

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6021

A RESOLUTION honoring Representative Ruby Gilbert.

WHEREAS, Representative Ruby Gilbert, State Representative for the Kansas 89th District, passed away on February 27, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gilbert was born December 19, 1929; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gilbert was married to Booker Gilbert for over 50 years and they had two daughters, two sons and several grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gilbert was appointed in 1991, supported by her predecessor Representative Theo Cribbs, to serve the citizens of the Kansas 89th District; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gilbert was the first elected African American female to the Kansas Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gilbert served in the Kansas Legislature as a State Representative for 14 years from 1991 to 2004; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gilbert was a very gracious, classy, kind and wise lady who always dressed very well; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gilbert was considered a mentor to many because she was known for taking beginning legislators under her wing and showing them what to do, what to wear and how to succeed in the legislature; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gilbert was considered by many of her colleagues to be a “Ms. Congeniality” because she had many friends on both sides of the aisle and everyone had a deep respect for her; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gilbert had many skills and talents. She was a Licensed Practical Nurse, an excellent seamstress and an exceptionally great cook; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gilbert served on several legislative committees including the Committees on Federal and State Affairs, Taxation, Insurance and Arts and Cultural Resources; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gilbert served on the National Council of State Legislatures’ (NCSL) Children and Family Committee; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gilbert fought hard against the death penalty and she was also known for trying to make a difference in the lives of youth by initiating her own “Scared Straight Program” and taking them to local prisons to experience the unfortunate life of a prisoner; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gilbert received the National Federation of Democratic Women’s annual Humanitarian Award in 1995; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gilbert’s leadership roles included ranking Democrat on the House Governmental Organization and Election Committee, Treasurer for many years of the Kansas African American Caucus and Vice-chairperson of the Sedgwick County Voter Registration; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gilbert, for many years, was a very active member of several political organizations. She was a member of the National Organization of Black Elected Leaders (NOBEL), the National Black Caucus of State Legislatures (NBCSL) and the Kansas Black State Caucus; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gilbert proudly served on several community boards including the Phyllis Wheatley’s Children’s Home Board, serving as Chairperson and the Mennonite Housing Board. She was very active in her Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) and her beloved church, Church of the Living God; and

WHEREAS, Representative Gilbert was loved by many members in the Kansas Legislature and she will be greatly missed: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That we commend and honor Representative Ruby Gilbert for her professional and charitable accomplishments.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

---

*Speaker of the House.*

---

*Chief Clerk of the House.*