

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

Senator Shirkey offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution of tribute offered as a memorial for
2 Karen Fort Hood, judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals.

3 Whereas, It was with great sorrow that the members of the
4 Michigan Legislature learned of the passing of Karen Fort Hood.
5 Judge Hood will be remembered as a trailblazer, committed public
6 servant, and renowned legal mind who served the people of Wayne
7 County and the entire state with distinction during her career,
8 which included nearly three decades as a judge; and

9 Whereas, Judge Hood was born in Detroit and received her
10 undergraduate degree from Regents College of the University of the
11 State of New York at Albany in 1980. Nine years later, she earned
12 her law degree from the Detroit College of Law. Prior to her
13 election as a judge, she worked as a teacher in the Detroit Public
14 Schools, a probation officer, and special assistant prosecutor and

1 assistant prosecuting attorney at the Wayne County Prosecutor's
2 Office; and

3 Whereas, Karen Fort Hood was first elected to serve as a judge
4 in 1992 on the Detroit Recorder's Court. She was later elected to
5 the Wayne County Circuit Court, where she would ultimately serve as
6 the presiding judge in the Criminal Division; and

7 Whereas, In 2002, Judge Hood made history when she was the
8 first Black woman in state history to be elected to the Michigan
9 Court of Appeals. Her work on the Court of Appeals earned her the
10 trust of the voters in the First District, as they re-elected her
11 in 2008, 2014, and 2020; and

12 Whereas, Judge Hood was known for her commitment to fairness
13 and justice, making her a model jurist and community leader. In
14 addition to her sterling work ethic and legal mind, she treated
15 everyone with respect and ensured that the citizens of Michigan
16 were heard in the courtroom. Judge Hood's personal warmth made her
17 a model colleague, as did her commitment to professional service.
18 She took an active role in the Association of Black Judges of
19 Michigan, the Wolverine Bar Association, and the National Bar
20 Association, and served on the Judicial Tenure Commission,
21 including as the first Black woman to be chosen as the commission's
22 chair; and

23 Whereas, Judge Hood had an enormous impact on the legal
24 community and the people of Michigan during her years as a
25 prosecutor and judge. Upon her passing, we offer condolences to her
26 family and friends. We hope that they may find comfort in the
27 knowledge that the community shares in their bereavement and the
28 legacy of Karen Fort Hood will long continue to enrich our state;
29 now, therefore, be it

1 Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives
2 concurring), That we offer this expression of our highest tribute
3 to honor the memory of Karen Fort Hood, judge of the Michigan Court
4 of Appeals from 2003 to 2021; and be it further

5 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
6 Hood family as evidence of our lasting esteem for her memory.