

The Speaker, on behalf of the entire membership of the House of Representatives, offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 179.

A resolution of tribute offered as a memorial for Mary Lou Parks, former member of the House of Representatives.

Whereas, It is with great sadness that the members of this legislative body learned of the passing of former Representative Mary Lou Parks. Well-respected and a dedicated public servant, she committed her life to community service and social justice, leaving a lasting impact on the people of Detroit and our entire state; and

Whereas, Born in Anderson, South Carolina, Mary Lou Parks graduated from Carver High School in South Carolina and went on to attend Wayne State University, where she was a member of Gamma Phi Delta Sorority. She proudly devoted herself to her community and the causes in which she believed. She was a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and former chairperson of the 15th Congressional District UAW Cap Council; and

Whereas, After serving on the 1992 Coordinated Campaign for Bill Clinton and as a special assistant to Governor James Blanchard, Mary Lou Parks was elected state representative in a 1993 special election. In the years to come, she exhibited the same spirit of community-mindedness that long marked her leadership in civic groups. The insights she gained through her long years of involvement gave her a valuable perspective in addressing the issues facing our state; and

Whereas, Representative Parks was a well-respected member of this body. This was evidenced in each of the committee responsibilities she handled during her tenure, including her work on the House Appropriations Committee during her last term in office, and as chair of the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus; and

Whereas, Mary Lou Parks devoted herself in life as a servant of her community, her church, and as a loving mother and grandmother. Her family may take a small measure of solace in knowing that her meritorious service to our state will not soon be forgotten; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we offer this expression of our highest tribute to honor the memory of Mary Lou Parks, a member of this legislative body from 1993 to 1998; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Parks family as evidence of our lasting esteem for her memory.