

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.35

Senator Shirkey offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution of tribute offered as a memorial for
2 Raymond M. Murphy, former member of the House of Representatives
3 and Senate.

4 Whereas, It was with great sorrow that the members of the
5 Legislature learned about the passing of Raymond M. Murphy. He will
6 be remembered as a dedicated public servant by his constituents in
7 Southeast Michigan and the people of the state of Michigan; and

8 Whereas, A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Raymond M. Murphy
9 attended the Detroit Institute of Technology and Wayne State
10 University before beginning his long career serving the people of
11 Michigan in many capacities. Politically active at a young age, he
12 held a variety of leadership positions in the Democratic Party, was
13 a former aide to Congressman Charles Diggs, and a 1961-1962
14 Constitutional Convention delegate, contributing to the landmark

1 governing document of our state, the *Constitution of the State of*
2 *Michigan of 1963*. A long-time officer of the court in Detroit,
3 Raymond M. Murphy continued serving his community through long-
4 standing involvement in a host of civic organizations and
5 initiatives; and

6 Whereas, Raymond Murphy was first elected to the Michigan
7 House of Representatives in 1982 where he served until he was
8 elected to the Michigan Senate in 1998. Over the course of two
9 decades as a lawmaker, Raymond M. Murphy took on many leadership
10 positions, including serving as chair of the Labor and Occupational
11 Safety Committee, Assistant Democratic Floor Leader, and Speaker Pro
12 Tempore. In the Senate, Raymond Murphy served on a variety of
13 committees, including the Appropriations Committee. He served as
14 Minority Whip from 1999 to 2000 and Assistant Minority Floor Leader
15 from 2001 to 2002. In addition, he was a member of the NCSL
16 National Black Caucus of State Legislators and the Michigan
17 Legislative Black Caucus. To each of these responsibilities,
18 Raymond M. Murphy brought an abundant understanding of the process
19 and institutions of government, which provided an invaluable
20 example for others to follow. Raymond M. Murphy also distinguished
21 himself through his efforts on a variety of special projects,
22 including the study and promotion of high-speed rail
23 transportation; and

24 Whereas, Raymond M. Murphy leaves behind a legacy as a
25 passionate advocate for the people of Michigan, and his dedication
26 remains an example for those who have followed him into public
27 service. He also will be remembered as a family man as he
28 demonstrated a deep commitment to his wife, Lynette, and eight
29 children. May his family take some solace that his efforts will

1 long continue to enrich our state; now, therefore, be it
2 Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives
3 concurring), That we offer this expression of our highest tribute
4 to honor the memory of Raymond M. Murphy, a member of the House of
5 Representatives from 1983 to 1998 and the Senate from 1999 to 2002;
6 and be it further
7 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
8 Murphy family as evidence of our lasting esteem for his memory.