

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

Senator Shirkey offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution of tribute offered as a memorial for
2 John A. "Jack" Welborn, former member of the House of
3 Representatives and the Senate.

4 Whereas, It is with great sadness that the members of the
5 Michigan Legislature learned of the passing of Jack Welborn. He
6 served his constituents and the people of the entire state with
7 great conviction and dedication during his time in the House and
8 Senate; and

9 Whereas, Jack Welborn brought a wide range of public and
10 private sector experience with him to Lansing. He spent two years
11 in the Naval Reserve and, over the course of his life, was a dairy
12 farmer, insurance agent, and volunteer firefighter. In 1966, Jack
13 Welborn started his public service career when he was elected
14 Cooper Township Supervisor. He also served as chairman of the

1 Kalamazoo County Board of Supervisors, on the Gull Lake School
2 Board, and as Kalamazoo Soil Conservation District Director; and

3 Whereas, Jack Welborn arrived in Lansing in 1973 to represent
4 the people of Kalamazoo County in the Forty-seventh House District.
5 When the area's Senate seat became vacant the following year, the
6 voters of the Twenty-first Senate District - encompassing parts of
7 Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren counties - sent Jack
8 Welborn across the Capitol in the summer of 1974, where he remained
9 until 1982 when he ran for Governor. Following the death of his
10 brother, who represented the Thirteenth Senate District, Jack
11 Welborn signed up to serve the people of Barry, Ionia, Kalamazoo,
12 and Montcalm counties as their senator in a 1985 special election.
13 Those voters would elect him twice more, in 1986 and 1990; and

14 Whereas, While serving in the Legislature, Jack Welborn
15 championed smaller government, deregulation, lower taxes, and pro-
16 life causes. Despite his strongly held conservative views on many
17 issues, he was able to find common ground with his colleagues
18 across the aisle, championing bipartisan criminal justice and
19 corrections reform while chairing Senate committees on those
20 issues. He also supported issues back home, including saving the
21 historic Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital Water Tower from
22 demolition. Jack Welborn served on many committees in both
23 chambers, including serving as chair of Senate committees on
24 criminal justice and law, family law, corrections, urban affairs,
25 and economic development and the Senate Select Committee on Export
26 and Trade; serving as vice chair of Joint Committee on
27 Administrative Rules; and being a member of Commerce; Regulatory
28 Affairs; Appropriations and Retirement, including many
29 subcommittees; Labor and Retirement; Municipalities and Elections;

1 Finance; Constitutional Revision and Women's Rights; Taxation;
2 Tourist Industry Relations; and Youth and Student Participation. He
3 introduced dozens of bills every session to push for measures
4 important to his constituents, with a particular focus on mental
5 health and issues affecting children; and

6 Whereas, After leaving Lansing in 1994, Jack Welborn returned
7 to his family's homestead farm where he grew up and opened an
8 antique shop with his wife. He enjoyed time in his workshop and
9 with his grandchildren during his retirement; and

10 Whereas, Jack Welborn was a committed and hardworking
11 legislator who cherished his family. Upon his passing, we offer our
12 condolences to his family and friends. We hope that they may find
13 comfort in the knowledge that the community and state share in
14 their bereavement and that the legacy of Jack Welborn's
15 contributions will long continue to enrich our state; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives
18 concurring), That we offer this expression of our highest tribute
19 to honor the memory of John A. "Jack" Welborn, a member of the
20 House of Representatives from 1973 to 1974 and a member of the
21 Senate from 1974 to 1982 and 1985 to 1994; and be it further

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