

House Resolution 312

By: Representatives Brooks of the 54th, McKinney of the 51st, Seay of the 93rd, Jordan of the 96th, Mangham of the 75th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring Gwendolyn Brooks and expressing regret at her passing; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Gwendolyn Brooks was a world renowned poet who wrote candid and
3 compassionate poetry that courageously delved into issues of poverty, racism, and drugs; and
- 4 WHEREAS, she was greatly acclaimed for promoting an understanding of black culture
5 through her poetry while at the same time suggesting inclusiveness is the key to harmony;
6 and
- 7 WHEREAS, she wrote hundreds of poems and more than 20 books and had been the poet
8 laureate of the State of Illinois since 1968; and
- 9 WHEREAS, in 1949, she was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for her second book of poetry,
10 "Annie Allen"; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Ms. Brooks received a lifetime achievement award from the National
12 Endowment for the Arts; and
- 13 WHEREAS, she was named the 1994 Jefferson Lecturer by the National Endowment for the
14 Humanities, the highest honor bestowed by the federal government to work in the
15 humanities; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Gwendolyn Brooks was born in Topeka, Kansas, in 1917, but grew up in
17 Chicago where she began her writing career at the age of 11; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Ms. Brooks was known as a tireless teacher, promoter, and advocate of creative
19 writing in general and poetry in particular and generously traveled to libraries, schools,
20 hospitals, drug rehabilitation centers, and prisons reading her work.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 the members of this body recognize and honor the great poet Gwendolyn Brooks whose
3 lifetime commitment to the arts and to her own creative spirit has helped to transform the
4 consciousness of our nation.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
6 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Gwendolyn
7 Brooks.