

Rep. LeBlanc offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 113.

A resolution commemorating the history of the Ford Wixom Assembly Plant in Novi, Michigan.

Whereas, Since its founding on April 15, 1957, the Ford Wixom Assembly Plant has played a key part of Michigan's history and heritage. The Ford Motor Company has fostered a rich social, economic and cultural heritage and is deserving of due recognition for its many accomplishments; and

Whereas, From its earliest days, the Ford Wixom Assembly Plant, formerly known as the Lincoln Assembly Plant, became the sole producer of all domestic and export vehicles for the Lincoln Division; and

Whereas, The Ford Motor Company has a reputation for its family-style treatment of all employees. In 1957, the plant employed approximately 2,400 people. The facilities included a 1,300,000 square-foot assembly plant along with a 200,000 square-foot three-story office building, a test track and a power plant. Today there are over 1,005-hourly and 103-salaried workers, and its facilities include 4.7 million square feet on a 320-acre site with over 15 miles of assembly line; and

Whereas, The manufacturing giant's growth was phenomenal. Its peak employment was 5,468 people in 1973; and

Whereas, The Wixom plant produced numerous vehicles including the Lincoln Capri, Premier, Mark III-V, Mark III-VIII and the LS. In 1987, the Wixom Assembly Plant began production of the 1988 Lincoln Continental, and later followed with the reintroduction of the Ford Thunderbird and Ford GT, along with its current product, the Town Car; and

Whereas, In the early days, all automobile makers built one car at a time. The Ford Wixom Assembly Plant produced 67,516 vehicles in its first year, and at its peak in 1988, the plant produced 280,659 vehicles. The total plant production from 1957 until today is 6,648,806; and

Whereas, The Ford Wixom Assembly Plant's vehicles have earned many industry awards, from the 2004 Bronze Award in J.D. Power and Associates Initial Quality Study, North and South America Plant Awards, not to mention Industry Week's 12 'America's Best Plants'. Wixom Assembly Plant was hailed for 'true manufacturing excellence' in 1990 and Motor Trend Car of the Year for the 1958 Thunderbird, 1990 Town Car, 2000 LS, 2002 Thunderbird and Car and Driver Best 10 Award Lincoln Continental in 1989; and

Whereas, The Ford Wixom Assembly Plant has been a remarkable example of the many achievements of the company, employees, retirees, suppliers and dealers. It has been a true asset to the state of Michigan; now, therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body commemorate the Ford Wixom Assembly Plant as they cease operation in the year 2007.