

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

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The lives of Arkansans are enriched and enlightened through poetry and through the powerful voices of poets, who create vivid imagery through language combined with intense emotion and imagination; and

WHEREAS: The Academy of American Poets founded April as National Poetry Month in 1996, with the aim to: highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievements of American poets; encourage the reading of poetry, assist teachers in bringing poetry into the classrooms, increase the attention paid to poetry by national and local media; and provide support for poets and poetry; and

WHEREAS: Across our state, teachers and poets contribute to expanding the mind with their innovative use of language, encouraging youth to discover the power of reading and speaking the poetry of others while focusing on writing and speaking their own; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas Youth Poetry Day provides the opportunity to: celebrate the heritage and spirited accomplishments of our young poets; give support and recognition for their work; introduce them to new career paths; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas Youth Poetry Day acts as a vital and stimulating force in the literary life of our state and offers an unprecedented opportunity in the lives of our youth and fosters the next generation of Arkansas poets;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, as

**ARKANSAS YOUTH POETRY DAY**

and ask that our schools, clubs, councils, literary organizations, literary presses, and citizens take an active part in this observance, honoring young Arkansas writers, who refresh our language and make exciting contributions to the literature of our state and nation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the year of our Lord 2021.



*Asa Hutchinson*

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

*John Thurston*  
John Thurston, Secretary of State