

## 2009 SESSION

ENROLLED

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 755

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

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 26, 2009

Agreed to by the Senate, February 24, 2009

WHEREAS, Will F. Jenkins, one of the most prolific fiction writers of the 20th century, who also received notoriety in the science fiction field under the pen name, Murray Leinster, 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, which 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, in 1937, Will F. Jenkins won the Liberty Award for his story "A Very Nice Family"; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Will F. Jenkins is credited with the invention of parallel universe stories, and in 1995, the award known as the Sidewise Award for Alternate History, established by the World's Science Fiction Convention, was named in honor of Murray Leinster's story, "Sidewise in Time," in which a strange storm causes portions of Earth to swap places with their analogs from other timelines; and

WHEREAS, the stories of Will F. Jenkins and Murray Leinster have been made into movies, television and radio shows, and recorded for tapes and compact discs, and he was voted 10th in a list of the top 18 all-time science fiction authors by an *Analog Science Fiction and Fact* readers' survey in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Will F. Jenkins was an active inventor and most notably on December 20, 1955, patented the "Front Projection" filming method, and he sold the patent to Sherman Fairchild of Fairchild Cameras, who widely produced the method, and "Front Projection" was first used in the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey"; 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; 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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