

2024 -- H 7415

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF DR. DONNA LOUISE GILTON

Introduced By: Representatives McEntee, Fogarty, Tanzi, Spears, Shekarchi,
Blazejewski, Chippendale, Morales, Dawson, and Noret

Date Introduced: February 01, 2024

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with deep sadness that this House has learned of the passing of Donna
2 Louise Gilton, Professor Emerita at the University of Rhode Island; and

3 WHEREAS, Professor Gilton earned a Bachelor's degree in elementary education and
4 history, a Masters of Library Science from Simmons College, and a Ph.D. in Library Science
5 from the University of Pittsburgh; and

6 WHEREAS, Professor Gilton worked as a reference librarian for many years at Boston
7 Public Library, Belize Teachers College, Western Kentucky State University and Pennsylvania
8 State University; and

9 WHEREAS, Professor Gilton served for 23 years as a professor at the Graduate School
10 of Library and Information Studies at the University of Rhode Island; and

11 WHEREAS, Professor Gilton published extensively in peer-reviewed journals on
12 information literacy, multiculturalism, diversity and business reference; and

13 WHEREAS, Professor Gilton was the author of two books on multicultural children's
14 literature and lifelong learning in libraries; and

15 WHEREAS, Professor Gilton was a member of the American Library Association for 37
16 years and was a member of the Rhode Island Library Association; and

17 WHEREAS, Professor Gilton was a co-founder of Cornucopia of Rhode Island: a Library
18 Community of Color in 2005; and

19 WHEREAS, Professor Gilton furthered the goals of equity, diversity, and inclusion by
20 creating and executing a virtual oral history project for people of color called "Growing Up in

1 South County; and

2 WHEREAS, Professor Gilton promoted cultural awareness of local history by organizing
3 and moderating a panel discussion entitled "Slavery and its legacy in Rhode Island"; and

4 WHEREAS, Professor Gilton was a member of the South Kingstown (Rhode Island)
5 Library Board of Trustees serving as Vice President and President respectively; and

6 WHEREAS, Professor Gilton mentored countless library students, advocated for their
7 future, upheld the highest standards for the profession, and was a champion for diversity in
8 librarianship; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Donna Louise Gilton leaves behind her twin brother, Charles Gilton, Jr.,
10 many cousins and her special sister, Joan Pratt; now, therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
12 express its condolences on the passing of Dr. Donna Louise Gilton, and recognizes the
13 distinguished 39 year career she had as a leader, educator, and mentor; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
15 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Dr. Valerie Karno, Director, University of
16 Rhode Island Graduate School of Library and Information Studies and to the South Kingstown
17 Public Library Board of Trustees.

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