

# 1996 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

Offered January 10, 1996

*Designating Margaret Ward Morland of Lynchburg as Virginia's Poet Laureate for July 1, 1996, through June 30, 1997.*

Patrons—Crouch, Abbitt, Bennett, Bryant, Dudley, Putney and Wilkins; Senators: Hawkins and Newman

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, Kathryn Forrester Thro, a Norfolk poet and playwright, has been Virginia's Poet Laureate for the past two years; and

WHEREAS, it is time to honor another great Virginia poet as the General Assembly's designated Poet Laureate of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Ward Morland, a resident of Lynchburg for over 40 years, has been honored by and asked to present her poetry by poetry groups all over the world, from England and Poland to as far away as Hong Kong and Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Ward Morland has won prestigious poetry awards from Birmingham-Southern College and the National Lutheran Hymn Contest, won the Conrad Aiken prize from the Poetry Society of Georgia, and has earned numerous first place awards for poetry in the Poetry Society of Virginia's annual contests; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Ward Morland has also won numerous national first place prizes, including several in contests sponsored by the National League of American Pen Women; and

WHEREAS, over 60 of Margaret Ward Morland's anthems, hymns, solos, and prayers for adult and children's choirs have been set to music and performed by nationally known singers and choirs; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Ward Morland is the author of "It Happens Thus" and has been published nationally and internationally in various anthologies and poetry quarterlies; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Ward Morland was chosen in 1995 by the membership of the Poetry Society of Virginia from a slate of five nominees (including a Pulitzer Prize poet) as the poet best representing the 72-year-old body of internationally known poets as the next Poet Laureate of Virginia; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby designate Margaret Ward Morland as Virginia's Poet Laureate for July 1, 1996, through June 30, 1997; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Margaret Ward Morland in recognition of her status as the 1996-1997 Poet Laureate of the Commonwealth.

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