

By: Homer

H.C.R. No. 254

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The Texas Commission on the Arts has announced the  
2 2009 and 2010 appointments for the positions of State Poet  
3 Laureate, State Musician, State Two-Dimensional Artist, and State  
4 Three-Dimensional Artist; and

5           WHEREAS, Honorees are chosen for the exceptional quality of  
6 their work and for their outstanding commitment to the arts in  
7 Texas; nominees must either be native Texans or have resided in the  
8 state for at least five years; in addition, they must have received  
9 critical recognition from state, regional, and national  
10 publications, and they must have attained the highest levels of  
11 excellence in their respective disciplines; and

12           WHEREAS, The 2009 Texas State Poet Laureate is Paul Ruffin, a  
13 Distinguished Professor of English at Sam Houston State University;  
14 the author of six acclaimed books of poetry as well as several  
15 volumes of fiction and nonfiction, Mr. Ruffin has published poems  
16 in hundreds of journals and anthologies; he is also the founder and  
17 editor of *The Texas Review* and the director of Texas Review Press;  
18 and

19           WHEREAS, Willie Nelson is the 2009 Texas State Musician; this  
20 legendary Texas performer was playing the guitar at the age of 6 and  
21 performing at 10; after establishing himself in Nashville as a hit  
22 songwriter, he returned to Texas and soon became world-famous as an  
23 interpreter of his own songs and as an icon of the outlaw country  
24 music movement; he has further distinguished himself as a film and

1 television actor and entrepreneur, as well as an ever-popular  
2 touring concert artist who has been involved in numerous charity  
3 events such as FarmAid; and

4         WHEREAS, The 2009 Texas State Two-Dimensional Artist is Rene  
5 Alvarado; born in Mexico, he came to the United States with his  
6 family as a boy, and his work powerfully evokes the values and  
7 heritage of his native country, finding universal resonance in the  
8 rich particularity of Mexican culture; his work has been featured  
9 in galleries and exhibitions throughout Texas and the Southwest;  
10 and

11         WHEREAS, Eliseo Garcia has been selected as the 2009 Texas  
12 State Three-Dimensional Artist; his inspiring bas-relief  
13 sculptures pay homage to the importance of family, love, and  
14 spirituality while reflecting the ancient cultural traditions of  
15 the Aztec and Mayan civilizations; often carved out of Texas  
16 limestone, his works are on permanent display in arts centers,  
17 hospitals, libraries, and other public buildings across the state;  
18 and

19         WHEREAS, Fort Worth native and Denton resident Karla K.  
20 Morton has been named as the 2010 Texas State Poet Laureate; a  
21 songwriter and children's book author as well as a celebrated poet,  
22 Ms. Morton performs her poetry across the state and has recorded her  
23 poems with musical accompaniment; she is a founder of the Denton  
24 Poet's Assembly and a member of the board of directors of the  
25 Greater Denton Arts Council; and

26         WHEREAS, Sara Hickman of Austin will be the 2010 Texas State  
27 Musician; this talented singer-songwriter has recorded many

1 critically acclaimed albums; the daughter of a painter and a  
2 weaver, the multitalented Ms. Hickman is also a painter; she  
3 supports many social causes through her work and regularly performs  
4 and records music for children; and

5 WHEREAS, Austin painter Marc Burckhardt has been named as the  
6 2010 Texas State Two-Dimensional Artist; born in Germany and raised  
7 in Texas, Mr. Burckhardt combines European imagery with thematic  
8 material from contemporary American life; his mischievous wit is  
9 enhanced by his adoption of the glazing and varnishing techniques  
10 of the old masters, and his work has been featured in galleries and  
11 shows around the nation and across the world; and

12 WHEREAS, The 2010 Texas State Three-Dimensional Artist will  
13 be John Bennett, who began sculpting figures in 1976 and cast his  
14 first bronze in 1985; acclaimed for his sculptures of women, he has  
15 created works depicting women from all walks of life, from Old West  
16 legend Annie Oakley to 98-year-old Alice Reeves, a former  
17 schoolteacher and granddaughter of a slave; one of his pieces was  
18 selected by the Women's Museum for display at the White House in  
19 1999; and

20 WHEREAS, The men and women who have been selected to hold  
21 these prestigious posts for the next two years have all greatly  
22 contributed to the vibrant cultural life of the Lone Star State, and  
23 Texas is indeed fortunate to be home to these talented artists; now,  
24 therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas  
26 hereby honor the 2009 and 2010 appointees to the positions of State  
27 Poet Laureate, State Musician, State Two-Dimensional Artist, and

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1 State Three-Dimensional Artist and extend to each of them sincere  
2 best wishes for continued creativity and achievement.