

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 61

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Alan Birkelbach of Plano, who was recently named the 2005 Texas Poet Laureate; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Poet Laureate, State Musician, and State Artist Committee, whose members are appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, select the poet laureate from a list of finalists submitted by the Texas Commission on the Arts; and

WHEREAS, Alan has received widespread recognition and critical acclaim in state, regional, and national publications for his poetry, which superbly captures the beauty of the Texas land and the experiences of its people; and

WHEREAS, His poetry has been published in a number of anthologies, including *Texas in Poetry 2*; his books of poetry include *No Boundaries*, which won the Pat Stodghill Book Publication Award, and *Weighed in the Balances*, which was the grand prize winner of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies' Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition; and

WHEREAS, Alan was born and grew up in Georgetown and is a graduate of North Texas State College; he wrote his first poem at the age of 12; his poetry is personal and focuses on everyday experiences and life's challenges; he writes with a distinctive Texas voice and has served on the board of directors of the Poetry Society of Texas for over 10 years; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby commend Alan Birkelbach on his exceptional poetry and his many contributions to the vibrant cultural life of the Lone Star State and congratulate him on his selection as the 2005 Texas Poet Laureate; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Shapiro

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on August 8, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate