

## 1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois General Assembly  
3 remember the life and work of Gwendolyn Brooks, poet laureate  
4 of the State of Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, There are buildings located around the State  
6 Capitol complex that are named for prominent and influential  
7 people from the State including the late Governor William G.  
8 Stratton, the late Secretary of State Michael J. Howlett, and  
9 the late Margaret Cross Norton, the first director of the  
10 State Archives; and

11 WHEREAS, Gwendolyn Brooks honored the State of Illinois  
12 as poet laureate; a chair in Black Literature and Creative  
13 Writing was established for Ms. Brooks by Chicago State  
14 University a decade ago; the Center for African-American  
15 literature at Western Illinois University is also named for  
16 Ms. Brooks; in Harvey, Illinois, a junior high school is  
17 named in her honor; and

18 WHEREAS, In the final year of her life, Gwendolyn Brooks  
19 was named a living legend by the Library of Congress; and

20 WHEREAS, Gwendolyn Brooks was the first African-American  
21 to win the Pulitzer Prize; and

22 WHEREAS, The passing of Gwendolyn Brooks was deeply felt  
23 by all who knew and loved her, especially her family,  
24 friends, fellow poets, and the people of the State of  
25 Illinois; therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
27 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
28 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the State of Illinois  
29 to rename the Illinois State Library the Gwendolyn Brooks  
30 Illinois State Library; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to the family of Gwendolyn Brooks and Secretary of  
3 State Jessie White.