

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1805

A RESOLUTION honoring Langston Hughes upon the centennial of his birth.

WHEREAS, Langston Hughes was born in Joplin, Missouri, on February 1, 1902. He was raised by his mother, Carrie Hughes, after his parents separated, and lived in Lawrence, Topeka and Kansas City before moving to Ohio at the age of 12. He started writing poetry while in the eighth grade and was voted the Class Poet by his high school senior class. Sent by his father to Columbia University to study engineering, he quit college shortly thereafter upon the publication of his famous poem, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers." Subsequently, he traveled to Senegal, Nigeria, Cameroon, Belgium, Congo, Angola, Guinea, Italy, Russia, France, and Spain before finally settling in Harlem, New York, in 1924; and

WHEREAS, Hughes' astounding literary works inspired and transformed the consciousness of the Harlem Renaissance. Between 1924 and his death on May 22, 1967, he wrote sixteen books of poems, two novels, three collections of short stories, four volumes of "editorial" and "documentary" fiction, twenty plays, children's poetry, musicals and operas, three autobiographies, a dozen radio and television scripts, and dozens of magazine articles. In addition, he edited seven anthologies; and

WHEREAS, The State of Kansas recognizes and honors Mr. Hughes' lifelong struggle to fight racism and social injustice. Through his writings and lectures, he relentlessly attacked segregation and reshaped Afro-centric thought around the world; and

WHEREAS, The University of Kansas will celebrate the art and legacy of America's premier public poet by sponsoring the Langston Hughes Symposium on February 7-10, 2002. This centennial celebration of his birth will include a three-day symposium of scholars and performance artists from around the world who will explore themes related to Hughes' life, work and influence. Subsequently, a year-long series of events are planned to promote reading, listening and appreciating poetry; and

WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service will be issuing a memorial Langston Hughes stamp in conjunction with the National Park Service and with input from the Kansas Fever Committee: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we honor Langston Hughes upon the centennial year of his birth and encourage participation in the University of Kansas Symposium in his name; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Dr. Robert Hemenway, Chancellor, University of Kansas, 230 Strong Hall, Lawrence, Kansas 66044-1063; the Kansas Fever Committee, 901 S.W. Tyler, No. 111, Topeka, Kansas 66612; plus a copy to Senator Gooch and four copies to Senator Haley.

Senate Resolution No. 1805 was sponsored by Senators David Haley and U. L. (Rip) Gooch.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*