

SR-159, As Adopted by Senate, May 19, 2010

Substitute for Senate Resolution No. 159

A resolution offered as a memorial for Ernie Harwell, former radio and television broadcaster for the Detroit Tigers.

Whereas, It is with deep sadness that we memorialize the passing of Ernie Harwell. With genuine respect for his legacy and accomplishments, we join with the community in extending our condolences to his family and many friends; and

Whereas, Born and raised in Georgia, Ernie Harwell had a lifelong love of baseball. In 1943, he began his baseball career broadcasting for the Atlanta Crackers and later in 1948, broadcasting for the Brooklyn Dodgers. In 1960, Ernie came to Michigan and began his 42-year run as the voice of the Detroit Tigers. Sharing his joy and love of the game, Ernie enjoyed 55 successful years in broadcasting Major League Baseball; and

Whereas, Ernie received several awards and honors over the course of his career, including induction into nine halls of fame, as well as winning the Ford C. Frick Award in 1981 and enshrinement in the broadcasters' wing of the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. Further exemplifying his passion and dedication to the game of baseball, Ernie embodied the working-class values of his adoptive home, missing only two broadcasts in his legendary career; and

Whereas, Ernie Harwell, the iconic baseball broadcaster, was an outstanding leader and man. We are eternally appreciative of his achievements, which will forever be memorialized in Michigan. In fact, as a token of our highest esteem, the Michigan Senate recognized April 9, 2010, as Ernie Harwell Day in the state of Michigan; and

Whereas, Generations of Michigan residents and Tigers fans have grown up listening to Ernie Harwell and often reminisce about his unique broadcasting style that includes a sweet Southern drawl, the annual visit from the Voice of the Turtle, and familiar phrases such as "He stood there like a house on the side of the road," and "That one is loooooong gone"; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we herby offer our words of respect and gratitude as a memorial for Ernie Harwell. May his family and friends find comfort in their faith and their memories of this fine man and his distinguished career; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Harwell family in remembrance of this great citizen of Michigan and as a token of our esteem.