

**Enrolled**  
**House Resolution 3**

Sponsored by Representative FREDERICK, Senator SHIELDS; Representatives BUCKLEY,  
KENY-GUYER, NOSSE, SMITH WARNER, Senator DEMBROW

Whereas Obo Addy was born in 1936 in Ghana to a priest and medicine man; and

Whereas Obo Addy was designated as a “master drummer” at the age of six and built a career by performing with numerous bands that blended western pop music with traditional African sounds; and

Whereas Obo Addy toured with his brothers worldwide, performing at such venues as the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, before moving to Portland in 1978; and

Whereas Obo Addy continued to tour and perform with music groups such as the African jazz octet Kukrudu and the traditional Ghanaian percussion and dance ensemble Okropong; and

Whereas as a renowned composer, Obo Addy’s best known piece is “Wawshishijay,” which was commissioned by the Kronos Quartet for their groundbreaking album, *Pieces of Africa*; and

Whereas Obo Addy’s music has been performed by the Third Angle New Music Ensemble and used by dance choreographers such as Mary Oslund; and

Whereas while continuing his career as a performing artist and composer, Obo Addy also joined the faculty at Lewis and Clark as a professor of music; and

Whereas Obo Addy founded Homowo African Arts and Cultures, an educational institution now known as the Obo Addy Legacy Project that focuses on creating, performing and teaching African arts primarily in African drumming and African dance; and

Whereas Obo Addy received the Governor’s Art Award in 1993, a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1996 and fellowships from the Regional Arts and Culture Council and the Oregon Arts Commission; and

Whereas Obo Addy passed away on September 13, 2012; and

Whereas Obo Addy was a pioneer in the Pacific Northwest for African music and culture whose legacy will continue through his timeless music; now, therefore,

**Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon:**

That we, the members of the House of Representatives of the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly, honor and celebrate the life of Obo Addy, whose music and legacy continue to inspire and bring joy to those who experience it; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Obo Addy as a token of our sympathy and condolences.

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Adopted by House March 31, 2015

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House