

The Speaker, on behalf of the entire membership of the House of Representatives, offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 146.

A resolution of tribute offered as a memorial for Neal Nitz, former member of the House of Representatives.

Whereas, The members of the House of Representatives were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of our former colleague, Neal Nitz. He will be remembered for his exemplary service to the people of the Seventy-eighth District, Southwest Michigan, and of the entire state. He was always steadfast in his duties and upright in his manner in the Legislature; and

Whereas, A lifelong resident of Baroda, Neal Nitz eventually followed in the family tradition of agricultural work. He was a third-generation farmer who cultivated the land and grew fruits, nuts, and grains. Aiding him in this work, he obtained a degree in applied sciences from Southwestern Michigan College. He was actively involved in the National Grape Co-Op as an elected official and the Berrien County Farm Bureau as a member, board member, and president. Aside from his agricultural pursuits, Neal Nitz diligently served his community in myriad ways. He sat on both the Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council and the Berrien County Planning Commission, and aided his community through work in the Baroda Lions Club. In addition, he was a member of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners from 1993 to 2002; and

Whereas, Continuing his pattern of service, Neal Nitz earned election to the House of Representatives in 2002, 2004, and 2006. Over his three terms of service, he distinguished himself as a hard-working legislator who openly explained his stance on tough issues. He also continued his support of agricultural interests in the Legislature, serving on the Agriculture Committee, including a stint as chair of that committee. Active in other policy arenas, he was a member of the Conservation, Forestry, and Outdoor Recreation; Energy and Technology; and Transportation committees. In all his efforts, he worked to advance better public policy for residents of his district and those across the state; and

Whereas, Neal Nitz was a dedicated public servant until the very end, returning to the Berrien County Board of Commissioners in 2013 where he served until his passing. Practical and of good sense, he was an honorable legislator committed to serving the people of Michigan; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we offer this expression of our highest tribute to honor the memory of Neal Nitz, a member of this legislative body from 2003 to 2008; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Nitz family as evidence of our lasting esteem for his memory.