

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 175

The Speaker, on behalf of the entire membership of the House of Representatives, offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution of tribute offered as a memorial for John  
2 Gernaat, former member of the House of Representatives.

3           Whereas, It is with great sorrow that the members of the House  
4 of Representatives learned about the passing of John Gernaat. He  
5 will be remembered as a dedicated public servant who was committed  
6 to his constituents in Missaukee, Osceola, Roscommon, and Wexford  
7 counties and the people of the State of Michigan; and

8           Whereas, John Gernaat was born in McCain, Michigan to Herman  
9 and Minnie Gernaat. Mr. Gernaat was an active member of his  
10 community, serving as a member of the McBain Chamber of Commerce,  
11 the McBain Downtown Development Authority, the McBain Tax Increment  
12 Finance Authority, and numerous other organizations, in addition to

1 his dedication to his church; and

2       Whereas, John Gernaat was first elected to the House of  
3 Representatives in 1991 when he successfully sought election in  
4 Michigan's 18<sup>th</sup> district. Following his first term, he went on to  
5 serve Michigan's 102<sup>nd</sup> District for three terms in the House of  
6 Representatives where he served his constituents dutifully until  
7 his retirement in 1999. As a lifelong Michigander and farmer at  
8 heart, Mr. Gernaat faithfully served on the committees of  
9 Agriculture and Forestry, Economic Development, State Affairs, and  
10 Tax Policy. He also chaired the Senior Citizens Committee and was  
11 the majority and minority vice chair for the Commerce Committee. He  
12 authored numerous pieces of legislation and worked tirelessly to  
13 advocate for Michiganders; and

14       Whereas, John Gernaat is survived by his wife and best friend,  
15 Karen, of 62 years; four children, Brad, Kenda, Randy, and Gregg;  
16 sister, Karen; six in-laws; five grandchildren; and eight great  
17 grandchildren whom he loved dearly. His parents, parents-in-law,  
18 four siblings, one brother-in-law, and one grandson preceded him in  
19 death. Mr. Gernaat is described as a kind, generous, and caring man  
20 who was an optimist by nature and had a passion for helping others.  
21 His contributions to the State of Michigan will be remembered and  
22 felt for years to come; now, therefore, be it

23       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we offer this  
24 expression of our highest tribute to honor the memory of John  
25 Gernaat, a member of the House of Representatives from 1991 to  
26 1998; and be it further

27       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
28 Gernaat family as evidence of our lasting esteem for his memory.