

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 44

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 Robert G.  
2 Bender, former member of the House of Representatives.

3       Whereas, It was with great sorrow that the members of the  
4 House of Representatives learned about the passing of Robert G.  
5 "Bob" Bender. He will be remembered as a dedicated public servant  
6 by his constituents in Barry and Ionia counties and the people of  
7 the State of Michigan; and

8       Whereas, Bob earned a bachelor's of science degree in  
9 agriculture education from Michigan State University, which is  
10 where he met his wife of 65 years, Carol Cox Bender. Together, they  
11 raised their three children in Bob's hometown of Middleville,  
12 Michigan; and

13       Whereas, Bob entered the United States Navy in 1959, where he

1 completed flight school and spent five years on active duty as a  
2 pilot. He remained active in the Reserves until 1990 and retired as  
3 a Navy Captain in 2001; and

4       Whereas, Following active duty, Bob returned to Middleville to  
5 run his 1,100-acre dairy farm. It was here where he first entered  
6 into politics. Bob served as Chairman of the Barry County Board of  
7 Commissioners and was instrumental in forming the Joint City/County  
8 Airport Commission; and

9       Whereas, Bob was first elected to the Michigan House of  
10 Representatives in 1982, where he would faithfully serve his  
11 constituents in the Eighty-eighth and subsequent Eighty-seventh  
12 Districts for the next 12 years. During his time in the  
13 Legislature, Bob served on a number of committees, including the  
14 House Appropriations Committee, and was co-vice chair of the  
15 Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture; and

16       Whereas, After his tenure in the House of Representatives, Bob  
17 and his wife joined the Peace Corps, serving in Russia for two  
18 years. This was followed by many more years of volunteering with  
19 the nonprofit *From Houses to Homes* in Guatemala; and

20       Whereas, Upon Bob Bender's passing, we offer our condolences  
21 to his loved ones. His contributions to this chamber and the State  
22 of Michigan will be remembered; now, therefore, be it

23       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we offer this  
24 expression of our highest tribute to honor the memory of Robert G.  
25 Bender, a member of the House of Representatives from 1983 to 1994;  
26 and be it further

27       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
28 Bender family as evidence of our lasting esteem for his memory.