

House Resolution 31

By: Representative Oliver of the 82nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating poet Natasha Trethewey on receiving the distinguished position of 19th Poet
2 Laureate of the United States and inviting her to be recognized by the House of
3 Representatives; and for other purposes.

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

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

10 WHEREAS, her first collection of poetry, *Domestic Work*, won the inaugural 1999 Cave
11 Canem poetry prize, a 2001 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Book Prize, and the
12 2001 Lillian Smith Award for Poetry; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
37 the members of this body congratulate Ms. Natasha Trethewey on being named 19th Poet
38 Laureate of the United States, extend to her their most sincere wishes for continued success
39 and happiness, and invite her to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and
40 time designated by the Speaker of the House.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
42 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ms. Natasha Trethewey.