

Senator Meekhof offered the following concurrent resolution:

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 41.

A concurrent resolution of tribute offered as a memorial for George H.W. Bush, Forty-first President of the United States.

Whereas, It was with great sadness that the members of the Michigan Legislature learned of the passing of President George H.W. Bush. A war hero, patriot, and statesman, his commitment to service and American values left a lasting impact on the citizens of this state, the people of the entire nation, and the international community; and

Whereas, President Bush's remarkable life of service began at a young age, enlisting in the Navy on his eighteenth birthday just months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He came to be one of the Navy's youngest aviators, flying missions in the Pacific Theater, including one in which he was shot down in 1944. He returned stateside at the end of the war, enrolling at Yale and marrying Barbara Pierce, his wife of 73 years. After graduation, he moved to Texas and became an extremely successful businessman; and

Whereas, The call to serve his fellow citizen was too great for George H.W. Bush to remain in the private sector. After losing a race for the United States Senate in 1964, he was elected to the first of two terms in the United States House of Representatives in 1966. After another failed Senate bid in 1970, President Richard Nixon tapped him to serve as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations and then chair of the Republican National Committee. President Gerald Ford then named him Chief of the Liaison Office in China, and later Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. After losing the 1980 Republican presidential primary, George H.W. Bush accepted his party's nomination for Vice President, a position he held during both terms of the Reagan Administration; and

Whereas, George H.W. Bush won a decisive victory in the 1988 presidential election, including earning the support of nearly 54 percent of Michigan voters that year. As the 41st President of the United States, he will be most remembered for his exemplary stewardship of American interests on the world stage. He led the Free World during the reunification of Germany and the breakup of the Soviet Union, and deftly shepherded an international coalition that repelled Saddam Hussein following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. At home, President Bush championed fiscal responsibility, worked hard to pass protections for Americans with disabilities, and celebrated volunteerism. In the years following his presidency, he worked on numerous humanitarian causes, often side by side with former political rivals; and

Whereas, A true exemplar of the Greatest Generation, President Bush served his country and his fellow citizens at every opportunity. His integrity, decency, civility, and seriousness have been a model for the generations of Americans who followed him into public life; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That we offer this expression of our highest tribute to honor the memory of George H.W. Bush, the Forty-first President of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Bush family as evidence of our lasting esteem for his memory.