

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

Senators Brinks and Nesbitt offered the following concurrent resolution:

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

4 Whereas, It is with great sorrow that the members of the
5 Legislature learned about the passing of Nancy Cassis. She will be
6 remembered as a dedicated public servant and leader who was
7 committed to her constituents in the Fifteenth Senate District and
8 Thirty-Eighth House District; and

9 Whereas, Nancy Cassis was born and raised in New York. She
10 came to the Midwest to pursue a bachelor's degree at Ohio
11 University, from which she graduated in 1966. Afterwards she went
12 into teaching. She came to Michigan to get a master's degree from
13 the University of Michigan, completing that degree in 1979, and

1 continued her studies for an additional year to attain an education
2 specialist degree. Thereafter, she began working as a school
3 psychologist for Novi Community Schools; and

4 Whereas, Nancy got her start in elected office in 1985, when
5 she won a seat on the Novi City Council. She served until 1993, and
6 then returned to the City Council in 1995. In 1996, she won a
7 special election to fill a vacancy in the House, where she served
8 until she was elected to the Senate in 2002, serving for the next
9 eight years in that chamber; and

10 Whereas, Nancy was a trailblazer throughout her time in the
11 Legislature. She was the first woman to serve as Chair of the House
12 Tax Policy Committee. In 1999, she was named Legislator of the Year
13 by the National Republican Legislators' Association. Myriad other
14 groups, such as the Michigan Credit Union League, Michigan Soft
15 Drink Association, Michigan Manufacturers Association, Michigan
16 School Psychologists, Small Business Association of Michigan, and
17 Building Owners and Manufacturers, recognized her with awards for
18 her contributions in the Legislature. Immediately upon her arrival
19 in the Senate, she was named Chair of the Finance Committee, a role
20 she would retain throughout her Senate service; and

21 Whereas, Nancy's signature issue in the Legislature, as
22 demonstrated by her pathbreaking committee service, was public
23 finance. She sponsored Michigan's original earned income tax
24 credit. When the Legislature was looking for a way to replace the
25 former Single Business Tax, she sponsored the Michigan Business Tax
26 Act to replace it. Nancy considered her most significant
27 achievements to be passing legislation to ensure accountability and
28 transparency in the subsidies and tax credit programs provided by
29 the Michigan Economic Growth Authority and Michigan Film Office.

1 Her interest in taxation extended to personal finances more
2 generally and saw her sponsor the Social Security Number Privacy
3 Act, a vital measure in protecting the privacy and credit rating of
4 Michigan residents; and

5 Whereas, In addition to chairing the House Tax Policy
6 Committee and the Senate Finance Committee, Nancy served on many
7 other committees in the chambers. These included the House Mental
8 Health Committee; House Urban Policy and Economic Development
9 Committee; House Energy and Technology Committee; House Family and
10 Children Services Committee; House Senior Health, Security and
11 Retirement Committee; House Redistricting and Elections Committee;
12 Senate Education Committee; Senate Government Operations and Reform
13 Committee; Senate Technology and Energy Committee; Senate Banking
14 and Financial Institutions Committee; and Joint Select Committee on
15 Business Competitiveness; and

16 Whereas, After completing her time in the Senate, Nancy
17 retired to Florida. There, she and her husband, Victor, achieved
18 what so many Michigan residents dream of: living near the ocean.
19 With the backdrop of a stunning view of the Atlantic, she spent her
20 retirement years enjoying the company of her three siblings, seven
21 children, and 13 grandchildren; and

22 Whereas, Upon Nancy Cassis's passing, we offer our condolences
23 to her loved ones. Nancy Cassis's contributions to the Michigan
24 Legislature and the state of Michigan will be remembered; now,
25 therefore, be it

26 Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives
27 concurring), That we offer this expression of our highest tribute
28 to honor the memory of Nancy Cassis, a member of the House of
29 Representatives from 1996 to 2002, and of the Senate from 2003 to

1 2010; and be it further

2 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the

3 Cassis family as evidence of our lasting esteem for her memory.