

By: Creighton

H.R. No. 509

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Commission on the Arts has named David
2 Mercier Parsons of Conroe a finalist in the competition for state
3 poet laureate; and

4 WHEREAS, After graduating from Austin High School, Dave
5 Parsons went on to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps and to earn a
6 bachelor's degree from Texas State University; he worked in
7 advertising and marketing until he left the corporate world behind
8 to explore his passion for poetry; in 1985, he went abroad to study
9 with the writer and National Book Award finalist Stanley Plumly
10 through the University of Houston's London program, and he later
11 received the National Endowment for the Humanities Dante Fellowship
12 to the State University of New York; on returning to Texas, he began
13 teaching for the Willis Independent School District, and he resumed
14 his studies at the University of Houston, earning a master's degree
15 in creative writing and literature in 1991; and

16 WHEREAS, Since making the decision to pursue the arts as a
17 profession, Mr. Parsons has published four books of poetry, *The*
18 *Retail Representative*; *Life, Love, and the Pursuit of Happiness*;
19 *Editing Sky*; and *Color of Mourning*; his poems have also been
20 featured in various journals and magazines, including the *Texas*
21 *Review*, the *Touchstone Literary Review*, the *New Review Poetry*
22 *Digest*, and *Louisiana Literature*; and

23 WHEREAS, In addition to receiving favorable reviews from
24 scholarly journals and local newspapers, Mr. Parsons has earned

1 numerous accolades for his writing; in 1989, he won the
2 French/American Legation poetry prize for a piece published in
3 *Standpoints: The Journal for Teachers of English in France*, and in
4 1998 he was a finalist for the X. J. Kennedy Book Prize; the
5 following year, his book *Editing Sky* was the winner of the Texas
6 Review Poetry Prize and a finalist for the Violet Crown Book Award;
7 Mr. Parsons has also been invited to appear at the Texas Book
8 Festival, the Writers League of Texas Author's Gala, the Rice
9 University/University of Houston Reading Series, the Houston and
10 Austin Poetry Festivals, and many other events across the state;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, This esteemed poet has further contributed to the
13 arts by encouraging his fellow citizens to embrace and appreciate
14 literature; as a creative writing professor, he has cultivated the
15 talents of his students at Lone Star College-Montgomery for the
16 past 17 years; in 1993, he created the Montgomery County Literary
17 Arts Council Writers In Performance Series, through which he has
18 helped bring more than 100 distinguished authors to the area for
19 free readings and lectures, and he has sponsored events honoring
20 the poets Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman; he has also served on
21 the Conroe Commission on the Arts and Culture and the Houston Arts
22 Alliance Panel, and he was selected to teach the poetry workshop for
23 Inprint Inc.; moreover, he was named the Montgomery County poet
24 laureate for 2005 through 2010, a role that enables him to continue
25 advancing literary arts in his community; and

26 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Parsons enjoys the love
27 and support of his wife, Nancy, and his four children, Robert,

1 Laura, Brandy, and Allison; and

2 WHEREAS, Through his poetry, teaching, and community
3 outreach, Dave Parsons has touched the lives of countless
4 individuals, and he may indeed reflect with great pride on the
5 positive impact he has had on the arts in Texas; now, therefore, be
6 it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
8 Legislature hereby congratulate David Mercier Parsons on his
9 nomination for Texas poet laureate and commend him on his
10 accomplished literary career; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for Mr. Parsons as an expression of high regard by the
13 Texas House of Representatives.