

County of Harlan

Harlan,



Kentucky

Proclamation Honoring George Ella Lyon and Declaring Saturday, April 30, 2016, As "George Ella Lyon Day" In Harlan County, Kentucky

Whereas, George Ella Lyon has become an ambassador for Appalachian art and culture through her writings and music that celebrate the beauty and goodness of life lived in the mountains; and

Whereas, former Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear appointed George Ella Lyon to serve as Kentucky's Poet Laureate for the 2015-2016 term to promote The Arts and lead the state's literary endeavors; and

Whereas, former Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear affirmed George Ella Lyon was an outstanding model for Kentucky talent who exemplifies The Commonwealth's arts and culture at its finest by stating of George Ella Lyon that her work "is a portrait of Kentucky heritage and tradition;" and

Whereas, George Ella Lyon has published over 40 books, including poetry collections and children's writings, that has received national attention, critical acclaim, and various awards such as the 1993 "Appalachian Book Of The Year;" and

Whereas, George Ella Lyon's roots are dug deep in Appalachia, specifically in the coalfields of Harlan County, where she was born to the parents of the late Harlan County drycleaner, Robert Hoskins, and the late Harlan County Chamber of Commerce Secretary, Gladys Hoskins, and was raised to appreciate literature, music, as well as her mountain home, in which she wrote about in her famous poem about Harlan County titled "Where I'm From;" and

Whereas, George Ella Lyon, being a native of Harlan County and a preserver of Harlan County culture through her artistic endeavors, continues to promote her home land in a positive manner; and

Whereas, George Ella Lyon is also recognized for her scholarly success, having achieved her Doctorate in English, having taught writing on several college campuses, having spoken at hundreds of schools and libraries throughout the nation, and who is also a highly-sought-after speaker at Appalachian and writing conferences; be it

Resolved, that Harlan County Fiscal Court is proud of George Ella Lyon's many successes in The Arts, and is proud to recognize both her and the importance of The Arts within our schools and communities, as well as the profound impact The Arts have upon the lives of our residents; and be it further

Resolved, that Harlan County Fiscal Court is proud that George Ella Lyon is a native of Harlan County, and that we consider her contributions, both within and outside of the coalfields, to be some of the most significant contributions ever to be given by a Harlan County native; and be it further

Resolved, that in recognition of George Ella Lyon's artistic contributions, and in recognition of the importance of promoting The Arts, Harlan County Fiscal Court thus designates by resolution that Saturday, April 30, 2016, is to be declared "George Ella Lyon Day" in Harlan County in conjunction with special events taking place on said date that further honors George Ella Lyon.

Signed Into Effect On This Date of Thursday, April 21, 2016, by signature of Harlan County Judge/Executive Dan Mosley,

Dan Mosley, Harlan County Judge/Executive

4-21-16

Date