

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 77

Senator Shirkey, Alexander, Ananich, Barrett, Bayer, Bizon, Brinks, Bullock, Bumstead, Chang, Daley, Geiss, Hertel, Hollier, Horn, Irwin, Johnson, LaSata, Lauwers, Lucido, MacDonald, MacGregor, McBroom, McCann, McMorrow, Moss, Nesbitt, Outman, Polehanki, Runestad, Santana, Schmidt, Stamas, Theis, VanderWall, Victory, Wojno and Zorn offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution of tribute offered as a memorial for Gary G.
2 Corbin, former member of the Senate.

3 Whereas, It is with great sadness that the members of this
4 legislative body learned of the passing of Gary Corbin. He was an
5 outstanding public servant who was deeply committed to improving
6 the lives of his constituents in Genesee County and the people of
7 the entire state during his twelve years in the Senate; and

8 Whereas, Gary Corbin was a native of the Hoosier state,

1 attending college at Anderson University where he was a standout
2 football player, but he made Michigan his home. He put down roots
3 in Clio where he served as a pastor and raised two daughters with
4 his wife, Sheila. He entered public service as a member of the
5 Genesee County Board of Commissioners from 1971-1974 and was
6 elected to the Senate for the first time in 1974; and

7 Whereas, In the Senate, Gary Corbin quickly made a name for
8 himself as someone who could work with people with different views
9 and backgrounds. His colleagues appreciated the decency and empathy
10 with which he approached his work in the Legislature, entrusting
11 him with a variety of leadership positions during his tenure,
12 including assistant majority leader, majority floor leader, and
13 minority floor leader. Labor, taxation, and education were among
14 the issues he worked most closely on, chairing the Colleges and
15 Universities Committee and Finance Committee and sponsoring more
16 than 75 public acts across his three terms; and

17 Whereas, Gary Corbin ended his service in the Legislature in
18 1986, but his work serving the public continued for many years
19 after. He was the chief deputy director of the Department of Labor,
20 served on the State Officers Compensation Commission, and was
21 elected chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party before moving
22 into the private sector. In 1996, he started an insurance agency
23 with one of his daughters that grew to have a presence in more than
24 two dozen states; and

25 Whereas, Gary Corbin saw public service as a calling,
26 committing himself to the improvement of the lives of the people of
27 Michigan. Upon his passing, we offer our condolences to his family
28 and friends. We hope that they may find comfort in the knowledge
29 that the community as a whole shares in their bereavement and that

1 the legacy of Gary Corbin's contributions will long continue to
2 enrich our state; now, therefore, be it

3 Resolved by the Senate, That we offer this expression of our
4 highest tribute to honor the memory of Gary G. Corbin, a member of
5 the Senate from 1975 to 1986; and be it further

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