

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY SENATORS LEMAN, Halford, Duncan, Zharoff, Taylor, Green, Torgerson**

**REPRESENTATIVES Toohey, Navarre**

**Introduced: 1/20/95**

**Referred: State Affairs**

**A RESOLUTION**

**1 Naming the Poet Laureate of Alaska.**

**2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

**3 WHEREAS** literary expression in the form of poetry is a pursuit that reaches and  
**4** enriches human beings in all walks of life and circumstances; and

**5 WHEREAS** poets laureate have been recognized by the state since 1963; and

**6 WHEREAS** the term of the current Poet Laureate of Alaska, Joanne Townsend,  
**7** expired last year; and

**8 WHEREAS** the Alaska State Council on the Arts has nominated Thomas Sexton for  
**9** a two-year term as Poet Laureate of Alaska; and

**10 WHEREAS** Thomas Sexton was selected unanimously by an Alaska State Council  
**11** on the Arts committee composed of the Council's Literature Panel and the living Poets  
**12** Laureate of Alaska; and

**13 WHEREAS** Thomas Sexton has a distinguished record as a teacher, poet, and state  
**14** citizen; and

**15 WHEREAS** Thomas Sexton received his Master's Degree from the University of  
**16** Alaska Fairbanks in 1970, taught for 24 years at the University of Alaska Anchorage, and  
**17** retired last year; and

1           **WHEREAS** Thomas Sexton was honored with the title, Emeritus Professor of English,  
2 by the University of Alaska Anchorage when he retired; and

3           **WHEREAS** Thomas Sexton has written four books of prose and poetry, his poetry has  
4 been published widely in journals across the United States and has been included in four  
5 anthologies, and he has won several awards and honors; and

6           **WHEREAS** Thomas Sexton has contributed generously of his time and talents to  
7 public service;

8           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature names Thomas Sexton the Poet  
9 Laureate of Alaska for a term of two years.