

State of Maine



WHEREAS, National Poetry Month was founded by the Academy of American Poets and proclaimed a national observance by President William Clinton on April 1st, 1996; and

WHEREAS, April 1st, 2021 marks the 25th anniversary of this occasion to recognize the vital role poetry and poets play in our society; and

WHEREAS, National Poetry Month brings us together as readers and writers, whether at home, in classrooms, bookstores, or libraries throughout our nation; and

WHEREAS, the National Endowment for the Arts' 2017 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts found that nearly 28 million Americans read poetry annually, and that poetry readership has doubled among readers 18-24 years of age and increased among readers of diverse ages, demographics, and identities; and

WHEREAS, poetry illuminates hope in our darkest hours, gives voice to our struggles, brings inspiration to our triumphs, and is a gift of expression that transcends our personal experience to unite us in words; and

WHEREAS, Maine is home to countless poets and their legacies, including Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Presidential Inaugural Poet Richard Blanco, Maine's Poet Laureate Stuart Kestenbaum, and youth finding their voices through writing and reading poetry in all corners of our state; and

WHEREAS, during the month of April we honor the enriching contributions that past, present, and future generations of poets bring to our culture;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim April 2021 as

National Poetry Month

in Maine, and I urge all Maine citizens to celebrate the creativity of poets and the indelible marks their words leave upon the pages of our shared humanity by reading and writing poetry.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this twenty-fourth day of March Two Thousand Twenty-One

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State