the 110th, Adesanya of the 43rd, and Okoye of the 102nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Bruce Paul Obomeyoma Onobrakpeya; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, an acclaimed Nigerian artist, Bruce Paul Obomeyoma Onobrakpeya has long
4 been recognized by his peers, colleagues, and fans as one of the fathers of Nigerian
5 modernism; and

6 WHEREAS, he is the recipient of some of the highest national honors in Nigeria, including
7 the Nigerian National Order of Merit and the Nigerian Creativity Award, as well as
8 international honors such as the UNESCO Living Human Treasure Award; and

9 WHEREAS, his exhibit, *Bruce Onobrakpeya: The Mask and the Cross*, will open at the High
10 Museum on April 8, 2023, featuring a capsule of his works focused on his interpretations of
11 Christian themes and biblical stories; and

12 WHEREAS, the exhibition will further generate exciting discussion about Nigerian
13 modernism and Nigerian 20th century art, including the early post-colonial contexts in which
14 many of the featured artworks were created; and

15 WHEREAS, his first solo exhibition at a United States museum, the event will be curated by
16 Lauren Tate Baeza, the first non-White individual to curate an exhibit at the High Museum;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, as additional testament to his artistic contributions, he was a founding member
19 of the famed Zaria Art Society, an art collective that developed a philosophy and art practice
20 that merged traditional Nigerian forms with European techniques, defining a new Nigerian
21 visual language; and

22 WHEREAS, this distinguished gentleman has given inspiration to many through his high
23 ideals, morals, and deep concern for his fellow citizens, and he possesses the vast wisdom
24 which only comes through experience and the strength of character which is achieved
25 through overcoming the many challenges of life; and

26 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
27 remarkable and distinguished artist be appropriately recognized.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body recognize and commend Bruce Paul Obomeyoma Onobrakpeya
30 for his many outstanding artistic accomplishments and extend best wishes for continued
31 success.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Bruce
34 Paul Obomeyoma Onobrakpeya.