

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.232

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 Mary Carney
2 Brown, former member of the Michigan House of Representatives.

3 Whereas, It was with great sorrow that the members of the
4 House of Representatives learned about the passing of Mary Brown.
5 She will be remembered as an accomplished legislator who was
6 passionate about improving the lives of her constituents in the
7 Kalamazoo area and the people of the state of Michigan; and

8 Whereas, Mary Brown was born in Midland in 1935. After
9 graduating from Midland Public Schools, she attended Albion College
10 and Syracuse University and earned degrees in recreation and
11 physical education. She worked as an assistant professor at Western
12 Michigan University from 1965 until her election to the House of

1 Representatives in 1976; and

2 Whereas, Mary Brown completed nine consecutive terms as a
3 member of the House of Representatives. Throughout her impressive
4 18 years in office, Representative Brown became known as a highly
5 effective legislator who tirelessly advocated for issues that she
6 believed in, such as women's rights and environmental protection.
7 She was instrumental in the passage of the Married Women's Property
8 Act, more stringent sentencing guidelines in rape cases, state
9 implementation of the federal Clean Air Act, and many other
10 policies. Because of her legislative prowess and admirable
11 leadership capabilities, she received numerous awards and honors,
12 such as the Legislator of the Year award from the Michigan
13 Townships Association in 1985 and the Conservationist of the Year
14 award from the Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club in 1990; and

15 Whereas, As a highly respected leader in the Legislature, she
16 was entrusted with leadership roles on several House committees,
17 including chair of the House committees on Insurance;
18 Constitutional Revision and Women's Rights; and Senior Citizens and
19 Retirement. She served as vice chair of the House Committee on
20 Social Services and Youth as well. She was also a member of the
21 House committees on City Government; Taxation; Towns and Counties;
22 Urban Affairs; Labor; Conservation, Environment, Recreation, and
23 the Great Lakes; Mental Health; The Constitution, Interstate, and
24 Federal Relations; Civil Rights and Women's Issues; and Human
25 Services and Children. Representative Brown served with distinction
26 as a member of the Joint Senate and House Committee on Legislative
27 Retirement and chair of the House Democratic Caucus; and

28 Whereas, In addition to balancing her duties as an elected
29 official, Mary Brown also advocated for her community in other

1 capacities, including as local president of the Kalamazoo Area
2 League of Women Voters, chairperson of the Kalamazoo County
3 Democratic Party, charter member of the Kalamazoo Environmental
4 Council, and Governor James Blanchard's appointee to the Michigan
5 Civil Service Commission's Comparable Worth Task Force; and

6 Whereas, After retiring from the House, Mary Brown continued
7 to serve her community through her involvement with numerous non-
8 profit organizations, such as the Girl Scouts of Glowing Embers
9 Council in Kalamazoo, where she mentored hundreds of girls and
10 women. She also served on several local non-profit boards of
11 directors, including the Ministry with Community and Planned
12 Parenthood of South-Central Michigan. In addition, she was twice
13 appointed to the Natural Resources Commission by Governor Jennifer
14 Granholm, where she helped make key state-level natural resources
15 decisions. In 2007, she received the Michigan Environmental Council
16 Helen and William Milliken Distinguished Service Award and was
17 inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame; and

18 Whereas, Characterized as a "legislative legend," Mary Brown
19 leaves behind a legacy as a fierce, dynamic, and exceedingly
20 capable advocate for others. Her dedication, integrity, and
21 aptitude for working across political lines remain an example for
22 those who have followed her into service. She will also be
23 remembered as a loving wife to her husband and devoted mother to
24 her three children. May her family take comfort in the knowledge
25 that this legislative body shares in their bereavement and that
26 Mary Brown's efforts will long continue to enrich our state; now,
27 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 Mary

1 Carney Brown, a member of the House of Representatives from 1977 to
2 1994; and be it further
3 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
4 Brown family as evidence of our lasting esteem for her memory.