

## 2014 SESSION

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### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 120

Offered February 17, 2014

*Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the death of William Butler Yeats.*

Patron—Ware

WHEREAS, William Butler Yeats achieved in his person the combined vocations of patriot, philosopher, poet, and politician; and

WHEREAS, generations of readers have meditated on his verse, not least lines composed after the catastrophe of The Great War:

*Turning and turning in the widening gyre*

*The falcon cannot hear the falconer;*

*Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;*

*Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,*

*The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere*

*The ceremony of innocence is drowned;*

*The best lack all conviction, while the worst*

*Are full of passionate intensity; and*

WHEREAS, William Butler Yeats was the first Irish writer to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature; and

WHEREAS, as another poet (W.H. Auden) well observed, *The day of his death was a dark cold day;* and

WHEREAS, though "poetry makes nothing happen," as Auden also wrote of Yeats' vocation, still, *poetry survives / In the valley of its making where executives / Would never want to tamper as A way of happening, a mouth;* and

WHEREAS, amidst the obligations of business, even of politics, and also of the rigors of life, the poet may *Still persuade us to rejoice;* and

WHEREAS, the poetry of William Butler Yeats will be read as long as there are readers, until the end of time; and

WHEREAS, *A few thousand will think of this day,* as Auden wrote of the day of Yeats' death on January 28, 1939; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the members of the body hereby commemorate the 75th anniversary of the death of William Butler Yeats; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Virginian Society for the Recitation of the Poetry of the Ages in appreciation of the society's remembrance of the life and death, and the rereading of the literary creations, of the poet William Butler Yeats.

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