

Senator Schuitmaker offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 160.

A resolution to commemorate President Gerald R. Ford and the invaluable impact of his service to the United States of America in honor of the 40th Anniversary of his presidency.

Whereas, On August 9, 1974, Vice President Gerald R. Ford took the oath of office in the East Room of the White House, becoming the 38th President of the United States; and

Whereas, On August 22, 1974, President Gerald R. Ford, along with First Lady Betty Ford, announced his support for the Equal Rights Amendment; and

Whereas, On September 8, 1974, President Gerald R. Ford granted “a full, free and absolute pardon unto Richard Nixon” for all crimes he committed or may have committed as President. President Ford put the country’s needs before his own so the nation could begin its healing process after the constitutional crisis of Watergate; and

Whereas, On September 26-28, 1974, President Gerald R. Ford stood strong by his beloved wife First Lady Betty Ford as she courageously and openly battles breast cancer; and

Whereas, On November 23-24, 1974, President Gerald R. Ford and General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev meet in Vladivostok, U.S.S.R., to sign a joint communiqué on the limitation of strategic offensive arms that eventually led to the SALT II accord; and

Whereas, On December 19, 1974, following a vote of 287-128, the United States House of Representatives confirmed President Gerald R. Ford’s selection of Nelson Rockefeller as the 41st Vice President of the United States; and

Whereas, In April 1975, President Gerald R. Ford ordered the emergency evacuation of Vietnamese children in Operation Babylift and American civilians in Operation Frequent Wind; and

Whereas, On July 26, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, or the Helsinki Agreement, supporting human rights in Europe; and

Whereas, On December 22, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed the Energy Policy Conservation Act to increase energy production and supply and reduce energy demand; and

Whereas, On May 12, 1976, President Gerald R. Ford signed the law creating the Consumer Product Safety Commission, protecting millions by enforcing safety regulations on products sold in the United States; and

Whereas, On July 4, 1976, President Gerald R. Ford and the nation celebrated America’s bicentennial, welcoming heads of state, including Queen Elizabeth II, to the White House for a state dinner; and

Whereas, On January 12, 1977, President Gerald R. Ford gave his final State of the Union address and is recognized a week later in President Jimmy Carter’s inaugural address: “For myself and for our Nation, I want to thank my predecessor for all he has done to heal our land”; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative body commemorate the presidency of Gerald R. Ford and the extraordinary contributions he made to the United States of America; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation.