

Reps. Taub, Vagnozzi, Accavitti, Amos, Anderson, Ball, Baxter, Brandenburg, Byrum, Caswell, Caul, Cheeks, Clemente, Condino, Cushingberry, DeRoche, Dillon, Elsenheimer, Farrah, Gaffney, Garfield, Gleason, Gonzales, Gosselin, Hildenbrand, Hune, Jones, Kahn, Kehrl, Kolb, Kooiman, LaJoy, David Law, Lemmons, III, Lemmons, Jr., Lipsey, Marleau, McConico, Meisner, Meyer, Moore, Mortimer, Nitz, Nofs, Palmer, Pastor, Pearce, Phillips, Polidori, Proos, Robertson, Sak, Shaffer, Sheltroun, Alma Smith, Spade, Stahl, Stewart, Tobocman, Vander Veen, Ward, Waters, Zelenko, Hansen, Hopgood, Huizenga and Pavlov offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 34.

A resolution commemorating the life of Max Fisher.

Whereas, It is with a great deal of respect and admiration for his accomplishments that we join the family of Max Fisher in remembering his significant contributions to the people of the state of Michigan. Max was a man devoted to his family, his community, and the greater good of mankind; and

Whereas, Max Fisher, the son of Russian immigrants, was born in Pittsburgh on July 15, 1908, and moved to Salem, Ohio soon after. He attended Ohio State University on a football scholarship, where he played football until an injury sidelined him. Realizing the importance of education, he pressed on and graduated with a degree in business administration in 1930. Max was offered a job in Cleveland, but decided to go to Detroit, where his parents had just moved. He took a job with his father. Fisher, through his brilliance and keen instinct, expanded the operation into a multimillion dollar oil business. He later ventured into real estate transactions and enjoyed great success; and

Whereas, In the 1950's, Max Fisher discovered philanthropy, and philanthropy discovered him. As chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, Fisher proved to be a highly successful fundraiser which led to his appointment in 1957 as the first Jewish chairman of the United Foundation Torch Drive. By this time, Max had begun to look more deeply into his Jewish identity. His parents had told stories of persecution and practiced some religious customs, but Max had no strong sense of his heritage. That changed in 1954, when he made his first visit to Israel. Max Fisher spent much of his life raising money for Israel. He had also been credited for leading and reorganizing every major U.S. Jewish organization. Fisher had become the single symbol of American Jewry; and

Whereas, Max Fisher's love and commitment to Michigan, and the city of Detroit, is evident in the legacy he leaves. Max truly cared for Detroit and worked hard to make the city viable. His personal philosophy – patience and persistence – was evident in the many years he devoted to Detroit. After the 1967 riots, he took immediate action. As chairman alternately of New Detroit and Detroit Renaissance, he twisted arms to bring businesses back to Detroit. One of the deals involved nudging his good friend, Henry Ford II, and others to build the Renaissance Center, a phoenix in the post-riot years. He also worked tirelessly to secure city tax breaks and to build the Riverfront Apartments with Al Taubman. His most recent Detroit legacy is the \$60 million Max M. Fisher Music Center, the apex of the Detroit Symphony's Orchestra Place renewal project; and

Whereas, Max Fisher's reputation as a senior advisor to presidents, prime ministers, heads of state, worldwide Jewish leaders, CEOs, and other influential people is unmatched. Max understood power and customized it. In his biography, he said of power: "When you start to talk about it, that's when you don't have it." Max was a Republican, and his wealth and skill at behind-the-scenes diplomacy kept him connected to every Republican administration since

Nixon. Former President Ronald Reagan once quipped: "Republican presidents inherit Max Fisher". Worldwide, it is difficult to find a single private individual who had a greater role on behalf of the State of Israel than Max Fisher. While he was a staunch Republican, Max understood the importance of compromise and respected different views. He always looked for the positive and this was never more evident in the friendships he had with Democrats and Republicans alike. When Rosa Parks was accosted, Max and Al Taubman arranged for her to have life-time free rent at the Riverfront Apartments; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body commemorate the life of Max Fisher, and honor the contributions he made to Michigan; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to his wife, Marjorie, and his family, in honor of Max Fisher.