

Rep. Chatfield offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 478.

A resolution of tribute for the Honorable Tom Leonard, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Whereas, It is most appropriate and fitting that the members of this legislative body salute the Honorable Tom Leonard as he completes his service as Speaker of the House of Representatives. For six years, he has worked tirelessly to make Michigan a better place to live and fought for the issues of importance to the people he represents in Clinton County and parts of Gratiot County; and

Whereas, Tom Leonard has lived a life dedicated to public service. He graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in history and Spanish and went on to earn a law degree from Michigan State University. He put these degrees to use as an assistant prosecuting attorney for Genesee County and then an assistant attorney general with the state. In 2012, he was first elected to represent the people of the Ninety-third District in this legislative body; and

Whereas, Over his six years of legislative service, Speaker Leonard has been a voice for change to improve our state and its communities. He has served as chair of the Insurance Committee and as a member of the Commerce, Judiciary, Michigan Competitiveness, and Oversight committees. Among his early accomplishments as a legislator were reforms to Michigan's criminal justice and mental health systems and updates to improve Michigan's Insurance Code. In 2017, the members of this legislative body entrusted him to be their leader after he had served as Speaker Pro Tempore in the previous session; and

Whereas, As Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tom Leonard has led this chamber in its efforts to improve confidence in state government and ensure it serves the people efficiently and effectively. Under his leadership, the House of Representatives has worked to improve transparency in government decision-making; decrease the tax burden on Michigan residents; and ensure Michigan's high school students have opportunities to learn the necessary skills to be successful. He has tackled tough issues, such as high auto insurance rates, opioid abuse, teacher retirement reform, mental health care, and sexual assault on university campuses. In all these issues and others, Speaker Leonard has been a strong and consistent leader; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we offer this expression of tribute to commend and thank the Honorable Tom Leonard, Speaker of the House of Representatives, for his notable contributions to this legislative body and to our state; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Speaker Leonard as evidence of our gratitude and best wishes.