

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

House Resolution No. 194.

A resolution of tribute offered as a memorial for Representative Michael A. Simpson.

Whereas, It was with deep sorrow that the members of this legislative body learned of the untimely passing of a respected friend and colleague, Michael Anthony Simpson, who represented the people of the 65th Representative District in this legislative body. We had but a brief time to know Mike Simpson, yet our work with him allowed us to clearly see his character. His devotion to service was fueled by his tireless energy and passion, traits his family, friends, and community understood well; and

Whereas, Mike Simpson was born in Ypsilanti, Michigan, and graduated from Plymouth-Canton High School. He brought to the legislature his experience in the private sector, including being a business owner and efforts promoting his community in several chambers of commerce and the Michigan Farm Bureau, as well as his contributions to civic groups. He enlisted in the United States Army Reserve for a term of service, and continued to advocate for veterans as a member of the American Legion. Mike, a devoted husband and father of five, was passionate about doing what was needed to fix a problem and protect those in need of our help. He led the fight to force insurance companies to keep their promises so other families would not have to go through the same ordeal he and his family suffered after his daughter, Gina, died of bone cancer; and

Whereas, Representative Michael Simpson came to Lansing after his election in 2006, winning reelection two years later. He served on numerous committees, including his first term position as majority vice-chair of the Health Policy Committee. He established a reputation as a fighter in areas of agriculture, health, and economic development. This session, he chaired the Agriculture Committee, in addition to working on other policy committees where he brought innovative thinking to solving problems. We shall miss Mike, yet take comfort knowing that his life had a positive impact on his nation, our state, this legislative body, and his neighbors, friends, and family; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we offer this expression of our highest tribute to honor the memory of Michael A. Simpson, a member of the House of Representatives from 2007 to 2009; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Simpson family as an expression of our condolences and as a statement of our lasting esteem for his memory.