

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 69

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to recognize Igor Babailov and celebrate his artistic achievements.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should specially recognize those talented residents of this State whose creative abilities find outlet and expression through art; and

WHEREAS, one such highly talented and creative artist is Igor Babailov of Brentwood, whose artistic portraits can be seen in the Vatican, Buckingham Palace, and the West Point Museum; and

WHEREAS, an internationally acclaimed artist, Mr. Babailov has been commissioned to paint the official portrait of Pope Francis, which will hang in the Vatican upon its completion; and

WHEREAS, born in the Udmurt Republic of Russia in 1965, Mr. Babailov began painting at the age of four; he was recognized as a prodigy and, at the age of nine, began his formal fine arts education; and

WHEREAS, four years later, he competed against thousands of students to study at the prestigious Moscow Secondary School of Fine Arts; he graduated from the institution with honors; and

WHEREAS, during his career, Igor Babailov has completed more than 2,000 portraits with subjects that range from Vladimir Putin and Nelson Mandela to Regis Philbin and Reggie Jackson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Babailov approaches each of his paintings differently, focusing on the individual characteristics of his subjects; he insists on live sittings in order to best capture their personality; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Babailov's many artistic accomplishments include portraits of Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI that hang in the Vatican; and

WHEREAS, in addition to commissioning Mr. Babailov to paint the portrait of Pope Francis, the Vatican recognizes him as a Maestro for his two previous papal portraits; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Igor Babailov for his abilities and dedication to the propagation of the arts; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Igor Babailov upon being commissioned to paint the official portrait of Pope Francis, commend him on his singular talent as an artist, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.