

House Resolution 213

By: Representative Kaiser of the 59th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and celebrating the 90th birthday of Mrs. Beth Gross; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mrs. Beth Gross was born on February 19, 1923, and grew up in the Tennessee
3 mountains in a community of families living off the land and their labors, armed with skills
4 derived from many cultures; and

5 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gross graduated high school as valedictorian and was the first person in
6 her family to attend college; she studied science and specialized in embryology at Fisk
7 University before working with famed hematologist Nathan Rosenthal at Mount Sinai
8 Hospital in New York; and

9 WHEREAS, a forward-thinking advocate for justice and human rights, Mrs. Gross spent
10 innumerable hours rallying against all forms of prejudice and segregation, gleaning
11 inspiration to persevere from her friend and mentor, W.E.B. DuBois; and

12 WHEREAS, a woman of deep and abiding dedication to seeing her community improve,
13 even after she married and began a family in upstate New York, Mrs. Gross helped establish
14 a Planned Parenthood chapter in Rockland County and one of the first Head Start programs
15 in the State of New York, all the while remaining active in her Unitarian Universalist
16 Church; and

17 WHEREAS, after her children were grown, Mrs. Gross became a science and ESL teacher
18 and remained an avid and admired gardener whose flowers have won awards and been
19 featured in magazines; and

20 WHEREAS, Mrs. Gross has lobbied in the state capitol for grandparents' rights and the rights
21 of the elderly and disabled, mentored young women and at-risk teen boys, and taught water
22 aerobics for many years at the Andrew and Walter Young YMCA, where she still attends
23 classes and occasionally teaches; and

24 WHEREAS, this distinguished gentlewoman has given inspiration to many through her high
25 ideals, morals, and deep concern for her fellow citizens, and she possesses the vast wisdom
26 which only comes through experience and the strength of character which is achieved
27 through overcoming the many challenges of life; and

28 WHEREAS, she is a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation for
29 integrity, understanding, and kindness, and by the example she has made of her life, she
30 makes this world a better place in which to live; and it is only fitting and proper that she be
31 appropriately recognized during this very special and memorable time of her life.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body commend Mrs. Beth Gross on the occasion of her 90th birthday
34 and extend to her their wishes for many more years of happiness.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mrs. Beth Gross.