

Proclamation



CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI DAY

FEBRUARY 19, 2012

WHEREAS, today marks the 132nd Anniversary of the passing of "The Artist of the Capitol," Constantino Brumidi, who spent the last 25 years of his life in Washington, D.C. beautifying the iconic, U.S. Capitol building, particularly by painting the "Apotheosis of Washington" in the dome; and

WHEREAS, in 1871, Constantino Brumidi, created the first tribute to an African American in the Capitol when he placed Crispus Attucks at the center of his fresco of the Boston Massacre; and

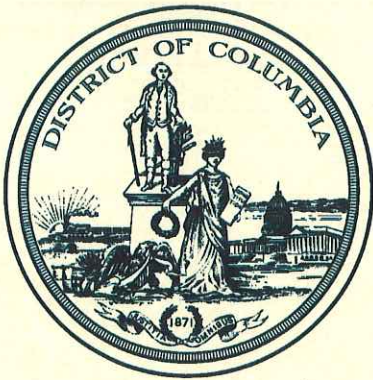
WHEREAS, today also marks the 60th Anniversary of House Speaker Sam Rayburn's unveiling of a bronze grave marker for the Brumidi grave site in Glenwood Cemetery, Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, this grave marker states Brumidi's immortal words: "My one ambition and my daily prayer is that I may live long enough to make beautiful the Capitol of the one country on earth in which there is liberty;" and

WHEREAS, Constantino Brumidi was born in Rome, Italy in 1805 and passed away in Washington, D.C. in 1880; and

WHEREAS, Rome, Italy and Washington, D.C. are now Sister Cities:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim February 19, 2012, as "CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI DAY" in Washington D.C., and call upon all the residents of this great city to join me in commemorating the life and death of this great artist.



Vincent C. Gray