

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.27

Reps. Chatfield and Hammoud offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to honor the life and service of Congressman John  
2 D. Dingell Jr.

3 Whereas, John D. Dingell Jr. dedicated his life in service to  
4 the United States of America. Before he succeeded his father, John  
5 Dingell Sr., a twelve-term member of the U.S. House of  
6 Representatives, he served as a House page, a park ranger with the  
7 U.S. National Park Service, a second lieutenant in the United  
8 States Army, and an assistant prosecutor in Wayne County; and

9 Whereas, John Dingell was elected to the U.S. House of  
10 Representatives to represent Southeast Michigan in 1955. He was a  
11 champion of Congress and the role it plays in our republic. He  
12 firmly believed Congress represents the "great coming together of



1 the American people.” and was quick to assert that Congress serves  
2 as a coequal branch of government— and is not subservient to the  
3 Executive Branch. He served with eleven presidents of the United  
4 States; and

5       Whereas, John Dingell, over the course of his 59 years in  
6 Congress, became the Dean of the House and the longest-serving  
7 member of either chamber of the United States Congress, and his  
8 legacy is best measured by his legislative achievements and  
9 oversight activities on the Energy and Commerce Committee; and

10       Whereas, He was decades ahead of his time on many issues. In  
11 particular, Dingell reintroduced his father’s legislation to  
12 provide for national health insurance each session from 1957 until  
13 the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010, and was also  
14 instrumental to the passage of landmark legislation, including the  
15 Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Medicare  
16 Act, Children’s Health Insurance Act, National Environmental  
17 Protection Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Water Quality Act,  
18 Endangered Species Act, and the Detroit International Wildlife  
19 Refuge Act; and

20       Whereas, One of his greatest strengths as a public servant was  
21 the help he provided to constituents in need. He was not afraid to  
22 use his prosecutorial skills to send piercing letters, known as  
23 “Dingellgrams,” or call a federal agency to testify before his  
24 committee, if it meant he would uncover an answer that could  
25 improve people’s lives; and

26       Whereas, John Dingell’s service and achievements profoundly  
27 transformed our way of life and will forever affect all those who  
28 walk the Earth. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by  
29 President Barack Obama to honor his retirement and service to the

1 nation in 2014; and

2       Whereas, John Dingell was a giant both physically and  
3 legislatively. He raised four children and was succeeded in office  
4 by his beloved wife, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell. He was known for  
5 his legendary and unique lexicon of quips, quotes, and tweets.  
6 Perhaps his most profound words of wisdom were to remind us that  
7 "compromise is an honorable word"; and

8       Whereas, John Dingell often said he was not an important  
9 person, but that the work we did together was important and  
10 essential to improving the lives of the American people and all  
11 those who call Michigan home. His humility was admirable, but his  
12 many legislative achievements could not have happened without him.  
13 His legacy will live on through his family, friends, and his loyal  
14 former staffers; now, therefore, be it

15       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
16 this legislative body honor the life and legacy of Congressman John  
17 D. Dingell Jr. On behalf of all citizens of Michigan, we offer this  
18 resolution as a condolence to Congresswoman Debbie Dingell and the  
19 rest of the congressman's family; and be it further

20       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
21 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the  
22 members of the Michigan congressional delegation.