

2009 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 755

Offered January 19, 2009

Designating June 27, 2009, as Will F. Jenkins Day in Virginia.

Patrons—Morgan; Senator: Norment

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, Will F. Jenkins, one of the most prolific science fiction writers of the 20th century, was born in Norfolk on June 16, 1896, lived and worked in Gloucester County most of his life, and died on June 8, 1975; and

WHEREAS, Will F. Jenkins served his country both in World War I with the Committee on Public Information and as an instructor in a noncommissioned officer training battalion and in World War II with the Office of War Information; and

WHEREAS, during his freelance writing career that began in 1913 and ended in 1974, Will F. Jenkins published 74 novels and collections, as well as 1,800 stories in magazines; and

WHEREAS, Will F. Jenkins was one of the founders of American science fiction with his story "The Runaway Skyscraper," which was published on February 22, 1919, in *Argosy* magazine; and he was one of the few pioneers of the genre who continued to publish regularly when the nature of science fiction changed after World War II; and

WHEREAS, in 1937, Will F. Jenkins won the Liberty Award for his story "A Very Nice Family"; and

WHEREAS, "First Contact," written by Will F. Jenkins in 1945, is one of the most anthologized stories in the history of science fiction; and "A Logic Named Joe," written in 1946, was the first science fiction story to envision a computer network similar to the Internet; and

WHEREAS, Will F. Jenkins' stories have been made into movies, television and radio shows, and recorded for tapes and compact discs; and he was voted tenth in a list of the 18 top all-time science fiction authors by an *Analog Science Fiction and Fact* readers' survey in 1966; and

WHEREAS, in 1949, Will F. Jenkins, writing under the pen name of Murray Leinster, was dubbed the "dean of science fiction" by *Time* magazine; and

WHEREAS, Will F. Jenkins won the Hugo Award for Best Novelette for "Exploration Team" in 1956; was the guest of honor at the 21st Worldcon in 1963; and was awarded a Retro Hugo Award posthumously in 1996 for Best Novelette for "First Contact," which was the first science fiction story to present the dramatic scenario of the first meeting between earthlings and aliens; and

WHEREAS, Will F. Jenkins is credited with the invention of parallel universe stories, and in 1995, the publication award known as the Sidewise Award for Alternate History was established, which was named after his story "Sidewise in Time," in which a strange storm causes portions of Earth to swap places with their analogs from other timelines; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate June 27, 2009, as Will F. Jenkins Day in Virginia in recognition of the author's creative genius and his numerous literary achievements in the genre of science fiction; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this day on the General Assembly's website.

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