

## February 8, 2025

Dear Friends,

It is my honor to welcome you this evening as we celebrate Vernon T. Bateman's final solo exhibit in Indiana, "Brush Strokes of Freedom." Tonight, we gather not only to honor Vernon's remarkable artistry but also to recognize the incredible journey of perseverance and resilience that has led him here.

Vernon's work is a powerful reflection of his unwavering commitment to social justice, offering both a challenge and a solution to the injustices we face. His ability to turn adversity into such inspiring and impactful art is truly exceptional.

I am proud to have supported Vernon throughout his journey, advocating for his freedom and recognition. His strength and dedication continue to inspire all of us, and it has been a privilege to stand with him.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District of Indiana, I vow to continue advocating for resources and support to make our communities stronger. It brings me great pride to see artists like Vernon lead the charge in creating a better future. Thank you to everyone in attendance for your ongoing support of Vernon's work, and I wish you all a successful and inspiring evening ahead.

Sincerely,

André Carson Member of Congress