

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Blackmon, Butler,
Chassaniol, Frazier, McLendon, Robinson,
Simmons (13th), Simmons (12th), Thomas,
Norwood

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 16

1 A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE MISSISSIPPI
2 SENATE TO THE LEGACY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE OF ROBERT POORE AS THE
3 RECIPIENT OF THE 2025 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN
4 VISUAL ARTS AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE.

5 WHEREAS, the Governor's Arts Awards Program has announced its
6 2025 recipients, which include Robert Poore as the recipient of
7 the 2025 Governor's Arts Award for Excellence in Visual Arts and
8 Landscape Architecture; and

9 WHEREAS, established in 1988, Governor's Arts Awards are
10 given to individuals and organizations to recognize outstanding
11 work in the artistic disciplines as well as arts-based community
12 development and arts patronage in Mississippi. The awards are
13 presented in partnership with the Governor's Office and signify
14 the important relationship between government and the arts; and

15 WHEREAS, Robert Poore has become Mississippi's premier
16 landscape architect, and his excellence was recognized in 2023 by
17 the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), with his
18 inclusion in their Council of Fellows. He is one of two



19 Mississippians to receive this honor in the category of works for
20 his projects; and

21 WHEREAS, he is an artist with a 36-year career devoted to art
22 and design through landscape architecture and creative
23 collaborations with other artists and cultural institutions.

24 Poore founded a landscape company called Native Habitats Landscape
25 Architecture in Flora, Mississippi; and

26 WHEREAS, as a young man, Poore worked in landscaping. His
27 father, Leon L. Poore, was a tree surgeon and landscape designer.
28 Poore's father gave him his first books on landscape architecture
29 when he was ten. However, Poore chose to study the architecture
30 of buildings at Georgia Tech University. He realized this was not
31 the right path, so he dropped out and worked in landscaping. In
32 1986, he returned to school at Mississippi State University to
33 study landscape architecture; and

34 WHEREAS, Poore believes that nature is a process-generated
35 art form. With an ecological focus, his designs work harmoniously
36 with nature's processes and patterns, enhancing, promoting, and
37 protecting unique places, plants, culture, and history across
38 Mississippi and the South. His original landscape designs are on
39 display across the state, including the Mississippi Art Garden,
40 the gardens at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, the
41 Mississippi Children's Museum Literacy Garden, and the Crosby
42 Arboretum; and



WHEREAS, Poore collaborated with the late Ed Blake and Carol Franklin for the design of the nationally renowned Crosby Arboretum in Picayune, Mississippi, from 1986 to 1995. Crosby Arboretum is perhaps the most celebrated work of Mississippi landscape architecture and recipient of the 1991 National Honor Award from American Society of Landscape Architecture. As consulting landscape ecologist for the arboretum, he co-authored the Arboreport 3.3, a research study of representative natural sites that directly informed the arboretum design and won the 1992 President's Award of Excellence in Research from the Mississippi Chapter, and published "Enriching Urban Landscapes with Native Trees," which received the 1995 Merit Award from the Mississippi Chapter; and

WHEREAS, since that time Poore has remained actively involved with the evolution of the arboretum, a unit of Mississippi State University. Working with landscape architecture students and professors, Poore helped design the Gum Pond Wetland and Bayhead Stream Forest exhibitions. From 2018 to 2020, Poore designed the Rosen Memorial Interpretive Pavilion; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Poore has received numerous recognitions for his work, including the 2013 ASLA MS Merit Award for The Art Garden, the 1991 ASLA National Honor Award for The Crosby Arboretum Master Plan, and the 1999 ASLA National Centennial Medallion Award for the Lake Terrace Convention Center; and



68 WHEREAS, Poore's two children, Scott Poore and Kristy Hogan,
69 and four grandchildren, Kaylee, Paxton, Abby and Griffin are his
70 greatest inspiration in recent years; and

71 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute and
72 express appreciation for the energy of a Mississippi Landscape
73 Architect and Arts Professional whose work has made Mississippi a
74 better place and exemplifies the charitable and artistic
75 traditions of our great state:

76 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
77 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby extend the recognition of the
78 Mississippi Senate to the legacy and community service of Robert
79 Poore as the recipient of the 2025 Governor's Arts Award for
80 Excellence in Visual Arts and Landscape Architecture and extend
81 our congratulations to this outstanding landscape architect on
82 this auspicious occasion.

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
84 Robert Poore and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

