

WHEREAS, much of this poetry has come to us in the Twentieth Century as a cultural heritage of inestimable value, passed down from the folk lore, patriotism and religion of the past and giving tone and character to the culture of today; and

WHEREAS, the poetry and culture of this generation will give similar impetus and strength to the lives of coming generations; and

WHEREAS, most of the States of the Union already have adopted and set aside October 15 of every year as "Poetry Day"; and

WHEREAS, Margielea Stonestreet (Mrs. Charles M. See), a well-known poet of Maryland has made personal requests of the Governor in 1945, 1948 and 1950 to set aside and proclaim such a day; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the place of poetry in the cultural life of the State and of the nation, it is only fitting that we should set apart a day specially in honor of those poets of the past and present who have done and are doing so much to enrich the lives of all of us; now therefore

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That a new section be and it is hereby added to Article 41 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition and 1947 Supplement), title "Governor—Executive and Administrative Departments", said new section to be known as Section 61C, to follow immediately after Section 61B thereof and to be under the new sub-title "Poetry Day", and to read as follows:

#### *Poetry Day*

*61C. The Governor shall proclaim and set aside in each year the day of October 15 as "Poetry Day", in recognition of the cultural and human values of poetry and poetic expression. In his proclamation he shall urge upon all religious, educational, patriotic and cultural agencies and organizations a proper and suitable observance of this day.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1951.

Approved February 21, 1951.