

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



## UPDATE from the City Manager for Sunday, June 14, 2020

**Governor Sununu's "Stay At Home 2.0" order expires June 15, 2020. Replaced by "Safer At Home."  
Number of COVID-19 deaths, to date, in the US 117,654, in NH 318.**

*Note from Portsmouth's Poet Laureate: Similar to last week's acrostic, the form chose this week can also be called a cento. Known as the golden shovel, this relatively new poetic form is a gift given to us by African-American poet Terrance Hayes.*

### Toppling

After *Boy Breaking Glass* by Gwendolyn Brooks

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43322/boy-breaking-glass>

The pigeon perches, **each**  
an original commission, cast in stone, **to**  
honor a man of historical note, though **his**  
contributions even then brought **grief**.

That grief now uncontainable, seeks **each**  
monument, questioning tribute **to**  
what perhaps even the commemorated now disavows, **his**  
stolid countenance reflecting his eternal **loneliness**.

His mount, his sword, still steady, **and**  
only his avian admirers **fidgety**  
with the overdue arrival of time's **revenge**.

**Tammi J Truax**

*Portsmouth Poet Laureate 2019-2021*

*Maine Beat Poet Laureate 2018-2020*