

**As Offered**

**131st General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2015-2016**

**H. R. No. 478**

**Speaker Rosenberger, Representative Green**

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**A RESOLUTION**

Honoring John A. Ruthven for seven decades of service to  
the arts in Ohio.

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the 1  
131st General Assembly of Ohio are pleased to extend special 2  
recognition to John A. Ruthven for his accomplishments as an 3  
internationally known wildlife artist; and 4

WHEREAS, A talented individual, John Ruthven has 5  
demonstrated exemplary initiative, enthusiasm, and perseverance in 6  
developing and sharing his skills. A native of Cincinnati, he is a 7  
naturalist, an author, and a lecturer, and he is affectionately 8  
called the "20th Century Audubon" for using the same techniques as 9  
his predecessor, the late John J. Audubon. Entering the Cincinnati 10  
Art Academy after serving with the U.S. armed forces in World War 11  
II, he opened a commercial studio in 1946. He entered the 1960 12  
Federal Duck Stamp competition, which he won with his Redhead 13  
Ducks, and in 1971, he founded Wildlife Internationale, Inc., to 14  
publish and distribute his limited edition prints; and 15

WHEREAS, John Ruthven has earned numerous accolades, 16  
including the Ducks Unlimited First Artist of the Year and 17  
Cincinnati Nature Center Wood Thrush awards, the National Medal of 18  
Arts, and the Eloise Payne Luquer Medal, and his paintings have 19  
been featured at such institutions as the White House, the 20  
Hermitage Museum, the Smithsonian Institution's Preservation and 21  
Research Center, the Cincinnati Museum Center, and the Roger Tory 22  
Peterson Institute of Natural History. In 2013, he worked with the 23  
Cincinnati Nature Center and ArtWorks to create a 6,000-square- 24  
foot mural depicting Martha, the last passenger pigeon that died 25  
at the Cincinnati Zoo. His unwavering commitment to preserving 26  
wildlife through his work has earned him a reputation as a truly 27

gifted man, and he is certainly deserving of the highest praise; 28  
and 29

WHEREAS, John Ruthven has striven to develop his special 30  
talents of expression, and through his art, he has touched, 31  
inspired, and gained the respect of countless people. Whether 32  
occupying center stage or playing an important role in the wings, 33  
he has never failed to make his influential presence felt or to 34  
justify the high esteem in which he is so widely held; therefore 35  
be it 36

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of 37  
Representatives of the 131st General Assembly of Ohio, in adopting 38  
this Resolution, salute John A. Ruthven on his dedication to the 39  
arts and salute him as one of Ohio's finest citizens; and be it 40  
further 41

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 42  
transmit a duly authenticated copy of this Resolution to John A. 43  
Ruthven. 44