

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 188

Senators Ananich and Shirkey offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution of tribute for the Honorable Mike Shirkey.

2 Whereas, It is with gratitude that we recognize Senator Mike

3 Shirkey as his tenure with the Michigan Senate comes to a close.

4 As Majority Leader of the Senate, he has worked tirelessly on

5 behalf of the citizens of Michigan and, in particular, his

6 constituents in the Sixteenth District, which includes Branch,

7 Hillsdale, and Jackson counties; and

8 Whereas, Senator Shirkey was born and raised in Jackson

9 County, Michigan, the birthplace of the Republican Party. Now

10 residing in Liberty Township on Patriot Lane, Senator Shirkey is

11 the proud father of three children, David, Marilyn, and Daniel,

12 loving grandfather of 12 grandchildren, and a devoted husband of 47

13 years to his wife, Sue. Senator Shirkey earned a bachelor's degree

1 from General Motors Institute before going on to earn a master's
2 degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Wisconsin,
3 Madison. After working for 13 years as an engineer and manager at
4 General Motors, he founded his own engineering company, Orbitform.
5 His experience as a business owner and his heart to serve his
6 community and state motivated him to affect change in public
7 policy. Senator Shirkey served on the Columbia Central School Board
8 prior to joining the legislature and was a board chair of the
9 Allegiance Health System. In 2010, Senator Shirkey successfully ran
10 for and was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in a
11 special election, where he served honorably through 2014. As a
12 State Representative he had the unique opportunity to form and
13 chair the Competitiveness Committee, which greatly impacted the
14 oversight of economic issues in Michigan; and

15 Whereas, Senator Shirkey was first elected to the Michigan
16 Senate in 2014, joining one of the smallest classes in the Senate,
17 forming the Republican group of "Freshman 8". His dedication and
18 leadership displayed within this chamber led to him being elected
19 to serve as the Senate Majority Leader by his Republican colleagues
20 during his second term. Known for his focus and passion for
21 complicated policy issues, Senator Shirkey served as chair of the
22 Senate's Government Operations, Health Policy, and Michigan
23 Competitiveness committees. He also served with distinction as a
24 member of the committees on Elections and Government Reform; Energy
25 and Technology; and Appropriations, including its subcommittee on
26 Health and Human Services. Senator Shirkey worked tirelessly on
27 legislation to empower Michigan workers and citizens. During his
28 legislative tenure, one of his most notable accomplishments was
29 successfully leading the passage of Right to Work legislation,

1 better known as the Freedom to Work laws. Senator Shirkey was also
2 a champion of increasing access and improving care in the state's
3 mental health system, passing the Advanced Practice Nurse
4 legislation, and was the driving force behind many health policy,
5 energy, and economic reforms throughout his service. Most
6 importantly, Senator Shirkey enjoyed serving others and working
7 with his colleagues towards common goals. Known for his love of
8 music, he could be found singing with the informal singing caucus
9 in the Capitol Rotunda during late nights and the holidays; now,
10 therefore, be it

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

15 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
16 Senator Shirkey as evidence of our appreciation and best wishes as
17 he leaves the Michigan Senate.