

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

Senator Shirkey offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution offered as a memorial for Richard J.
2 Allen, former member of the House of Representatives and the
3 Senate.

4 Whereas, It was with great sorrow that the members of the
5 Michigan Legislature learned of the passing of Richard "Dick"
6 Allen. A dedicated public servant, he will be remembered as a
7 legislator who worked tirelessly to improve the lives of his
8 constituents in mid-Michigan and the entire state of Michigan; and

9 Whereas, Dick Allen was born and raised on his family's farm
10 in Ithaca. After graduating from Ithaca High School, he went on to
11 attend Michigan State University, where he earned his bachelor's
12 degree, Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine, and completed additional
13 coursework towards a PhD in agricultural economics. After college,
14 he operated his own veterinary practice, taught at Alma College,

1 and worked on his family's farm. He also served the community
2 through his involvement with the local Rotary Club, the American
3 Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Michigan
4 Veterinary Medical Association, among other endeavors. His
5 educational background, career, and wide range of life experiences
6 prepared him well for his time as a legislator; and

7 Whereas, Dick Allen was first elected to the Michigan House of
8 Representatives in 1968 where he served two terms before being
9 elected to the Michigan Senate in 1974 where he served two terms.
10 During his tenure in the House, he represented the Eighty-eighth
11 House District. While a member of the House of Representatives, he
12 served on the committees on Consumers and Agriculture, Retirement,
13 and Public Health where he served as vice chair. From 1975 to 1982,
14 he represented the Thirtieth Senate District. While a member of the
15 Senate, he served on the Senate committees on Agriculture and
16 Consumer Affairs, Education, Tourist Industry Relations,
17 Appropriations, and Transportation, as well as the Joint Committee
18 on Administrative Rules; and

19 Whereas, Dick Allen was known to be a fierce advocate for
20 bicycling safety and nonmotorized trail development. One of his
21 most notable legislative accomplishments was the passage of
22 legislation that requires the Michigan Department of Transportation
23 to spend a percentage of road money on nonmotorized trail
24 facilities. He also founded the Dick Allen Lansing to Mackinaw
25 (DALMAC) bicycle tour in 1971, which is one of the state's longest-
26 running bicycle tours. DALMAC has been enjoyed by thousands of
27 bicyclists and raised over \$1.5 million in funds for bicycle-
28 related projects; and

29 Whereas, After leaving office, Dick Allen continued his career

1 as Michigan's Small Business Ombudsman and Executive Director of
2 the Michigan State Fair, among other roles. He also continued to
3 serve the community through his involvement with various not-for-
4 profit organizations, such as the Michigan Trails and Greenways
5 Alliance, the Audubon Society, the Michigan Forestry Association,
6 and the Sierra Club; and

7 Whereas, Dick Allen leaves behind a legacy as a highly
8 passionate public servant and effective leader, which is evidenced
9 by his many accomplishments. He was also a dedicated husband,
10 father, and grandfather. Upon his passing, we offer our condolences
11 to his family and friends. We hope they find comfort in the
12 knowledge that his contributions will long continue to enrich this
13 state; now, therefore, be it

14 Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives
15 concurring), That we offer this expression of our highest tribute
16 to honor the memory of Richard J. Allen, a member of the House of
17 Representatives from 1969 to 1972 and the Senate from 1975 to 1982;
18 and be it further

19 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
20 Allen family as evidence of our lasting esteem for his memory.