

Reps. Scripps, Ball, Barnett, Bauer, Booher, Terry Brown, Byrnes, Constan, Daley, Dean, Durhal, Geiss, Hammel, Huckleberry, Rick Jones, Robert Jones, Kandrevas, Lahti, LeBlanc, Leland, Lemmons, Lori, Lund, Marleau, Mayes, McDowell, Melton, Moore, Neumann, Opsommer, Pearce, Polidori, Proos, Roberts, Roy Schmidt, Segal, Sheltroun, Slavens, Smith, Spade, Stanley, Switalski, Valentine and Warren offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 95.

A resolution to commemorate May 16th, 2009, as Cherry Blossom Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Michigan is the number one cherry producing state in the nation and is the unofficial Cherry Capitol of the World; and

Whereas, The United States produces about 650 million pounds of sweet and tart cherries each year, with Michigan producing the largest tart cherry crop. An average of 200 to 250 million pounds of tart cherries are harvested each year, an amount equal to 75 percent of the total crop; and

Whereas, A group of organizations including the Leelanau Enterprise, the Leelanau Conservation District, the Leelanau Conservancy, and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, is planning the Second Annual Leelanau Cherry Blossom Tour for Saturday, May 16th, in Leelanau County, which has more acres of tart cherry trees than any county in the nation; and

Whereas, Michigan also hosts the world largest cherry celebration, the National Cherry Festival, which takes place each July in Traverse City; and

Whereas, Cherries contain powerful antioxidants that may help fight cancer and heart disease and relieve the pain associated with arthritis and gout. Tart cherries are especially high in the antioxidant melatonin, which may help prevent or reduce brain deterioration associated with aging, and are also high in vitamin A and beta-carotene; and

Whereas, The average U.S. citizen consumes about one pound of tart cherries per year. That is more than 260 million pounds per year; and

Whereas, One of the most beautiful sites in Michigan or anywhere in the world during the month of May is the blossoming of the cherries trees; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body commemorate May 16th, 2009, as Cherry Blossom Day in the state of Michigan.