

1 [Resolution commending Seamus Heaney and declaring May 15, 2006 “Seamus Heaney
2 Day” in San Francisco.]
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7 WHEREAS, Seamus Heaney will participate in San Francisco’s City Arts and Lecture
8 series on May 15th, 2006; and,
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10 WHEREAS, Seamus Heaney was the 1995 recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature
11 and is considered the greatest living Irish poet; and,

12 WHEREAS, upon the announcement of the awarding of the Nobel Prize to him, he was
13 recognized as emerging from a heritage that “contains both the Ireland of the cattle-herding
14 Gaelic past and the Ulster of the Industrial Revolution,” an inheritance from his parents that
15 influenced his poetry; and,

16 WHEREAS, at the awarding of the Nobel Prize to him, it was recognized that “his
17 Gaelic heritage has always been part of his larger keyboard of reference and remains
18 culturally and politically central to his work;” and,

19 WHEREAS, he has been known to “delve into the question of poetry’s
20 responsibilities and prerogatives in the world where poetry is posed between a need for
21 creative freedom and the need to express the sense of social obligation felt by the poet
22 as a citizen;” and,

23 WHEREAS, in the course of his career, Seamus Heaney has always contributed
24 to the promotion of artistic and educational causes, both in Ireland and abroad; and,
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1 WHEREAS, one of the first places he read his poetry in the United States was at
2 a blue collar college, Trenton State, in 1970; and,

3 WHEREAS, in 1970, Seamus Heaney was registered into the Poetry Center at the
4 Library of Congress; and,

5 WHEREAS, Since his first reading in the United States, Seamus Heaney, has
6 continued to enrich the American poetry landscape by spending much time teaching, sharing
7 and infusing the United States with his rich poetic knowledge;

8 WHEREAS, from his voluminous creations, beginning with *Death of a Naturalist*, to
9 *North*, *Field Work*, and *Squarings*, to his prose works such as *The Government of the Tongue*
10 to his recent translation of *Beowulf*, Seamus Heaney has enriched our world with immortal
11 poetic cravings of the soul unleashed; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That May 15, 2006 be jubilantly and joyfully declared “Seamus Heaney
13 Day” in the City and County of San Francisco.

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