



General Assembly

**Senate Joint  
Resolution No. 44**

*January Session, 2021*

LCO No. 6224



Referred to Committee on NO COMMITTEE

Introduced by:

SEN. LOONEY, 11<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. DUFF, 25<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. KELLY, 21<sup>st</sup> Dist.  
SEN. FORMICA, 20<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. RITTER M., 1<sup>st</sup> Dist.  
REP. ROJAS, 9<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
REP. CANDELORA, 86<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. ANWAR, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. BRADLEY, 23<sup>rd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. CABRERA, 17<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. CASSANO, 4<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. COHEN, 12<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. DAUGHERTY ABRAMS,  
13<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. FLEXER, 29<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. FONFARA, 1<sup>st</sup> Dist.

SEN. HARTLEY, 15<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. HASKELL, 26<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. KASSER, 36<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. KUSHNER, 24<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. LESSER, 9<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. LOPES, 6<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. MARONEY, 14<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. MCCRORY, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. MILLER P., 27<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. MOORE, 22<sup>nd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. NEEDLEMAN, 33<sup>rd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. OSTEN, 19<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. SLAP, 5<sup>th</sup> Dist.  
SEN. WINFIELD, 10<sup>th</sup> Dist.

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF  
FORMER STATE SENATOR EDWIN A. GOMES.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

- 1 WHEREAS, on Tuesday, December 22, 2020, the State of Connecticut,
- 2 the city of Bridgeport and the town of Stratford lost a distinguished and
- 3 beloved former State Senator with the passing of Edwin A. Gomes, at

4 the age of eighty-four; and

5 WHEREAS, he represented the 23rd senatorial district with  
6 distinction for more than twelve years from 2005 through 2012, and 2015  
7 through 2018; and

8 WHEREAS, he was born on February 25, 1936, in New Bedford,  
9 Massachusetts and grew up in Bridgeport, Connecticut, the eldest of  
10 eighteen children; and

11 WHEREAS, he attended Bridgeport public schools and received an  
12 honorable discharge from the United States Army; and

13 WHEREAS, he experienced racial segregation and participated in the  
14 historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom during his time in  
15 the United States Army; and

16 WHEREAS, he became a labor representative at Carpenter Steel upon  
17 his return to Bridgeport, Connecticut after his honorable discharge from  
18 the United States Army; and

19 WHEREAS, he served on the Bridgeport City Council from 1983 until  
20 1989, and was elected again to the Bridgeport City Council in 1999 after  
21 his retirement from the United Steelworkers of America; and

22 WHEREAS, during his tenure as a City Councilman, he advocated  
23 for well-paying jobs, good schools, strong neighborhoods and seniors;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, he served for six terms as a State Senator, and served as  
26 a chairperson of the Labor and Public Employees and Housing  
27 Committees and vice-chairperson of the Aging and Veterans' Affairs  
28 Committees; and

29 WHEREAS, he joined forces with the Brennan Center for Justice, the  
30 Connecticut Citizen Action Group and Common Cause in 2002 to bring  
31 a successful legal challenge to the state's discriminatory delegate  
32 primary system; and

33 WHEREAS, as a member of the State Senate he supported legislation  
34 to preserve jobs and vital services in Bridgeport, to promote home  
35 ownership and owner-occupied housing in all Connecticut cities, to  
36 repeal the death penalty and to reform the state's education system and  
37 the state's pardon process; and

38 WHEREAS, he was recognized for his efforts to help reform the  
39 state's pardon process by the Connecticut Pardon Team in 2012; and

40 WHEREAS, he earned a reputation as a proud representative of  
41 workers and marginalized people and as a person of his word, and will  
42 be remembered by his labor representative colleagues as a fighter of the  
43 people, a maverick, a labor icon and a good friend; and

44 WHEREAS, he was a proud lifetime member of the National  
45 Association for the Advancement of Colored People, member of the  
46 Ashanti Men's Organization and founding member of the Greater  
47 Bridgeport Black Democratic Club; and

48 WHEREAS, he displayed a profound love for the work accomplished  
49 by the Connecticut General Assembly and the friendships that were  
50 created during his time in the State Senate; and

51 WHEREAS, he is survived by his son, Edwin Gomes, Jr. and his  
52 spouse Mary, his daughters, Victoria Whitfield and her spouse Kelvin,  
53 Debra Brody, Donna Croom, and Doreen Milhouse and her spouse  
54 Greg, his siblings, Johnny Aranjó and his spouse Pam, Carol Aranjó,  
55 William Aranjó, Beatrice Ramos, Donald Ramos, Margarida Ramos,  
56 Daniel Ramos, and Abel Ramos, and his thirteen grandchildren,  
57 seventeen great grandchildren, six great-great-grandchildren, and  
58 numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; and

59 WHEREAS, he was predeceased by his mother, Anna Gomes Aranjó  
60 and her husband Joaquim Aranjó, his sister, MaryAnn Monteiro, his  
61 brothers, Anthony Gomes, Joaquim Aranjó, Peter Aranjó, Joseph  
62 Aranjó, Manuel Aranjó, Franklin Ramos, Gerald Ramos, Richard  
63 Ramos, and Augusto Ramos, and his daughter, Elizabeth Sloan.

64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut General  
65 Assembly expresses its sincere sympathy and heartfelt condolences on  
66 the passing of one of its honorable members, Edwin A. Gomes, whose  
67 death is a profound loss to the State Senate, his family and friends, the  
68 residents of Bridgeport and Stratford and the entire state of Connecticut;  
69 and

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerks of the House of  
71 Representatives and the Senate cause a copy of this resolution to be sent  
72 to the family of Edwin A. Gomes, as an expression of the high esteem  
73 and affection in which he is held.