

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

House Resolution No. 338.

A resolution of tribute offered as a memorial for Edward LaForge, former member of the House of Representatives.

Whereas, It is with great sadness that the members of this legislative body learned of the passing of Ed LaForge. For six years, he served as a state representative and a dedicated and persistent champion for the people of the 60th House District and the entire state; and

Whereas, Ed LaForge was a devoted family man with deep ties to his community. He was both a nurse and a plumber before entering public life to serve as a city commissioner in Kalamazoo for a decade. In 1994, the people of Kalamazoo elected him to represent the 60th House District in the Michigan House of Representatives for the first time; and

Whereas, Ed LaForge was known in Lansing for his passionate efforts to improve the lives of our state's most vulnerable people. He worked on issues which especially impacted children and the poor, most notably early childhood education, adoption, foster care, and child protection. He brought his belief in equality and justice to his work as the chair of the Human Services and Children Committee and minority vice chair of the Family and Children Services Committee. He also served on committees covering a wide range of issues such as agriculture, economic development, education, the environment, labor, mental health, and urban policy; and

Whereas, Ed LaForge was an outspoken and determined advocate, admired by his constituents, friends, family, and colleagues. Upon his passing, we offer our condolences to his family and friends. We hope that they may find comfort in the knowledge that the community as a whole shares in their bereavement, and that the legacy of Ed LaForge's contributions will long continue to enrich our state; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we offer this expression of our highest tribute to honor the memory of Edward LaForge, a member of this legislative body from 1995 to 2000; and be it further

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