

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14

Senator Shirkey offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution offered as a memorial for Mark C.
2 Jansen, former member of the House of Representatives and the
3 Senate.

4 Whereas, It is with sincere sadness that the members of the
5 Michigan Legislature learned of the passing of Mark Jansen. He will
6 be remembered as a dedicated public servant with a strong
7 commitment to his constituents in Kent County and the people of the
8 state of Michigan; and

9 Whereas, Mark Jansen was a deeply religious man with a
10 commitment to service. After attending Grand Rapids South Christian
11 High School, Grand Valley State University, and Calvin College, he
12 spent three years working as a missionary in Kentucky. He then
13 returned home, where he served as the director of youth ministries
14 at Covenant Christian Reformed Church in Gaines Township for seven

1 years and was elected the township clerk in 1992; and

2 Whereas, Mark Jansen was first elected to represent the
3 Seventy-second District in the House of Representatives in 1996,
4 before being reelected in 1998 and 2000. During all three terms in
5 the House, Representative Jansen served on the Appropriations
6 Committee, including as chair of the Family Independence Agency and
7 Retirement subcommittees. He also served as vice chair of the
8 Appropriations subcommittees on Agriculture and Natural Resources
9 and Environmental Quality, as well as sat on the subcommittees on
10 Community Health, Transportation, and Higher Education. He
11 dedicated himself to this work, becoming an expert on the subject
12 matter and forming partnerships across the aisle and with the
13 governor's administration to construct effective budgets. He also
14 served as the Assistant Republican Whip and the Republican Policy
15 Chair and was a member of the National Conference of State
16 Legislatures' State Legislative Effectiveness and Fiscal, Oversight
17 and Intergovernmental Affairs committees; and

18 Whereas, After leaving the House of Representatives in 2002,
19 Mark Jansen continued to serve his community, becoming the director
20 of special initiatives for Habitat for Humanity of Michigan. During
21 this time, he also served on the Kent County Road Commission; and

22 Whereas, Mark Jansen returned to state government in 2007,
23 following his election to represent the Twenty-eighth District in
24 the Michigan Senate. During his Senate tenure, Senator Jansen
25 played a critical role in the passage of most major legislation. As
26 chair of the Families and Human Services and Reforms,
27 Restructuring, and Reinventing committees, he was a leader in
28 reforming the tax system, worker's compensation, state employee
29 retirement benefits, and many other important issues. Additionally,

1 he was vice chair of the Finance Committee and a member of the
2 Campaign and Election Oversight and Infrastructure Modernization
3 committees and the Legislative Council. He also served on the
4 Appropriations Committee where he chaired the subcommittees on the
5 Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Retirement, and
6 Economic Development; vice chaired the subcommittees on the
7 Department of Human Services and General Government; and served on
8 the subcommittees on Capital Outlay and Federal Stimulus Oversight.
9 While Senator Jansen received numerous awards for his effective
10 leadership throughout his career, in 2011, he was named *MIRS News*'
11 first-ever Senator of the Year; and

12 Whereas, In addition to his legislative accomplishments, Mark
13 Jansen was known for his ability to bring people together. As a
14 freshman representative, he led the Republican Caucus' "House to
15 Houses" project, where representatives constructed homes in three
16 Michigan counties. During his time in the Senate, Mark Jansen
17 helped navigate state government through a period of divided
18 government, frequently negotiating on key issues with Governor
19 Jennifer Granholm and the Democratic House majority; and

20 Whereas, After leaving the Legislature in 2014, Mark Jansen
21 continued to serve the people of Michigan. He was the Michigan
22 Director of Child Care Licensing from 2015 until his retirement in
23 2020. Even then, he did not rest. He was appointed Gaines Township
24 Manager before being diagnosed with cancer; and

25 Whereas, Mark Jansen dedicated his life to serving those
26 around him, including by being an active member of his community,
27 serving on the Michigan Youth in Government Board of Directors, as
28 Vice President of the Cutlerville Christian School Board, as a
29 member of the Wedgwood Christian Services Advancement Advisory

1 Council, on the Chairman's Leadership Forum Board of Directors,
2 with the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Development, and as a
3 member of the Steering Committee of the Midwestern Legislative
4 Conference of the Council of State Governments. His commitment to
5 his constituents and the people of Michigan is an example for those
6 who follow him into public service. May his family and friends take
7 solace in his legacy and our fond memory of him; now, therefore, be
8 it

9 Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives
10 concurring), That we offer this expression of our highest tribute
11 to honor the memory of Mark C. Jansen, a member of the House of
12 Representatives from 1997 to 2002 and the Senate from 2007 to 2014;
13 and be it further

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