

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

**HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

MEETING DATE: November 6, 2023
SUBJECT: Proclamation - Robert Morgan Day
PRESENTER: Chairman Rebecca McCall
ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1.) Proclamation

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners is requested to adopt the attached Proclamation proclaiming November 18, 2023 as Robert Morgan Day.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to adopt the attached Proclamation as presented.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move that the Board adopt the attached Proclamation proclaiming November 18, 2023 as Robert Morgan Day.

Henderson County Board of Commissioners

1 Historic Courthouse Square • Suite 1 • Hendersonville, NC 28792
Phone (828) 697-4808 • Fax (828) 692-9855 • www.hendersoncountync.gov

Rebecca K. McCall
Chairman
J. Michael Edney
Vice-Chairman



William G. Lapsley
Daniel J. Andreotta
David H. Hill

PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER 18 AS ROBERT MORGAN DAY

- WHEREAS,** Robert Morgan was born in Hendersonville, North Carolina on October 3, 1944, he grew up on a family farm in the Green River valley; and
- WHEREAS,** Robert Morgan was interested in writing poetry, fiction, and music at a young age, however, he was encouraged to study science in college instead, but after starting his higher education at North Carolina State University in engineering and applied mathematics, he transferred to UNC-Chapel Hill and graduated with a B.A. in English in 1965; he received a Master of Fine Arts degree from UNC-Greensboro; and
- WHEREAS,** In the late 1960s, Robert Morgan began writing poetry with the support and encouragement of his teachers, friends, and peers, many of his poems were published and a first book, *Zirconia Poems*, was born in 1969; and
- WHEREAS,** After beginning his career at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York in 1971, Professor Morgan received NEA grants in 1974, 1981, and 1987; in 1988, he was awarded a Guggenheim fellowship, and a Rockefeller Foundation fellowship, followed by the James G. Hanes Poetry Prize by the Fellowship of Southern Writers, and the North Carolina Literature Award; and
- WHEREAS,** In 1991, Robert Morgan's novel, "Gap Creek" was published and it was selected for the Southern Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction for 2000, and was chosen as Notable Book by the New York Times. *Gap Creek* was a selection of the Oprah Book Club and a New York Times bestseller. It was chosen by the Appalachian Writers Association as Book of the Year for 2000; and
- WHEREAS,** Robert Morgan became the Kappa Alpha Professor of English at Cornell University in 1992, a position he held until retirement his retirement in 2022 as Kappa Alpha Professor of English Emeritus; and
- WHEREAS,** Robert Morgan is the author of 15 books of poetry, nine volumes of fiction, including the sequel to "Gap Creek", "The Road from Gap Creek", and three nonfiction books; he also served as visiting writer at Davidson College, Furman, Duke, Appalachian State, and East Carolina universities; and Robert Morgan was inducted into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame in 2010; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Henderson County Board of Commissioners expresses their deep admiration for the gifts and talents that Robert Morgan has brought to Henderson County, and the world at large, as a man of great academic achievement and a highly-prolific author of admired literature. On behalf of the citizens and staff of Henderson County, we proclaim November 18 as Robert Morgan Day. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the County of Henderson to be affixed.

Proclaimed this the 6th day of November 2023.

ATTEST:

REBECCA MCCALL, CHAIRMAN
HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Denisa A. Lauffer, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners