

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.185

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 Donald H.
2 Gilmer, former member of the House of Representatives.

3 Whereas, The members of this legislative body were deeply
4 saddened to learn of the passing of former state representative Don
5 Gilmer. He was a devoted advocate for his constituents in the
6 counties of Allegan, Barry, Calhoun, and Kalamazoo and a problem-
7 solver who could bridge divides and get things done in the
8 Legislature; and

9 Whereas, Don Gilmer attended Michigan State University and was
10 a Kellogg Fellow there. He also helped run the family fruit farm
11 for several years. Later, he served on the Kalamazoo County Board
12 of Commissioners, including a stint as chair, and was appointed to



1 the Michigan Agriculture Labor Commission before his election to
2 the Legislature. Along with public service, he was also civically
3 engaged, including mentoring youth and promoting agricultural
4 development; and

5 Whereas, After first being elected in 1976, Don Gilmer would
6 go on to spend 22 distinguished years in the House of
7 Representatives. He worked in many policy areas, such as
8 agriculture and education, though much of his legislative efforts
9 were devoted to the appropriations process. He sat on the
10 Appropriations Committee and various appropriations subcommittees
11 for many years, serving as chair during the mid-1990s, and ably
12 balanced competing budgetary and policy interests. Moreover, he was
13 a member of the committee that drafted Proposal A of 1994, the
14 voter-approved plan that revamped school funding; and

15 Whereas, The consummate public servant, Don Gilmer would go on
16 to further public service at the state and local levels after his
17 time in the Legislature. He served as the state lottery
18 commissioner, state budget director, and Kalamazoo County
19 administrator, among other roles; and

20 Whereas, During his time in the Legislature, Don Gilmer was
21 known as a leader who could bring people together and figure out
22 solutions to tough problems facing the legislature and the state.
23 His civility, good nature, and legislative skills make him an
24 example to which legislators can aspire, and his family can take
25 great pride in his decency, integrity, and accomplishments; now,
26 therefore, be it

27 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we offer this
28 expression of our highest tribute to honor the memory of Donald H.
29 Gilmer, a member of this legislative body from 1977 to 1998; and be



1 it further

2 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the

3 Gilmer family as evidence of our lasting esteem for his memory.