

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.9

Senators Shirkey and Ananich offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution of tribute offered as a memorial for
2 Frank J. Kelley, former Attorney General of Michigan.

3 Whereas, The members of the Michigan Legislature were saddened
4 to learn of the passing of Frank J. Kelley. The consummate public
5 servant, he spent nearly four decades fighting for the interests of
6 the people and setting a new standard for leadership within the
7 role of the attorney general in Michigan and across the country;
8 and

9 Whereas, A native of Detroit, Frank Kelley was the first in
10 his family to graduate from college. In 1951, he earned his law
11 degree from the University of Detroit, and not long after, made the
12 decision to move his family and start a law practice in Alpena.
13 Four years after his arrival, the city council approached him to

1 serve as city attorney, a role in which he would serve until
2 Governor John Swainson appointed him to fill the vacant state
3 attorney general position in December 1961. A crusader for the
4 public interest, Frank Kelley was returned to office 10 times over
5 the ensuing decades by the people of Michigan, making him the
6 longest-serving attorney general in state history; and

7 Whereas, Frank J. Kelley's long years of service only begin to
8 communicate the overwhelming accomplishments of his public career.
9 He re-shaped and re-defined the role of the attorney general as not
10 only the attorney for the state of Michigan, but as the attorney of
11 the people. He was the first attorney general in the nation to
12 dedicate divisions within his office to consumer protection, the
13 environment, and criminal fraud, and he assembled a talented team
14 of attorneys to fill these divisions. A man of deep faith, he
15 fought for social justice, corporate accountability, and a safer
16 environment. He worked with the Legislature on the passage of the
17 Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act to ensure
18 state government was open and transparent to the people. At the
19 same time, he ably represented the Legislature and five governors
20 from across the political spectrum, earning their trust and
21 respect. The vast body of his work earned him honors and accolades
22 throughout his tenure; and

23 Whereas, Frank J. Kelley would remain a presence in the state
24 capital for more than a decade after leaving public service. He co-
25 founded the Kelley Cawthorne lobbying firm, now one of the largest
26 in Lansing, using his experience and insight to ensure his clients'
27 voices were heard by the state's decision-makers. In 2015, he
28 finally slowed down enough to enjoy quietly the last years of his
29 life; and

1 Whereas, Frank J. Kelley's legacy lives on with the people he
2 touched and with the people he mentored. With wit and wisdom and
3 integrity, he raised three children and guided and advised the next
4 generation of Michigan political leaders. His stories, his counsel,
5 and his passion for public service will continue in all these
6 lives. He will long be remembered; now, therefore, be it

7 Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives
8 concurring), That we offer this expression of our highest tribute
9 to honor the memory of Frank J. Kelley, attorney general from 1961
10 to 1998; and be it further

11 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
12 Kelley family as evidence of our lasting esteem for his memory.