

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, since 1996 National Poetry Month has helped to highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievements of American poets, bring poets and poetry to the public in immediate and innovative ways and also to make poetry an important part of our children's education; and

WHEREAS, poetry, as an essential part of the arts and humanities, affects every aspect of life in America today – including education, economy, heritage and community pride; and

WHEREAS, poetry can help soothe the soul in times of grief and transcend the personal message, making it universal; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2014 a devastating landslide in Snohomish County took many lives, destroyed homes and disrupted communities; and

WHEREAS, Washingtonians have responded to the tragedy by sending volunteers, aid and funds, we wish to send our collective spiritual support to the grieving survivors and communities affected by the mudslide;

NOW, THEREFORE, I Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 2014 to be

National Poetry Month

in Washington State, and I call upon poets, educators, librarians, public officials and all Washingtonians to observe National Poetry Month in a more meaningful, personal way by using poetry in activities, ceremonies and programs, as a means to offer comfort and solace to those who are suffering as a result of the Oso mudslide.



Signed this 1st day of April, 2014

Handwritten signature of Jay Inslee in blue ink.

Governor Jay Inslee