



SPONSOR: Sen. Henry & Rep. Bolden  
Sens. McDowell & Marshall,  
Reps. Potter, Keeley, Brady, J. Johnson & Mitchell

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
148th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

HONORING IDENTICAL TWINS AND NOTED POETS, WILMINGTON'S NNAMDI CHUKWUOCHA AND AL MILLS, UPON THEIR JOINT APPOINTMENT AS THE 17TH POETS LAUREATE OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, Wilmington brothers Nnamdi Chukwuocha and Al Mills, who have become well known both in  
2 Delaware and nationally as the "Twin Poets," have recently been named by Governor Jack A. Markell as Delaware's 17<sup>th</sup>  
3 Poets Laureate; and

4 WHEREAS, while, historically, the position of Poet Laureate of Delaware has been held by a single individual, for  
5 the first time in the 70-year history of the program, Governor Markell chose to make this unprecedented joint appointment  
6 of the two brothers because of their close working relationship in the realm of poetry, speaking, as they do, in perfect  
7 unison in their joint appearances; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Chukwuocha and Mr. Mills, aged 45, are identical twins who have become well known in large  
9 part because of their eloquent, rhythmically-spoken poetry in which they address difficult issues of modern urban life like  
10 gun violence, poverty, drugs and the criminal justice system; and

11 WHEREAS, both brothers were raised in the City of Wilmington, the sons of well-known community activist  
12 William "Hicks" Anderson, and both work as social workers, in which capacity, as noted in a recent News-Journal profile,  
13 they engage on a daily basis with the city's most vulnerable residents; and

14 WHEREAS, this experience has played an integral part in the development of their poetry, which includes such  
15 works as "Dreams are illegal in the Ghetto," in which appear the lines "Gunshots ring out in the heat of the night/Followed  
16 by screams, violently disrupting my dreams/In my neighborhood/I don't have to read the paper or watch the news/To know  
17 that something bad happened around here tonight."; and

18 WHEREAS, both Mr. Chukwuocha and Mr. Mills are U.S. Army veterans, Mr. Mills having served in Iraq, and  
19 both are married fathers of sons; and

20 WHEREAS, both have been active in community service organizations and see their creative efforts as a way to  
21 help bring positive change to their city and state; and

22 WHEREAS, in their role as Delaware's Poets Laureate, they will serve as goodwill ambassadors, bringing the  
23 message of poetry to organizations and citizens throughout the First State, including, perhaps most importantly, Delaware's  
24 school children, introducing them to the medium of poetry as an outlet of self-expression and bringing what has been  
25 described as their message expressing "a theme of oppression, resilience and liberation;"

26 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Senate of the 148<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the  
27 House of Representatives concurring therein, that the members do hereby honor Wilmington's "Twin Poets," Nnamdi  
28 Chukwuocha and Al Mills, upon the occasion of their joint appointment by Governor Jack A. Markell, as the 17<sup>th</sup> Poets  
29 Laureate of the State of Delaware;

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate and House of Representatives commend Mr. Chukwuocha and Mr.  
31 Mills for their ongoing efforts to bring their creative message to the people of the First State and beyond and extend all best  
32 wishes to them for a successful term as Delaware's Poets Laureate.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this resolution be presented to Mr. Chukwuocha and Mr.  
34 Mills upon its passage.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Senate Concurrent Resolution honors Wilmington's "Twin Poets," identical twin brothers Nnamdi Chukwuocha and Al Mills, upon their recent appointment by Governor Jack A. Markell as the 17<sup>th</sup> Poets Laureate of Delaware. Their appointment marks the first time in the 70-year history of the program in which two persons have been named to serve jointly as Delaware Poet Laureate.

Author: Senator Henry