

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, Galway Kinnell was born in Providence, RI in 1927, received his BA from Princeton in 1948 and his MA from University of Rochester in 1949; and

WHEREAS, his poetry has been published in 26 different books or chapbooks, and far more if you count the dozen or so anthologies and multiple periodicals ranging from the American Book Review to The New Yorker and the Yale Review; and

WHEREAS, he has translated seven works of poetry, published numerous essays, speeches, interviews, a novel set in Iran, and even a children's book titled, "How the Alligator Missed Breakfast;" and

WHEREAS, an early Fulbright Scholarship allowed him to travel the world as a young man, he later received, in 1983, both a Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Award for his 1982 anthology of "Selected Poems" which, in turn, set him up to receive the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship in 1984 ; and

WHEREAS, though published by Houghton Mifflin, something told him he should spend at least a little time at Knopf where, during his short hiatus there, he met and eventually married (17 years ago) his editor, Bobbie Bristol; and

WHEREAS, they have made their home in Sheffield, Vermont since the early 1990s, which has allowed Galway to continue to bring his own poems as well as those of other well-known poets to places throughout the Northeast Kingdom and beyond; and

WHEREAS, his poetry has caused unusual behaviors among his many fans, including turning a perfectly respectable physician by day into a published poet by night; and two anonymous female fans who, upon being locked out of a reading at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, found an unlocked window (on the side facing away from the Police Station next door), and snuck in anyway; and

WHEREAS, he has taught writing and/or poetry at no fewer than 24 colleges and universities throughout the world, including at his own alma mater, Princeton, the University of Iran, Tehran, the University of Hawaii, and Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia; and

WHEREAS, he was the first Vermont State Poet selected during the Kunin Administration to serve in that role, replacing Robert Frost who had held the position despite being dead for more than 25 years; and

WHEREAS, his objections to the change of the title to Poet Laureate from State Poet were, first, that "State Poet" was good enough for Robert Frost and thus good enough for him, and second, he regarded the post in the same way his State Bird colleague, the Hermit Thrush, did—as an honor that obliged them both to sing; and

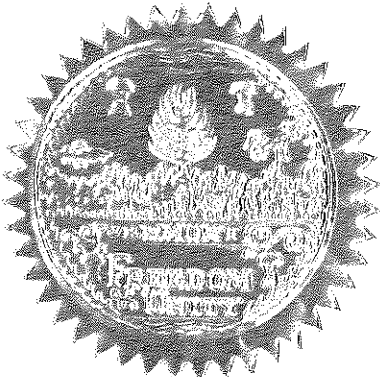
WHEREAS, his life serves as an inspiration to Vermonters and aspiring Vermonters, wherever they live and whatever their occupation happens to be, as evidenced by the nearly 250 people who packed the Vermont State House in August 2014 to celebrate his life and his work;

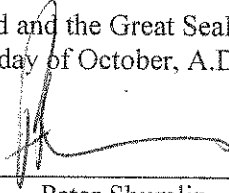
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim that

GALWAY KINNELL

is the recipient of the Vermont Arts Council's
2014 Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of
Vermont on this 7th day of October, A.D. 2014.




Peter Shumlin
Governor