

Senate Resolution 15

By: Senator Carter of the 42nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating poet Natasha Trethewey on receiving the distinguished position of 19th Poet
2 Laureate of the United States; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Natasha Trethewey has long been recognized by citizens of this state for her
4 critically acclaimed poetry and creative nonfiction collections, now having attained the
5 position of 19th Poet Laureate of the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, she was born in Gulfport, Mississippi, and she received a B.A. in English from
7 the University of Georgia, an M.A. in English and creative writing from Hollins University,
8 and an M.F.A. in poetry from the University of Massachusetts; and

9 WHEREAS, her first collection of poetry, *Domestic Work*, won the inaugural 1999 Cave
10 Canem poetry prize, a 2001 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Book Prize, and the
11 2001 Lillian Smith Award for Poetry; and

12 WHEREAS, her second collection of poetry, *Bellocq's Ophelia*, received the 2003
13 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Book Prize, was a finalist for both the Academy of
14 American Poets' James Laughlin and Lenore Marshall prizes, and was named a 2003 Notable
15 Book by the American Library Association; and

16 WHEREAS, Natasha Trethewey was awarded the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for her third collection,
17 *Native Guard*, and her fourth collection was recently published in August, 2012; and

18 WHEREAS, her work has appeared in several volumes of *Best American Poetry* and in
19 journals including *Agni*, *American Poetry Review*, *Callaloo*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Kenyon*
20 *Review*, *New England Review*, and *The Southern Review*, and she is also the author of a book
21 of creative nonfiction, *Beyond Katrina: A Meditation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast*; and

22 WHEREAS, Ms. Trethewey has been the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim
23 Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Bunting Fellowship Program of the Radcliffe
24 Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, and the National Endowment for the
25 Arts; and

26 WHEREAS, she has worked as the Lehman Brady Joint Chair Professor of Documentary and
27 American Studies at Duke University and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and
28 the James Weldon Johnson Fellow in African American Studies at the Beinecke Library at
29 Yale University, and she is currently the Robert W. Woodruff Professor of English and
30 Creative Writing and director of the Creative Writing Program at Emory University; and

31 WHEREAS, she is a member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers and the Georgia Writers
32 Hall of Fame, and in 2008 Ms. Trethewey was named Georgia Woman of the Year; and

33 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
34 remarkable, dedicated, and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
36 congratulate Ms. Natasha Trethewey on being named 19th Poet Laureate of the United States
37 and extend to her their most sincere wishes for continued success and happiness.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
39 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ms. Natasha Trethewey.