

## 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.