



State of New York

Executive Chamber

WALT WHITMAN CITATION OF MERIT FOR POETS

Presented to:

MARIE HOWE

Whereas, the Empire State is pleased to recognize individuals who have distinguished themselves through their lasting contributions to literature, art, culture, and society as a whole; and

Whereas, Marie Howe is just such an individual – a gifted poet who helps us see the miraculous in the ordinary, calling attention to simple, inconsequential moments and highlighting a spiritual dimension in our busy day-to-day lives; Ms. Howe urges us to see ourselves and our connection to something larger, to find redemption and meaning in loss, to learn to bridge our solitude, and come to terms with the impermanence of things; and

Whereas, with long, winding lines of conversation and confession, Marie Howe uses metaphors that strike us as true and something we have always known, that illustrate a bold fact of life or death, with clarity, honesty, and courage, in an intimate talk she has with her reader and listener in which she relays an important perspective about the transitory nature of all things; and

Whereas, in her early career, as a reporter and as a high school English teacher, Marie Howe honed her writing craft until she turned towards poetry, acquiring as a mentor the first New York State Poet, the late Stanley Kunitz, who saw in her words a rare religiosity “suffused with grace and charity”; Marie Howe, in turn, has passed on her gift, as a teacher at Columbia University, NYU, and Sarah Lawrence College and in countless workshops across the state and nation, to a new generation looking for its voice, learning this mysterious language; and

Whereas, with each successive volume of her poetry, Marie Howe has furthered her reputation in the literary world, earning honors and accolades from critics, scholars, and fellow poets for her work which takes up both transcendentalism and realism, the physical and the metaphysical, in the tradition of one of the greatest American poets, the Long Island-born Walt Whitman; we join to celebrate a poet whose achievements make her deserving of recognition and our gratitude;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby confer this Citation upon Marie Howe for her distinguished literary accomplishments and contributions, and am pleased to designate her State Poet of New York for the years 2012 – 2014.




Governor

September 20, 2012