

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 337

Introduced by Campbell, 25; Avery, 28; Coash, 27; Conrad, 46; Fulton, 29; Haar, 21; McGill, 26; Wallman, 30.

WHEREAS, Bill Kloefkorn was named State Poet by proclamation of Governor Charles Thone on September 11, 1982; and

WHEREAS, he was born August 12, 1932, in Kansas, taught English at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, retiring from that full-time position in 1997, wrote thirty-one books, among them poetry, including "Uncertain the Final Run to Winter" and "Loup River Psalter", short fiction, including "Shadow Boxer", and memoirs, including "This Death by Drowning", and assisted in starting the Nebraska Poets-in-the-Schools program, enriching the education of Nebraska school children; and

WHEREAS, his poetry has been published in periodicals and newspapers throughout the United States, including on poetry Internet web sites, and shared across the country through the readings he gave and workshops he conducted at colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, he liked to tell people that he won first place in the 1978 Nebraska Hog-Calling Championship; and

WHEREAS, he was called "a great poet" and "an even better teacher"; and

WHEREAS, he is quoted at the Nebraska Wesleyan Alumni Association web site as having said that, "Poems should not be simplistic, nor should they be sermons. Poetry is for those who want to use their own minds to find answers. It can challenge without being elitist or obscure"; and

WHEREAS, in his poem "Hands," he wrote, "beside you someone whose hand you'd recognize in any degree of darkness holding your hand, wristbone connected to the armbone, and though you don't know how this world began or how it might end, you know the pathway that leads to repose"; and

WHEREAS, Bill Kloefkorn died in Lincoln on May 19, 2011, leaving behind his wife, Eloise, four children, eleven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and many friends, colleagues, admirers, former students, and lovers of poetry.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature expresses its sympathy to Eloise Kloefkorn and the family of Bill Kloefkorn on their loss.

2. That the Legislature recognizes Bill Kloefkorn's contributions to Nebraska and the United States through a lifetime of writing, teaching, mentoring, encouraging, and befriending his fellow human beings.

3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of Bill Kloefkorn.