

HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY, HENRY

Visionary Longfellow

written by Linda E. Dowell, Gardiner, Maine

You rise ethereal from the bold Congress shoulders,

bracing in height toward the ocean East

With shades of blue, green, and hues in yellow

Longfellow, I see you are released.

The words have lingered and the verses hold us

bringing us toward a realized peace.

Longfellow, embracing the spirit of freedom,

our visions are weary

war has not been ceased.

You too could be worried,

concerned that we're treading

with fierce disregard for the climate unleashed.

Longfellow, your readings will never be deadened,

nor shadowed from truth or the heart of a face

that breathes through its anger and gruesome temptations,

Longfellow, your poetry speaks far beyond race.



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Responding to Longfellow is a partnership of the Maine Historical Society; Maine's Poet Laureate; and the Stonecoast MFA Program at the University of Southern Maine. For more information, please visit

www.hwlongfellow.org

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