

Senator Meekhof offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 116.

A resolution honoring Art Van Elslander for his support of Detroit by saving its Thanksgiving Day Parade 25 years ago.

Whereas, The Senate recognizes Art Van Elslander for his outstanding contribution to the state of Michigan for saving Detroit's Thanksgiving Day Parade; and

Whereas, In 1990, with the parade in financial ruin and scheduled for cancellation, Art Van Elslander generously donated \$200,000 to fund the parade; and

Whereas, Art Van Elslander then took an active and continued role in the preservation of this important Michigan tradition. Mr. Van Elslander's continued involvement has ensured that this beloved Michigan institution will continue; and

Whereas, Mr. Van Elslander is the chairman and founder of Art Van Furniture, opening his first store in 1959 at Gratiot Avenue and 10 Mile Road. Art Van Furniture is now the largest independent furniture retailer in the United States; and

Whereas, People across Michigan and the country have enjoyed America's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and due to the efforts of Art Van Elslander, they will do so for generations to come; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we hereby honor Art Van Elslander for his dedication and generosity to the city of Detroit, the state of Michigan, and America's Thanksgiving Day Parade; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Art Van Elslander at his headquarters in Warren, Michigan.