

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

Senators Shirkey and Ananich offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution offered as a memorial for Dale Kildee,
2 former member of the Michigan House of Representatives, the
3 Michigan Senate, and the United States House of Representatives.

4 Whereas, It was with deep sadness that the members of the
5 Michigan Legislature learned of the passing of Dale Kildee.
6 Throughout his nearly fifty-year career in public service,
7 Congressman Kildee was a tireless advocate for his constituents in
8 Bay, Genesee, Lapeer, Oakland, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Saginaw, and
9 Tuscola counties and all of Michigan; and

10 Whereas, Dale Kildee was born in Flint in 1929. After
11 graduating from St. Mary's High School in 1947, he considered
12 entering the priesthood. He earned his bachelor's degree from the
13 Sacred Heart Seminary but withdrew before becoming ordained. He

1 then earned his teaching certificate from the University of Detroit
2 and worked as a teacher at the University of Detroit High School
3 and Flint Central High School from 1954 to 1964. During this
4 period, he also earned a master's degree from the University of
5 Michigan, including some graduate studies at the University of
6 Peshawar in Pakistan; and

7 Whereas, Dale Kildee entered public service when he was
8 elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1964 to
9 represent part of Genesee County in the 81st District. During his
10 tenure in the House, he chaired the committee on Federal Relations;
11 was vice chair of Public Health; and served on the committees of
12 Judiciary, State Fairs, State Library, Appropriations, and
13 Interstate Cooperation Commission. He served in the House until
14 1974, when he was elected to represent the 29th District in the
15 Michigan Senate. In the Senate he served on the Appropriations
16 Committee. He chaired the subcommittee on School Aid & Department
17 of K-12; and was vice chair of the subcommittees of Joint
18 Subcommittee on Capital Outlay and Subcommittee on Government
19 Computers' Coordinating Committee. Among his many contributions to
20 Michigan during his time in the Legislature, Representative Kildee
21 was a fierce advocate for Native Americans, playing a key role in
22 creating the Michigan Commission on Indian Affairs; and

23 Whereas, Dale Kildee was first elected to the United States
24 Congress in 1976 to represent the Flint-based 7th district. He was
25 successfully reelected in each of the next seventeen elections
26 before announcing he would not seek another term in the 2012
27 General Election. During his time in Congress, Congressman Kildee
28 also represented Michigan's 5th and 9th districts, which were also
29 based around Flint. Throughout his tenure, Congressman Kildee was

1 known for his dedication to his office, missing only 27 votes over
2 his 36 years in Congress; and

3 Whereas, Congressman Kildee's experience as a teacher
4 influenced his time in the House, as he constantly worked to
5 improve our education system. He was the author of the Improving
6 Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, which reauthorized and
7 reformed the Head Start early education program. Congressman Kildee
8 also continued his advocacy for Native Americans while in Congress,
9 including forming the bipartisan Native American Caucus; and

10 Whereas, Dale Kildee dedicated his life to serving his
11 constituents and advocating for those in need. He is remembered for
12 his quiet leadership and tireless efforts to serve others as well
13 as his love for his wife and family. His passion for public service
14 serves as an example for all those that follow in his footsteps;
15 now, therefore, be it

16 Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives
17 concurring), That we offer this expression of our highest tribute
18 to honor the memory of Dale Kildee, former member of the Michigan
19 House of Representatives from 1965 to 1974, the Michigan Senate
20 from 1975 to 1977, and the United States House of Representatives
21 from 1977 to 2012; and be it further

22 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
23 Kildee family as evidence of our lasting esteem for his memory.