

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

CONDOLENCES: Expresses the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Carol Gelderman

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death of Carol
3 Gelderman.

4 WHEREAS, it is with immense sadness and profound regret that the House has
5 learned of the passing, on March 8, 2024, of renowned biographer and University of New
6 Orleans professor, Carol Gelderman; and

7 WHEREAS, Carol Gelderman was born Carol Wettlaufer in 1945 in Grosse Pointe,
8 Michigan, to Albert and Irene Wettlaufer; she earned an undergraduate degree at
9 Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York, and shortly after, married Gregory Anthony
10 "Jay" Gelderman, Jr., with whom she had three children; and

11 WHEREAS, Carol decided to return to college, choosing Northwestern University,
12 where she earned both master's and doctoral degrees; she accepted an offer to teach drama
13 at what is now known as the University of New Orleans; and

14 WHEREAS, prior to joining the faculty of the University of New Orleans, Carol's
15 professional career included work at the American Embassy in London and television
16 stations in Detroit and Chicago; she was drawn to academic life because it was manageable
17 for her new status as a single mother, and she began writing books to provide an additional
18 source of income and to connect her interests with a wider audience; and

19 WHEREAS, Professor Gelderman was well-known beyond New Orleans for her
20 books; the first biography she authored, *Henry Ford: The Wayward Capitalist*, was
21 published in 1981 and covered an industry that was reminiscent of her youth; she also

1 authored a biography of renowned American novelist, critic, and political activist Mary
2 McCarthy, which was published in 1988; and *All the Presidents' Words: The Bully Pulpit*
3 *and the Creation of the Virtual Presidency*, which studies the art of crafting presidential
4 speeches and the people behind their creation; and

5 WHEREAS, Professor Gelderman was a member of the National Arts Club in New
6 York City, and she was among the first women admitted to membership in the Cosmos Club
7 in Washington, D.C.; and

8 WHEREAS, Carol Gelderman leaves to cherish her truly inspiring memory her son,
9 Tony Gelderman; daughter, Margot Gelderman; and one grandchild; she will be deeply
10 missed, but the incredible legacy of her remarkable career will live on in the annals of
11 American literary history.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
13 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express heartfelt condolences on the death of Carol
14 Gelderman and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that her family, friends, and loved ones
15 find comfort in their shared memories of her beautiful life.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 31 Original

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Freeman

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