

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 925

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Margaret Renkl, winner of the 2022 PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for Art of the Essay.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly recognize those accomplished Tennesseans who have devoted their lives to their creative endeavors, thereby enriching the lives of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, acclaimed writer and Nashvillian Margaret Renkl recently attained a career-defining pinnacle when she was awarded the 2022 PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for Art of the Essay for her book *Graceland, At Last: Notes On Hope And Heartache From The American South*; and

WHEREAS, published in 2021, *Graceland, At Last* is a collection of personal and reported essays in which Ms. Renkl introduces various voices of those from the South who are fighting for a better future for the region; the essays are grouped into six categories that reflect diverse perspectives on flora and fauna, politics and religion, social justice, environment, family and community, and arts and culture; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Renkl's deep and abiding love for the complex, complicated region she calls home is evident in the more than sixty selections presented in her prize-winning book, essays that radiate with natural beauty, human decency, and persistent hope; and

WHEREAS, prior to garnering the PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award, the collection was duly honored as the winner of the 2022 Southern Book Prize and named a Best Reviewed Book of 2021, *Country Living* Best Book of Fall, *Garden & Gun* Recommended Read for Fall, Literary Hub Most Anticipated Book of 2021, and Indie Next Selection for September 2021; and

WHEREAS, in addition to *Graceland, At Last*, Margaret Renkl is the author of *Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss* (2019) and a contributing opinion writer for *The New York Times*, where her essays appear each Monday; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Renkl was born and raised in rural Alabama and holds degrees from Auburn University and the University of South Carolina; she has been a resident of Nashville for almost thirty-five years and is currently an MFA Visiting Writer at Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, Margaret Renkl is one of the Volunteer State's most noteworthy citizens; her career is a testament to the possibilities that lie at the confluence of talent, hard work, integrity, and devotion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend and congratulate Margaret Renkl, winner of the 2022 PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for Art of the Essay, extending our best wishes for much continued success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.