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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, State Representative Monique D. Davis and the  
3 members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to  
4 congratulate Margaret Taylor-Burroughs of Chicago on the  
5 occasion of her 90th birthday; and

6           WHEREAS, Margaret Taylor-Burroughs was born on November 1,  
7 1917, in St. Rose, Louisiana; her parents, Alexander and  
8 Octavia Taylor, moved their family to Chicago in search of a  
9 better life; Margaret Taylor graduated from Englewood High  
10 School in 1933, and from Chicago Teacher's College (renamed  
11 Chicago State University) in 1937; she received a Bachelor's  
12 (1944) and a Master's (1948) of Fine Arts from the Art  
13 Institute of Chicago; and

14           WHEREAS, Margaret Taylor married artist Bernard Goss in  
15 1939, and later had a daughter, Gayle; in the 1940s, while  
16 teaching art at an elementary school, she constructed the egg  
17 tempera painting, "*I've Been in Some Big Towns*"; Margaret  
18 Taylor Goss and her husband later divorced; she then went to  
19 teach at Dusable High School for twenty-three years; in 1947,  
20 her first children's book, *Jasper, the Drummin' Boy*, was  
21 published; Margaret Taylor-Goss was married on December 23,  
22 1949 to Charles Gordon Burroughs; and

1           WHEREAS, Her writing and artworks soared; her additional  
2 children's books published were, *Did You Feed My Cow? Rhymes*  
3 *and Games From City Streets, Country Lanes* (1955), and *Whip Me*  
4 *Whop Me Pudding and Other Stories of Riley Rabbit and His*  
5 *Fabulous Friends* (1966); her visual artworks include a  
6 watercolor, *Ribbon Man, Mexico City Market*, inspired by her  
7 experience at the Institute of Printing and Sculpture in New  
8 Mexico; an oil painting, *Insect* (1963); a marble sculpture,  
9 *Head* (1965); and two bronze sculptures, *Black Queen and Head*  
10 (1963); and

11           WHEREAS, The Burroughs' founded the Ebony Museum of  
12 African-American History (renamed the Dusable Museum of  
13 African-American History) in their home in Chicago; their aim  
14 was to make art, history, and literature on the Black  
15 experience accessible to the community; the museum was  
16 eventually moved to Washington Park, with Margaret Burroughs as  
17 the executive director ; and

18           WHEREAS, In 1967, she and Dudley Randall of the Broadside  
19 Press edited an anthology of poems by Black writers and leaders  
20 entitled, *For Malcolm: Poems in the Life and Death of Malcolm*  
21 *X*; Margaret Burroughs published her own book of poems, *What*  
22 *Shall I Tell My Children Who Are Black?* (1968), describing the  
23 effects of racism on one's mental state; her poems, including,  
24 " *Open Letter to Black Youth of Alabama and Other Places*", sent

1 a message of Black pride; some poems encompass familial themes,  
2 such as, "*Apology to My Daughter for Apparent Neglect*", "*Lines*  
3 *for My Mother*", and "*Memorial for My Father*"; her second volume  
4 of poetry, *Africa, My Africa*, was published in 1970; the poems  
5 in this volume explore the topics of slavery, African culture,  
6 and African life; and

7 WHEREAS, Margaret Burroughs taught humanities at  
8 Kennedy-King Community College between the years of 1969 and  
9 1979; during the 1980s, she served on the Chicago District's  
10 Board of Education; she received many awards and honors for her  
11 achievements, including a Doctorate of Humane Letters from  
12 Lewis University in Illinois, as well as honorary degrees from  
13 the Art Institute of Chicago, where she taught humanities in  
14 1968, Chicago State, and Columbia College; a day was named in  
15 her honor by the former Mayor of Chicago, Harold Washington, on  
16 February 1, 1986; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
18 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
19 congratulate Margaret Taylor-Burroughs on the many  
20 achievements of her life and wish her the best on the occasion  
21 of her 90th birthday; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
23 presented to Margaret Taylor-Burroughs as a symbol of our

1 respect and esteem.