



2013 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 52

September 13, 2013 – Introduced by Representatives C. TAYLOR, BERCEAU, GENRICH, JORGENSEN, OHNSTAD, POPE, SHANKLAND and WACHS, cosponsored by Senators LEHMAN and L. TAYLOR. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming Gerda Lerner Day.

2 Whereas, women’s history is an important and dynamic field of study that
3 attempts to give voice to the issues facing women of every class, race, ethnicity,
4 sexual orientation, and age; and

5 Whereas, Gerda Lerner played a key role in the development of women’s history
6 as a field of study, founding the National Organization for Women and developing the
7 basis for the celebration that would become Women’s History Month; and

8 Whereas, Gerda Lerner founded one of the first women’s history programs in
9 the United States, at Long Island University in 1965; the nation’s first women’s
10 history graduate program, at Sarah Lawrence College in 1972; and the nation’s first
11 Ph.D. program in women’s history, at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1980;
12 and

13 Whereas, Gerda Lerner was born in Vienna, Austria, on April 30, 1920, and
14 survived enormous trials early in her life, most notably spending six weeks,
15 including her eighteenth birthday, in a Gestapo prison; and

1 Whereas, Gerda Lerner is widely recognized as the first scholar to bring a
2 feminist lens to the study of history; and

3 Whereas, the remarkable contributions of Dr. Lerner have been memorialized
4 in her numerous works on feminist history and in the Lerner-Scott Prize, awarded
5 each year to the candidate with the best doctoral dissertation on women's history in
6 the United States; and

7 Whereas, Gerda Lerner passed away on January 2, 2013; now, therefore, be it

8 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
9 legislature hereby proclaims Gerda Lerner's birthday, April 30, Gerda Lerner Day.

10

(END)