

By: Davis of Dallas

H.R. No. 462

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Celebrated Nigerian writer Chike Momah is visiting  
2 the State Capitol on February 22, 2011, hosted by the Honorable  
3 Yvonne Davis and members of the Texas Legislative Black Caucus; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Aba, Nigeria, in 1930, Christian Chike Momah  
5 was selected to attend Government College Umuahia, an all-boys  
6 citadel of secondary boarding school learning that was founded by  
7 the colonial British government in 1927 and modeled on the famous  
8 English public schools Eton and Harrow; he went on to earn a  
9 bachelor's degree in history, English, and religious studies from  
10 University College Ibadan in 1953; he and his peers were part of a  
11 remarkable generation that produced many of Africa's most notable  
12 artists, leaders, and thinkers, including the poet Christopher  
13 Okigbo, the Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka, and the novelist Chinua  
14 Achebe; and

15           WHEREAS, Mr. Momah enjoyed a long and varied career before  
16 turning to writing full time; he served as the first Nigerian  
17 graduate land officer in the Public Service of the Eastern Nigerian  
18 Government from 1954 to 1956 and then worked as a librarian at  
19 University College Ibadan and the University of Lagos; he continued  
20 in this profession with the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland,  
21 from 1966 to 1978, when he transferred to UN headquarters in New  
22 York to accept a position at the Dag Hammarskjold Library; and

23           WHEREAS, Although Mr. Momah had published a story in the  
24 1950s, it was not until after he retired in 1990 that his words saw

1 print again; today he is the author of five novels, *Friends and*  
2 *Dreams*, *Titi: Biafran Maid in Geneva*, *The Shining Ones*, *The Stream*  
3 *Never Dries Up*, and *A Snake Under a Thatch*; his work evokes his  
4 native Nigeria as well as the experience of the Nigerian diaspora  
5 and reflects Mr. Momah's own humility and moral vision; and

6 WHEREAS, Now living in Arlington, this esteemed gentleman is  
7 supported in his endeavors by his wife of 51 years, Ethel, and their  
8 three children, Chukwudi, Azuka, and Adaora; Mr. Momah remains  
9 active with the Nigerian community in the United States, serving as  
10 a board member of the Texas chapter of GCUOBA-USA, a nonprofit  
11 organization of ex-students of Government College Umuahia, whose  
12 members are referred to as "old boys" and their wives as "young  
13 girls"; in 2003, he was honored with the chieftaincy title  
14 *Nnabuenyi-Nnewi* by HRH Kenneth Orizu, *Igwe Nnewi*; and

15 WHEREAS, Members of GCUOBA-USA and its Texas chapter, under  
16 the able leadership of Chike Momah, Dr. Bato Amu, M.D., Dr. Emma  
17 Okafor, M.D., and Ike Egbuoyne, P.E., who respectively serve as the  
18 grand patron, board chair, and president of the national  
19 organization and president of its Texas chapter, recently funded  
20 and rehabilitated five school buildings in Government College  
21 Umuahia; and

22 WHEREAS, Acting as chair of the Launch Committee, Jay O. Oji  
23 (GCU Old Boy) of Southlake, along with committee members Angie N.  
24 Nduka (GCU Young Girl) of Flower Mound, Paul Iwuchkwu of Arlington,  
25 Nnaerika Okonkwo of Cedar Hill, and Ali N. Talib (GCU Old Boy) of  
26 Richmond, has organized a Texas launch of three of Mr. Momah's  
27 novels, including *The Shining Ones*, *The Stream Never Dries Up*, and *A*

1 *Snake Under a Thatch*; and

2           WHEREAS, Chike Momah has distinguished himself through his  
3 outstanding contributions to the literature of his homeland, and it  
4 is indeed a pleasure to welcome him to the Texas State Capitol; now,  
5 therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
7 Legislature hereby recognize Chike Momah for his literary  
8 achievements and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued  
9 success and happiness; and, be it further

10           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
11 prepared for Mr. Momah as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
12 House of Representatives.