

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 205

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

1 A resolution of tribute offered as a memorial for Richard
2 Ball, former member of the House of Representatives.

3 Whereas, It is with great sadness that the members of this
4 legislative body learned of the passing of Richard "Dick" Ball.
5 Throughout his three terms of service, he was a dedicated public
6 servant who worked tirelessly for his constituents in the 85th
7 House District and the entire state of Michigan; and

8 Whereas, A native of Owosso, Richard Ball attended the Ohio
9 State University where he graduated with a bachelor of science
10 degree in optometry. After serving in the U.S. Army, he returned to
11 Ohio State University to earn a master's degree in physiological
12 optics. He joined his father's optometric practice, first



1 established in 1916, and continued his education to earn a doctoral
2 degree in experimental visual psychology from Michigan State
3 University. Dr. Ball established a distinguished career with many
4 notable accomplishments as an optometrist and professor at Michigan
5 State University; and

6 Whereas, Richard Ball was first elected to the House of
7 Representatives in 2004, serving his constituents in Shiawassee and
8 Clinton counties for six years. Representative Ball brought
9 valuable professional and community experience to this legislative
10 body on a range of issues, focusing many of his efforts on health,
11 agriculture, and occupational issues. He held leadership positions
12 in multiple committees, serving as the vice chair and minority vice
13 chair of the Committee on Agriculture and the minority vice chair
14 of the Committee on Senior Health, Security and Retirement. He was
15 also an active member of the committees on Education, Health
16 Policy, and Insurance. A true statesman, he was known for his
17 willingness to reach across the aisle to find solutions to the
18 divisive budget deficits of the late 2000s. After leaving the House
19 of Representatives, Richard Ball returned to his career in
20 optometry in 2011; and

21 Whereas, He lived a life committed to his community, serving
22 for 16 years as a member of the Owosso School Board and 9 years on
23 the Shiawassee County Health Board. He was also a member of state
24 and national optometry associations in which he held numerous
25 professional leadership positions. His lifetime of contributions
26 has earned him recognition and great respect from his professional
27 peers and legislative colleagues; now, therefore, be it

28 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we offer this
29 expression of our highest tribute to honor the memory of Richard



1 Ball, a member of this legislative body from 2005 to 2010; and be
2 it further

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

