

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Professor Gelderman was well-known beyond New Orleans for her books; the first biography she authored, *Henry Ford: The Wayward Capitalist*, was published in 1981 and covered an industry that was reminiscent of her youth; she also authored a biography of renowned American novelist, critic, and political activist Mary

McCarthy, which was published in 1988; and *All the Presidents' Words: The Bully Pulpit and the Creation of the Virtual Presidency*, which studies the art of crafting presidential speeches and the people behind their creation; and

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES