

By: Anderson

H.R. No. 216

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many friends and admirers the world over are
2 mourning the loss of Maryasha Garelik of New York who passed away on
3 January 10, 2007; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Russia at the turn of the 20th century,
5 Maryasha Garelik never lost sight of her orthodox Jewish faith,
6 though she and her family suffered anti-Semitic persecution under
7 the Russian Empire, the Soviet regime, and the Nazis; her father was
8 killed in a pogrom when she was five, and her grandparents, with
9 whom she and her mother and older brothers had gone to live,
10 subsequently perished in a fire ignited by their neighbors; years
11 later, under Soviet rule, she and her husband, Elchanan Garelik,
12 and their children were evicted from their apartment into the snow
13 for her husband's refusal to work on the Jewish Sabbath; when he was
14 eventually arrested and detained, Mrs. Garelik was left to raise
15 their six children alone; and

16 WHEREAS, She moved her family many times over the next few
17 years as harassment by Soviet authorities continued; in 1941, faced
18 with the impending Nazi invasion, they escaped to Uzbekistan, where
19 they clandestinely made and sold socks as a means to survive; as the
20 war came to an end, they set out for France, traveling west through
21 Poland and Czechoslovakia, and spending time in a German detention
22 camp, before finally arriving in Paris; there, Mrs. Garelik went on
23 to found a Lubavitch Jewish school for girls that still exists
24 today; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1953, she immigrated to the United States and
2 settled in the Crown Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn; deeply
3 involved in the Lubavitch Jewish community, she helped establish a
4 boys' school as well as an organization whose members visited and
5 cared for the sick; known affectionately as "Bubbe," or grandmother
6 in Yiddish, she was treasured for her insight and wisdom by
7 Lubavitch Jews throughout the world; and

8 WHEREAS, Although Mrs. Garelik lived for more than six
9 decades without certain knowledge of her husband's fate, she
10 finally learned in 1998 of his death at the hands of the KGB; and

11 WHEREAS, The beloved matriarch of more than 500 descendants,
12 Maryasha Garelik lived through some of the most harrowing events of
13 the 20th century; her remarkable survival was no doubt due in part
14 to her unflagging faith and to her immense powers of perseverance,
15 resilience, and hope, and her life will forever serve as a stirring
16 example to people of all faiths and backgrounds; now, therefore, be
17 it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Maryasha Garelik and
20 extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family, her friends,
21 and to the many Lubavitch communities around the world; and, be it
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Maryasha
26 Garelik.