

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 77

Senator Shirkey 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,
9 attending college at Anderson University where he was a standout
10 football player, but he made Michigan his home. He put down roots
11 in Clio where he served as a pastor and raised two daughters with
12 his wife, Sheila. He entered public service as a member of the
13 Genesee County Board of Commissioners from 1971-1974 and was

1 elected to the Senate for the first time in 1974; and

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

12 Whereas, Gary Corbin ended his service in the Legislature in
13 1986, but his work serving the public continued for many years
14 after. He was the chief deputy director of the Department of Labor,
15 served on the State Officers Compensation Commission, and was
16 elected chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party before moving
17 into the private sector. In 1996, he started an insurance agency
18 with one of his daughters that grew to have a presence in more than
19 two dozen states; and

20 Whereas, Gary Corbin saw public service as a calling,
21 committing himself to the improvement of the lives of the people of
22 Michigan. Upon his passing, we offer our condolences to his family
23 and friends. We hope that they may find comfort in the knowledge
24 that the community as a whole shares in their bereavement and that
25 the legacy of Gary Corbin's contributions will long continue to
26 enrich our state; now, therefore, be it

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

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