



HR0426

LRB102 19628 ECR 28400 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Sondra
4 Regina Gash of Maplewood, New Jersey, who passed away on July
5 18, 2021; and

6 WHEREAS, Sondra Gash was born in Paterson, New Jersey in
7 1934; she graduated from the University of Pennsylvania; she
8 met Ira Gash when they both worked at the New Jersey
9 Rehabilitation Commission in Newark, and they married in 1958;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Sondra Gash was a poet, a writer, an intuitive
12 and insightful teacher, and a compassionate mentor to
13 countless poets and writers; she taught writing skills at
14 Rutgers University and coordinated the poetry program at the
15 Women's Resource Center in Summit, New Jersey, and her home in
16 Tewksbury was the site of many lively poetry readings; and

17 WHEREAS, Sondra Gash was a board member of the American
18 Labor Museum, which was founded by her father, Sol Stetin, who
19 was the International President of the Textile Workers Union
20 of America; she was active with the Americans for Democratic
21 Action and the local Fair Housing Committee; her activism led
22 her to become a Democratic Party representative for her area

1 later in life; and

2 WHEREAS, Sondra Gash was the author of *Silk Elegy*, a
3 collection of linked poems about a young girl from an
4 immigrant family whose life is disrupted by her mother's
5 illness, and *Suit and Dress*, a semi-autobiographical poetry
6 collection about the emotional spheres of work and home; her
7 poems and articles have appeared in many publications,
8 including *Poets and Writers*, *The New York Times*, *Paterson*
9 *Literary Review*, *Calyx*, and *US 1 Worksheets*; her play *What*
10 *Knife is Sharp Enough*, co-authored with Carol Goodman, had a
11 staged reading in Manassas, Virginia with *Upstart Crow*
12 *Productions*; and

13 WHEREAS, Sondra Gash was a finalist for the 2003 Paterson
14 Poetry Prize and was a recipient of fellowships from the New
15 Jersey State Council on the Arts, the Corporation of Yaddo,
16 the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and the Virginia Center for
17 the Creative Arts; she was awarded a grant in Creative Writing
18 from the Puffin Foundation; she was a featured reader and
19 teacher at the Dodge Poetry Festival in Waterloo, New Jersey;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Sondra Gash will be remembered for her passion
22 for social justice and her love of travel, jazz, food, and
23 family; and

1 WHEREAS, Sondra Gash is survived by her husband of 63
2 years, Dr. Ira Gash; her sister, Myra Levine; her daughters,
3 Lauren Beth Gash (Gregg Garmisa) and Amy Gash (Stephen
4 Churchville); and her grandchildren, Sarah Gash Garmisa, Ben
5 Gash Garmisa, and Nick Becker; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we mourn the passing of Sondra Regina Gash and extend our
9 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew
10 and loved her; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Sondra Gash as an expression of our
13 deepest sympathy.