

2014 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5061

Offered August 15, 2014

Commending Charles Wright.

Patrons—Deeds; Delegate: Toscano

WHEREAS, Charles Wright of Charlottesville, a poet respected for his creativity and mastery of complex imagery, was named the United States Poet Laureate by the Library of Congress in 2014; and

WHEREAS, a native of Pickwick Dam, Tennessee, Charles Wright began writing poetry while serving his country with the United States Army; throughout his career, Charles Wright has authored 24 collections of poetry, combining Southern sensibilities with powerful imagery, flowing lyrics, and fascinating mystical themes; and

WHEREAS, deeply influenced by the work of Ezra Pound, Charles Wright also incorporates styles learned from ancient Chinese and Italian modernist texts to create moving and enduring pieces that have been celebrated for decades; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wright's famous works include *The Other Side of the River*, *The Southern Cross*, and a series of trilogies commonly referred to as *The Appalachian Book of the Dead*; he released his most recent work, *Caribou: Poems*, in March 2014; and

WHEREAS, as United States Poet Laureate, Charles Wright will strive to promote the importance of poetry in the nation and inspire young poets through public outreach; his one-year appointment officially begins in September 2014, when he will hold a public reading of his work at the Library of Congress; and

WHEREAS, Charles Wright has earned numerous awards and accolades for his work, including a National Book Award, a Pulitzer Prize, a National Book Critics Circle Award, a Bollingen Prize, and a Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize for lifetime achievement; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Charles Wright on being named the United States Poet Laureate in 2014; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Charles Wright as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for his contributions to the cultural landscape of the Commonwealth and the United States.

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