

SCR25, As Adopted by Senate, February 20, 2008

Senator Scott offered the following concurrent resolution:

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 25.

A concurrent resolution offered as a memorial for William B. Fitzgerald, Jr., former Senate Majority Leader and member of the House of Representatives.

Whereas, The members of the Michigan Legislature were saddened to learn of the untimely passing of former Senate Majority Leader William B. Fitzgerald, an individual known for his outstanding commitment to his constituents and true concern for the well-being of the people of the state of Michigan. His record of service stands as a testimony to his warmth of heart and dynamic leadership. Indeed, Bill Fitzgerald learned the value of public service at an early age, following in the footsteps of his father and uncle who also served in the Legislature. He heeded these lessons well, as he went on to earn the respect of his colleagues and the admiration of those both in and outside of state government; and

Whereas, William Fitzgerald was known for his hard work and tireless commitment to public policy. This was reflected throughout his entire career and in his service as a member of the Michigan Legislature. A graduate of Austin Catholic Preparatory School and Western Michigan University, Bill Fitzgerald worked his way through the Detroit College of Law in the evenings while teaching and coaching basketball at Detroit's St. Martin High School. He was elected to the first of his two terms in the House in 1970. With his election to the Senate in 1974, he was selected to become the youngest Senate Majority Leader in state history. He was also honored as one of the "Ten Outstanding Legislators in America"; and

Whereas, The true measure of William Fitzgerald's career as a policymaker was found in the depth and breadth of his many legislative accomplishments. These include, among others, post-Watergate ethics and campaign finance reforms, landmark environmental initiatives, the establishment of the state's rainy day fund, and the statutory creation of a statewide minority and women business enterprise office. In these, and in all of his affairs, Bill Fitzgerald exemplified true strength of character and selfless concern for others. He will be missed; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That we hereby extend a unanimous accolade of tribute to the memory of William B. Fitzgerald, Jr., former Senate Majority Leader and member of the Michigan House of Representatives; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to his wife Margaret and their three children, William, John, and Meghan, as evidence of our deepest condolences.