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Governor Proclaims 11th Annual Texas Writers Month ONE BOOK/ONE TEXAS READING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS MAY CELEBRATION

AUSTIN, TEXAS -- In a proclamation released today, Governor Rick Perry declared May 2004 the eleventh annual Texas Writers Month. "Whether it is our novelists, poets, screenwriters or journalists, Texas is proud of its many creative and talented writers," Perry said. "I encourage all Texans to participate in this month of celebration and to pay tribute to the outstanding work of Texas's authors."

May 2004 also marks the third One Book/One Texas statewide reading program. This year's selection is *Gates of the Alamo*, the bestselling novel by Stephen Harrigan.

The 2004 Texas Writers Month commemorative poster honors the late author and philanthropist James A. Michener. Previous posters featured John Graves, Horton Foote, O. Henry, Katherine Anne Porter, Larry McMurtry, Cormac McCarthy, Elmer Kelton, Liz Carpenter, and J. Frank Dobie. The poster was created by Marc English Design of Austin, Texas.

Author profiles and study guides on the work of Harrigan and Michener will be available at www.4empowerment.com beginning May 1, 2004. The online curriculum material, written by Garner Roberts of Abilene, Texas, was made possible by a Texas Education Agency TARGET Grant and Making the Connections.

A kick-off reception for Texas Writers Month will be held Thursday, May 6, from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. at The Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin (21st and Guadalupe Streets). The evening's program will include readings by Stephen Harrigan from *Gates of the Alamo* and excerpts from the work of James A. Michener. The event is free and open to the public.

Texas Writers Month began in 1994 as a statewide celebration of writers, readers, and books. Thousands of Texans take part in literary programs each May sponsored by schools, bookstores, libraries, community centers and arts organizations.

Statewide sponsors for Texas Writers Month 2004 include 4empowerment, Barnes & Noble, Birdville ISD, BookPeople, Marc English Design, Making the Connections/TARGET Grant, Texas Education Agency, Texas Library Association and the Texas Writers Project.