

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO.14

Senator Santana offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to honor the life and service of Congressman John  
2 D. Dingell Jr.

3           Whereas, John D. Dingell Jr. dedicated his life in service to  
4 the United States of America. Before he succeeded his father, John  
5 Dingell Sr., a twelve-term member of the U.S. House of  
6 Representatives, he served as a House page, a park ranger with the  
7 U.S. National Park Service, a second lieutenant in the United  
8 States Army, and an assistant prosecutor in Wayne County; and

9           Whereas, John Dingell was elected to the U.S. House of  
10 Representatives to represent Southeast Michigan in 1955. He was a  
11 champion of Congress and the role it plays in our republic. He  
12 firmly believed Congress represents the "great coming together of

1 the American people.” and was quick to assert that Congress serves  
2 as a coequal branch of government—and is not subservient to the  
3 Executive Branch. He served with eleven presidents of the United  
4 States; and

5       Whereas, John Dingell, over the course of his 59 years in  
6 Congress, became the Dean of the House and the longest-serving  
7 member of either chamber of the United States Congress, and his  
8 legacy is best measured by his legislative achievements and  
9 oversight activities on the Energy and Commerce Committee; and

10       Whereas, He was decades ahead of his time on many issues. In  
11 particular, Congressman Dingell reintroduced his father’s  
12 legislation to provide for national health insurance each session  
13 from 1957 until the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010, and  
14 was also instrumental to the passage of landmark legislation,  
15 including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of  
16 1965, Medicare Act, Children’s Health Insurance Act, National  
17 Environmental Protection Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Water  
18 Quality Act, Endangered Species Act, and the Detroit International  
19 Wildlife Refuge Act; and

20       Whereas, One of his greatest strengths as a public servant was  
21 the help he provided to constituents in need. He was not afraid to  
22 use his prosecutorial skills to send piercing letters, known as  
23 “Dingellgrams” or call a federal agency to testify before his  
24 committee, if it meant he would uncover an answer that could  
25 improve people’s lives; and

26       Whereas, John Dingell’s service and achievements profoundly  
27 transformed our way of life and will forever affect all those who  
28 walk the Earth. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by  
29 President Barack Obama to honor his retirement and service to the

1 nation in 2014; and

2       Whereas, John Dingell was a giant both physically and  
3 legislatively. He raised four children and was succeeded in office  
4 by his beloved wife, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell. He was known for  
5 his legendary and unique lexicon of quips, quotes, and tweets.  
6 Perhaps his most profound words of wisdom were to remind us that  
7 "compromise is an honorable word"; and

8       Whereas, Congressman Dingell often said he was not an  
9 important person, but that the work we did together was important  
10 and essential to improving the lives of the American people and all  
11 those who call Michigan home; and

12       Whereas, His humility was admirable, but his many legislative  
13 achievements could not have happened without him. His legacy will  
14 live on through his family, friends, and his loyal former staffers;  
15 now, therefore, be it

16       Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
17 body honor the life and legacy of Congressman John D. Dingell Jr.;  
18 and be it further

19       Resolved, That on behalf of all citizens of Michigan, we offer  
20 this resolution as a condolence to Congresswoman Debbie Dingell and  
21 the rest of the congressman's family; and be it further

22       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
23 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the  
24 members of the Michigan congressional delegation.