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Justice Bill Cunningham named Western Kentucky Writer of the Decade

FRANKFORT, Ky., April 25, 2011 – On Thursday, April 21, 2011, in celebration of Kentucky Writers’ Day, Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Bill Cunningham was recognized as Western Kentucky’s Best Writer of the Decade for 2000-2010.

Three Western Kentucky organizations – the Jackson Purchase Historical & Tourism Commission, the Hickman County Arts Council and the Hickman County Historical & Genealogical Society – co-sponsored the award.

The Kentucky Arts Council declared Monday, April 25 for the official celebration in Frankfort. Kentucky Writers’ Day celebrates the birth of Robert Penn Warren, a West Kentucky native, who was the first U.S. poet laureate and recipient of three Pulitzer prizes – one for fiction and two for poetry.

The inscription on the plaque presented to Justice Cunningham reads: “In honor of Robert Penn Warren, West Kentuckian and three time winner of the Pulitzer Award, we proudly present to Bill Cunningham, Justice, First Supreme Court District, Supreme Court of Kentucky, in recognition of his exceptional leadership and devoted service in writing about the history, heritage and culture of West Kentucky this award naming him the 2000-2010 Robert Penn Warren Western Kentucky Writer of the Decade.”