

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.303

Rep. Peterson offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the
2 McDonald's Restaurants Black Owners Association.

3 Whereas, The National Black McDonald's Operators Association
4 is committed to helping African American communities by providing
5 educational resources, promoting tolerance and acceptance, and
6 empowering the people they serve throughout the state and local
7 chapters of Black McDonald's Operator Associations; and

8 Whereas, The National Black McDonald's Operators Association
9 encompasses over 200 independent Black franchisees from around the
10 country; and

11 Whereas, The Black operators of the Michigan Operators
12 Business Association encompasses 14 independent Black franchisees.
13 These members have over 70 restaurants (more than 15 are located in

1 densely populated Black communities) which employ over 2,800
2 employees. Current Black operators are Stephen Blackwood, Tina
3 Brundidge, Jon Campbell, Sr., Sam Cox, Steven Hogwood, Dr. William
4 Pickard, Sonja Shields, Maureen Smith, James Thrower II, Joni
5 Thrower-Davis, Marla Thrower, Artie Vann, Monique Vann-Brown, and
6 Carl Wiseman; and

7 Whereas, The Black operators of the Michigan Operators
8 Business Association are committed participants across Michigan
9 throughout the year, sponsoring and being active in our communities
10 like the longstanding Turkey Family Giveaway, Celebrating Black
11 History Makers of Today student scholarship program, Breakfast with
12 Black Santa special events, youth initiatives to promote reading
13 and back-to-school drives/attendance, programs of appreciation for
14 public safety and health care workers, parks and recreation, youth
15 career development, job and opportunity fairs, arts, culture and
16 music community festivals, city neighborhood resource and safety
17 community events; and

18 Whereas, The meaningful efforts of the Black McDonald's
19 Operators throughout Michigan engage our local neighborhoods and
20 embody the true spirit of family and community; and

21 Whereas, On December 21, 1968, Herman Petty of Chicago opened
22 his first restaurant on Chicago's South Side at 6500 South Stony
23 Island Avenue, Chicago, making him the first African American
24 McDonald's franchisee; and

25 Whereas, McDonald's partnership with Herman Petty opened the
26 doors and gave hope to a generation of ambitious African American
27 businessmen and women seeking a piece of the American Dream. By the
28 end of 1969, there were twelve African American owned and operated
29 McDonald's restaurants, mostly located in the Midwest; and

1 Whereas, The sharing of ideas, problems, and concerns amongst
2 owner/operators eventually led to the formation of the National
3 Black McDonald's Operators Association in 1972; and

4 Whereas, The founding members of the National Black McDonald's
5 Operators Association who attended the first organized convention
6 of the organization in May 1972 presided over by Herman Petty, who
7 had the foresight to see the need for such an organization were:
8 Sherman Claypool of Milwaukee, Wayne Embry of Milwaukee, Andrew
9 Davis of Chicago, John Perry of Chicago, Mallory Jones of St.
10 Louis, Noel White of Chicago, Lester Hairston of Chicago, Cloris
11 Dale of Kansas City, Andrew Murrell of Kansas City, Walter
12 Pitchford of Chicago, Benjamin Davis of St. Louis, and Edward Wimp
13 of Chicago; and

14 Whereas, The tenacity and courage of these African American
15 entrepreneurs and pioneers laid the foundation for what has become
16 the most successful group of African American entrepreneurs in the
17 United States today and has paved the way for the National Black
18 McDonald's Operators Association to be partners and leaders,
19 dedicated to providing resources across their communities in an
20 effort to help build stronger neighborhoods; and

21 Whereas, In May of 2022, the National Black McDonald's
22 Operators Association will celebrate it's 50-year anniversary; now,
23 therefore, be it

24 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
25 this legislative body commemorate the 50th anniversary of the
26 McDonald's Restaurants Black Owners Association. We express our
27 gratitude to the Michigan Operators that are members of the
28 National Black McDonald's Operators Association for their continued
29 service to the state of Michigan, our youth, and our communities;

1 and be it further

2 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be prepared and

3 presented to each of the Black operators of the Michigan Operators

4 Business Association.