

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

Senators Brinks and Nesbitt offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution of tribute offered as a memorial for
2 Darwin Booher, former member of the Michigan Senate and Michigan
3 House of Representatives.

4 Whereas, It was with great sorrow that the members of the
5 Legislature learned about the passing of Darwin Booher. He will be
6 remembered as a dedicated public servant by his constituents in
7 northwest Michigan and the people of our great state; and

8 Whereas, Darwin Booher was born in 1942 at Rohen's Maternity
9 House in Ewart, Michigan. He remained in Ewart for much of his
10 life, graduating from Ewart High School in 1961. Darwin furthered
11 his education by graduating from the University of Wisconsin School
12 of Banking and the Michigan Assessors School; and

13 Whereas, Darwin wore many different hats during his life.

1 Before starting his political career, he spent more than four
2 decades in the banking industry. He worked his way up the corporate
3 ladder, starting off as a vault teller and eventually becoming the
4 vice president of First National Bank, which later became Citizens
5 Bank; and

6 Whereas, Outside of Darwin's success in the corporate world,
7 he maintained a strong and steadfast passion for agriculture.

8 Darwin, whose family runs a seventh-generation family farm in
9 Evart, loved working the land and getting his hands dirty, and was
10 always willing to talk about anything related to agriculture. In
11 2018, Darwin was inducted into the Michigan 4-H Emerald Clover
12 Society, which honors former 4-H members for their leadership; and

13 Whereas, During his life, Darwin was also a dedicated public
14 servant. He served as the Osceola Township supervisor and assessor
15 for 28 years. In 2004, he was elected to the House of
16 Representatives where he served three terms representing the One
17 Hundred-second District, before being elected to the Senate to
18 represent the Thirty-fifth District. He would serve in the Senate
19 until 2018. During his time in the Legislature, Darwin utilized his
20 knowledge, experience, and humor to serve on and lead a number of
21 committees. This included serving as the chair of the Senate
22 Committee on Banking and Financial Institutions, the Senate
23 Appropriations subcommittees on Capital Outlay and Community
24 Colleges, and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Community
25 Colleges. He also served on many other committees including the
26 Senate committees on Appropriations, Agriculture, Education, and
27 Infrastructure Modernization, and the House committees on
28 Appropriations and Banking and Financial Services. He additionally
29 served on the Senate Appropriations subcommittees on General

1 Government, the Department of Community Health, the Department of
2 Environmental Quality, and Natural Resources, as well as the House
3 Appropriations subcommittees on the Department of Natural
4 Resources, Joint Capital Outlay, Community Colleges, Human
5 Services, Special Governmental Operations, Investigations, and
6 Intergovernmental Affairs and Oversight. Moreover, Darwin was
7 recognized by his colleagues when he was elected the Senate
8 assistant majority caucus whip; and

9 Whereas, Darwin's commitment to his community went beyond
10 elected office. He faithfully served in a number of roles including
11 the Board of Trustees for Spectrum Health, Reed City Campus;
12 charter member of the Ewart Downtown Development Association; the
13 Ewart Local Development Finance Commission; the Ewart Jaycees; the
14 Ewart Historical Society; and the Ewart Chamber of Commerce; and

15 Whereas, Darwin was known to those around him as a true family
16 man, and he was always happiest when he could spend time with his
17 family. He and his wife of more than 60 years, Janice, made their
18 home in Ewart, where they raised four children. His family expanded
19 to include six grandchildren, two step great-grandchildren, and one
20 great-grandson. During their marriage, Darwin and Janice also
21 opened their home to ten exchange students from all around the
22 world; and

23 Whereas, Darwin loved to remain active, even after leaving the
24 Legislature. He always looked forward to traveling, family
25 vacations, and testing his luck at the casino. Darwin loved to be
26 hands-on with his grandchildren, which included teaching them how
27 to drive on farming equipment. This led to more than a few dents,
28 but even more happy memories. Until his last moments, Darwin always
29 put his family first; and

1 Whereas, By those who knew him best, Darwin is remembered as
2 warm, welcoming, curious, and always willing to offer advice. He
3 always remained respectful of others and was committed to serving
4 and working for his constituents to the best of his ability; and

5 Whereas, Upon Darwin Booher's passing, we offer our
6 condolences to his loved ones. His contributions to these chambers
7 and the State of Michigan will be remembered; now, therefore, be it

8 Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives
9 concurring), That we offer this expression of our highest tribute
10 to honor the memory of Darwin Booher, a member of Michigan's House
11 of Representatives from 2005 to 2010 and the Senate from 2011-2018;
12 and be it further

13 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
14 Booher family as evidence of our lasting esteem for his memory.