

By: Frullo

H.R. No. 2131

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Commission on the Arts has announced the
2 2017 appointments for the positions of State Poet Laureate,
3 State Musician, State Two-Dimensional Artist, and State
4 Three-Dimensional Artist; and

5 WHEREAS, The state's highest accolade for excellence in the
6 arts, designation as a Texas State Artist is conferred on those
7 individuals who represent the best of our rich and diverse artistic
8 community and who inspire others through their unique creative
9 expression; the nomination process for the awards is overseen by
10 the TCA, and the final selections are made by a committee whose
11 members are appointed by the governor, the lieutenant governor, and
12 the speaker of the house of representatives; and

13 WHEREAS, The 2017 State Poet Laureate is San Antonio native
14 Jenny Browne; the author of three collections, *At Once*, *The Second*
15 *Reason*, and *Dear Stranger*, she uses poetry to explore language,
16 landscape, and the complexities of being human; she is also an
17 educator who has worked as a poet-in-residence at schools,
18 libraries, and community centers throughout the state; this
19 celebrated writer has received fellowships from the National
20 Endowment for the Arts, the Artist Foundation of San Antonio, and
21 the Writers' League of Texas, in addition to the Cecil Hemley Award
22 from the Poetry Society of America; after earning her MFA from the
23 Michener Center for Writers at The University of Texas, she joined
24 the English department at Trinity University; and

1 WHEREAS, Known as the "King of Country Music," legendary
2 singer-songwriter George Strait was selected as the 2017 State
3 Musician; the only act in history to have a Top 10 hit every year for
4 over three decades, he has released a staggering 60 No. 1 singles,
5 and he claims 33 platinum and multiplatinum albums, the most of any
6 country music artist ever; to date, he has earned more than 60 major
7 entertainment industry awards, and he was honored with induction
8 into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2006; his final performance
9 in Arlington on his 2014 The Cowboy Rides Away Tour drew a
10 record-shattering attendance of more than 100,000 fans, and he went
11 on to perform six sold-out shows in 2016 as part of his Las Vegas
12 concert series; and

13 WHEREAS, The 2017 State Two-Dimensional Artist is Kermit
14 Oliver, a Refugio native who has earned international recognition
15 as one of the finest artists of our time; replete with biblical
16 symbolism and references to Greek and Roman mythology, his
17 masterfully executed paintings and drawings have been exhibited at
18 the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and
19 Culture as well as at the Nave Museum in Victoria and the Martin
20 Museum of Art at Baylor University; a graduate of Texas Southern
21 University, he was presented with the first ever Lifetime
22 Achievement Award from Art League Houston in 2013, and the Museum of
23 Fine Arts, Houston, exhibited a major retrospective of his work in
24 2005; moreover, he holds the distinction of being the first
25 American artist to create scarf designs for the iconic French
26 fashion house of Hermès; and

27 WHEREAS, Beverly Penn, the 2017 State Three-Dimensional

1 Artist, creates delicate and captivating cast-bronze sculptures
2 from weeds that she gathers in the Texas Hill Country, and these
3 pieces invoke humanity's impulse to control the natural world
4 through art and science; her work appears in collections at the
5 Cooper Hewitt Museum in New York, the Philadelphia Museum of Art,
6 and other institutions across the country, and she has been
7 commissioned for several public art projects; a tenured professor
8 in the School of Art and Design at Texas State University, Ms. Penn
9 is the recipient of nine faculty research grants as well as numerous
10 fellowships, among them a Fulbright Fellowship in Barcelona, Spain;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The artists who have been selected to hold these
13 prestigious posts have all greatly contributed to the vibrant
14 cultural life of the Lone Star State, and Texas is indeed fortunate
15 to be home to these talented individuals; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
17 Legislature hereby congratulate the 2017 State Artists and extend
18 to them sincere best wishes for continued fulfillment in their
19 creative endeavors.