

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

House Resolution No. 15.

A resolution of tribute offered as a memorial for James E.O'Neill, Jr., former member of the House.

Whereas, Members and staff throughout the Capitol were saddened to learn of the passing of James E.O'Neill, who served in this legislative body for 28 years. For the people of his hometown of Saginaw, the education community throughout Michigan, and disadvantaged people throughout our state, his demise represents the loss of a tireless champion in public policy debates; and

Whereas, Jim O'Neill was a graduate of Central Michigan University who earned his master's degree at the University of Michigan and served his country in the United States Army from 1951 to 1953. He worked as a high school teacher and as an elementary school principal in Hemlock prior to his election to the House of Representatives in 1966. Although he formally left the classroom at that time, he certainly never altered his commitment to schools. Throughout his 14 consecutive terms, Representative O'Neill was a tireless advocate of public education and people in need; and

Whereas, An unpretentious gentleman who made friends as well as he made public policy, Representative O'Neill worked effectively with members on both sides of the political aisle on many difficult issues over the years. He was an especially respected source of information on school finance and was a key contributor to the landmark changes of Proposal A; and

Whereas, Most importantly, Jim O'Neill, with his honesty, concern, and integrity, demonstrated a belief in our system of self-government that will long be remembered. His continuing involvement with issues after leaving the legislature in 1994 provided an example of the highest standards of citizenship and leadership; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we offer this expression of our highest tribute to honor the memory of James E.O'Neill, Jr., a member of this legislative body from 1967 to 1994; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the O'Neill family as evidence of our sincere condolences.