

Senators Cassis, Allen, Cropsey and Jansen offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 159.

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

Whereas, The recent passing of Ernie Harwell has deeply saddened those whom he touched throughout his career in broadcasting. In remembrance of him and as an expression of our condolences to his family, we join in offering this resolution as a symbol of our respect. He was an outstanding American sportscaster, a devoted husband, dear friend, and model citizen of the city of Novi. He enriched countless lives and will be genuinely missed; and

Whereas, Ernie Harwell was born in 1918 and raised in Georgia but found his way to Michigan in 1960. He spent 55 years broadcasting Major League Baseball, beginning with the Atlanta Crackers in 1943, and moved to the majors with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1948. Harwell had a 42-year run as the voice of the Detroit Tigers. He was known for his low-key delivery, Southern accent, and conversational style. Ernie Harwell received more awards and honors than can possibly be listed, including induction into nine halls of fame, topped by winning the Ford C. Frick Award in 1981, enshrinement in the broadcasters' wing of the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, and in January 2009, the American Sportscasters Association ranked Harwell 16th on its list of Top 50 Sportscasters of All Time. Harwell also holds the distinction of being the only announcer to be acquired in a trade; and

Whereas, The passing of Ernie Harwell has left an unfillable void. We extend our condolences to those who are suffering from his loss, especially his family, colleagues, fans, and friends. His wife Lulu of 68 years, his sons Bill and Gray, and his twin daughters Carolyn and Julie can be justifiably proud of his outstanding contributions. We are grateful for the legacy of exemplary service he has left for us that will be long remembered; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we hereby celebrate the life and memory of Ernie Harwell. May his family, friends, colleagues, and fans allow us to share in their sorrow and their joy as we commend with pride Ernie Harwell's lasting memory. May his family know of our deepest respect for his spirit and contributions on behalf of all Michiganians; 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.