

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME -- GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The Poet Laureate of Arkansas is uniquely qualified to promote language and literacy for all Arkansans, to instill an appreciation for the arts in communities across the State, and to provide a voice that speaks to the history and culture of the people of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas's first Poet Laureate was established by resolutions of the Arkansas General Assembly on October 10, 1923, to recognize the esteemed accomplishments and contributions of a resident of the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Jo Garot McDougall, was born near DeWitt, Arkansas, and grew up on a rice farm. She graduated from Dewitt High School and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in Home Economics and her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from the University of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Inspired by her heritage, McDougall captures a sense of place and a Southern way of life through language that is direct and unexpected. Her poems are honest reflections on loss and authentic accounts of everyday life; and

WHEREAS: In Arkansas, she has taught at Hendrix College in Conway and at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She has had six poetry collections published, a chapbook, and a compilation of poetry published by the University of Arkansas Press; and

WHEREAS: She has been awarded the Porter Prize for literary excellence, received a fellowship from the Arkansas Arts Council, fellowships to the MacDowell Colony for artists, has won the Dewitt Wallace/Reader's Digest Writing Award, and has been published in the *Arkansas Review: a Journal of Delta Studies*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Hudson Review*, *The Georgia Review*, *North American Review*, the *Arkansas Times*, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, and *Good Poems for Hard Times*; and

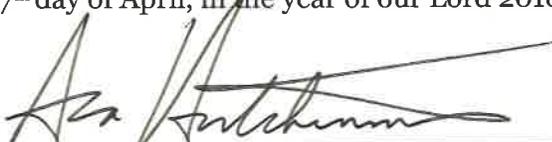
WHEREAS: Because McDougall understands poetry can reach more audiences when shared through multiple art forms, she released a film based on her poems titled *Emerson County Shaping Dream*. She has also adapted her works for the stage, for art exhibits, and for songs. McDougall has been inducted into the Arkansas Writers Hall of Fame and has also written a memoir, *Daddy's Money: A Memoir of Farm and Family*, that observes small town life and recalls her family's experiences growing up on the Dewitt family farm; and

WHEREAS: Jo McDougall is worthy of the designation of Arkansas's Poet Laureate for her enduring voice, for her observance of small town life, and for her vivid use of language to tell a story;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, in recognition of her outstanding accomplishments and contributions in poetry, under the authority vested in me by Ark. Code Ann. § 1-4-114, hereby designate and appoint Jo Garot McDougall of Little Rock, to serve as Poet Laureate of the State of Arkansas to a term of four (4) years, set to expire on or about December 31, 2021.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, in the year of our Lord 2018.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

  
Mark Martin, Secretary Of State