

House Resolution No. 84

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives are delighted to honor an outstanding Missourian who has witnessed dramatic technological, lifestyle, and social changes in America during her sojourn on this most precious earth; and

Whereas, Bertha Elizabeth (Boulch) Gillam of Belgrade, Missouri, commemorated the resplendent occasion of her Ninety-ninth Birthday with a special celebration on January 11, 2003, at South Haven near Potosi; and

Whereas, on January 11, 1904, in Goodwater, God brought a special gift to Edward and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Boulch with the birth of an adorable infant by the name of Bertha; and

Whereas, while celebrating her birthday, Bertha Gillam will have the opportunity to reminisce about some of the significant events in her life such as being raised by her Uncle Cornelius "Neal" and Aunt Adeline Payne and being married on May 3, 1927, to World War I veteran Sanford "San" Esco Gillam, son of Columbus "Lum" and Adda Gillam, in a solemn nuptial ceremony officiated by Iron County Justice of the Peace J.E. Trask of Koalin Township; and

Whereas, God has blessed Bertha Gillam with the love and affection of a wonderful family whose members include one son, Junior Azell Gillam (deceased); two grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren; and

Whereas, a devoted farm wife, loving mother, and exemplary homemaker, Bertha Gillam further distinguished herself by operating a rural store and gas station along with her husband, Sanford, who captured the men who murdered two of their neighbors and left two others for dead as retold in the book Murder in the Afternoon by Ella Jo (Barr) Sadler, one of the surviving victims; and

Whereas, at the respectable age of 99, Bertha Gillam still enjoys fishing, hunting mushrooms, and attending church socials:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in extending our most hearty congratulations and special birthday greetings to Bertha Gillam at this significant milestone and in wishing her peace and contentment as she continues to enjoy her golden years; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Bertha Gillam, as a measure of our esteem for her.

Offered by _____
Representative Belinda Harris
District No. 110

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 84, adopted January 16, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker