

By: Representative Creekmore IV

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING HUBERT CREEKMORE AND
2 COMMENDING HIS LEGACY AS AN AMERICAN AUTHOR AND LITERARY CRITIC IN
3 HONOR OF HUBERT CREEKMORE DAY IN WATER VALLEY, MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, born on January 16, 1907, in Water Valley,
5 Mississippi, Hiram Hubert Creekmore, known as Hubert Creekmore,
6 was an American author, poet, translator, editor, and literary
7 critic, renowned for his contributions to 20th-century literature,
8 and although he spent much of his adult life in New York City, he
9 maintained strong ties to Mississippi, often returning to stay
10 with family; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Creekmore's literary repertoire is diverse,
12 encompassing poetry, novels, translations, and editorial work, and
13 his novels frequently drew upon his Southern roots, and often
14 critiqued the South's history of racial discrimination, reflecting
15 his commitment to addressing social issues through literature, and
16 his translations and editorial projects made significant
17 contributions to making global literary works accessible to
18 English-speaking audiences; and



19 WHEREAS, Mr. Creekmore graduated from the University of
20 Mississippi in 1927, went to work for the Mississippi Highway
21 Department in Jackson, Mississippi, and then became an editor with
22 the Federal Writers' Project, and in 1940 he earned a master's
23 degree from Columbia University, where his thesis focused on the
24 metrics in the works of Ezra Pound, and his startling documentary
25 style frequently caused his work to be compared to Pound's; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Creekmore was a frequent contributor to literary
27 magazines and published his first book of poems, *Personal Sun*, in
28 1940, and it included "*To the Very Late Mourners of the Old*
29 *South*," which foreshadows the philosophy found in his later
30 novels, and he used his poetic talent to describe social ills and
31 the desperation of humanity and civilization; and

32 WHEREAS, in 1942, Mr. Creekmore joined the United States
33 Navy, becoming a lieutenant and serving until 1945, and his
34 experiences in World War II provided the material for his most
35 famous book of poetry, *The Long Reprieve and Other Poems from New*
36 *Caledonia* (1946); and

37 WHEREAS, after the war, Mr. Creekmore moved back and forth
38 between homes in Jackson and New York City, and he worked as an
39 editor for *New Directions Press* and as a critic for the *New York*
40 *Times*, reviewing such luminaries as Carson McCullers and Langston
41 Hughes; and

42 WHEREAS, Mr. Creekmore was also a part of Eudora Welty's
43 social circle, as his sister married her brother, and he served as



one of her early mentors, and his novels, unlike many of his poems, specifically addressed the South and his work received praise from many for its documentary aspects, but he also received heavy criticism in the South; and

WHEREAS, The *Jackson Daily News* described Mr. Creekmore's first novel, *The Fingers of the Night* (1946), which depicts the life of poor whites in Mississippi, as belonging in the garbage can with *Sanctuary*, *Light in August*, *Tobacco Road*, and "any other nasty drivel purporting to picture life in Mississippi."; and

WHEREAS, hostile reviews and limited job opportunities, as well as the pressure of being an openly gay man in Mississippi, may have pushed Mr. Creekmore to make New York his permanent home, and his other two novels, *The Welcome* (1948) and *The Chain in the Heart* (1953), also criticized southern society, as *The Chain in the Heart* attacked both the contemporary treatment of African Americans and the historical legacy of slavery, and *The Welcome*, his only explicitly gay work, derided the region's stifling system of forced heterosexuality and left open the question of queer desire in the South; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Creekmore spent the last years of his life living in New York and working as a translator and editor, and his final publication was a work of nonfiction, *Daffodils Are Dangerous: Poisonous Plants in Your Garden*, a serious guide that reflected his love of gardening, and though he earned his fame as



68 a poet, Mr. Creekmore was a multifaceted individual, also known
69 for his talents as a pianist, composer, and gardener; and

70 WHEREAS, Mr. Creekmore unfortunately passed away after
71 suffering a massive heart attack on May 23, 1966, while in a taxi
72 on his way to the airport to fly to Spain, leaving behind a rich
73 literary legacy that continues to be studied and appreciated, and
74 the University of Mississippi houses the Hubert Creekmore
75 Collection, preserving his correspondence, manuscripts, and other
76 personal documents for scholarly research; and

77 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Legislature to honor
78 extraordinary Mississippians, especially those such as Mr.
79 Creekmore, whose outstanding literary legacy brings honor to the
80 State of Mississippi:

81 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
82 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
83 THEREIN, That we do hereby recognize Hubert Creekmore and commend
84 his legacy as an American author and literary critic in honor of
85 Hubert Creekmore Day in Water Valley, Mississippi.

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
87 furnished to the family of Hubert Creekmore, and to the members of
88 the Capitol Press Corps.

