

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 187

Senators Shirkey and Ananich offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution of tribute for the Honorable Jim Ananich.

2 Whereas, It is a distinct honor to recognize Senator Jim
3 Ananich as he retires from this chamber. A longtime statesman,
4 Senator Ananich has served the people of the Twenty-seventh
5 District, including his hometown of Flint, with dignity and
6 respect. His leadership has bettered the lives of his constituents
7 and all Michiganians. Senator Ananich is a dedicated husband to his
8 wife, Andrea, and a loving father to his son, Jacob; and

9 Whereas, Senator Ananich is an expert in governing by
10 education and by trade. He earned a bachelor's degree in political
11 economics and a secondary education certificate in social studies
12 from Michigan State University; he additionally earned a master's
13 degree in public administration from the University of Michigan-

1 Flint. Public service was an important lesson passed on to Senator
2 Ananich by his father. He began his professional career working as
3 a staffer for Senate Minority Leader John D. Cherry, Jr., Senate
4 Minority Leader Bob Emerson, and Congressman Dale Kildee. In 2005,
5 he successfully won election to the Flint City Council, where he
6 served until 2009 and was elected president for his final year.
7 Senator Ananich spent time as a civics and government teacher at
8 Carman-Ainsworth and Flint Community Schools and also worked as an
9 education coordinator for Priority Children. Transitioning to serve
10 the state at large, Senator Ananich was elected to the Michigan
11 House of Representatives in 2010 and 2012; and

12 Whereas, Since his special election to the Senate in 2013,
13 Senator Ananich has served on numerous committees, including as
14 minority vice chair of the committees on Banking and Financial
15 Institutions, Government Operations, and Agriculture and as a
16 member of the committees on Economic Development, Health Policy,
17 Transportation, and Insurance. Senator Ananich also advocated for
18 his district as a member of the Joint Select Committee on the Flint
19 Water Public Health Emergency. In addition, he served on the
20 Legislative Council and the Board of Governors for the Senate
21 Fiscal Agency; and

22 Whereas, Senator Ananich earned the respect of his caucus
23 colleagues, as evidenced by his two-time election as Senate
24 Minority Leader, serving for eight years, from 2015 to 2022. During
25 his legislative tenure, he spearheaded initiatives to improve the
26 health and safety of his constituents, protect seniors with the
27 successful passage of elder abuse legislation, and help students
28 pursue higher education. He sponsored successful legislation to
29 fund the settlement of the Flint water crisis and enable the city

1 of Flint to be designated as a promise zone, which allows high
2 school graduates to receive financial assistance for post-secondary
3 education. Senator Ananich also sponsored laws to help those
4 suffering from mental illness or addiction, a further testament to
5 his comprehensive approach to bettering the lives of Michigianians
6 everywhere. While he was often seen as a quiet presence, it was
7 well known he was a person of strength, embodied an infectious
8 sense of humor, and held deep affection for those around him; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 Resolved by the Senate, That we offer this expression of
11 tribute to commend and thank the Honorable Jim Ananich for his
12 notable contributions to this legislative body and to our state;
13 and be it further

14 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
15 Senator Ananich as evidence of our gratitude and best wishes.