

Substitute For House Resolution No. 19.

A resolution to declare February 11, 2017, as White Shirt Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, We recognize Michigan's members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) as they gather to mark the 80th anniversary of their first contract with General Motors. This anniversary is a reflection of extreme sacrifice, commitment, and determination of those first UAW members who paved the way for higher pay and improved benefits that have created a positive atmosphere for all of America's working men and women. We remember those historic members on this anniversary; and

Whereas, On February 11, 2017, UAW members and retirees will wear white shirts to commemorate the anniversary of the end of the famous Flint Sit-Down Strike in 1937. While the members of this distinguished organization celebrate the 80th anniversary of this event, we offer our thanks for the outstanding contributions they have made to the Flint community, our state, and our nation; and

Whereas, The origin of the UAW's White Shirt Day can be traced back to 1948 when Bert Christensen, a member of Local 598, first suggested it. His idea was to ask that workers wear the white shirts traditionally worn by managers to show the company that they were equally important to the business. The shirts represent equal respect and treatment for blue-collar workers and the unity and strength of UAW members; and

Whereas, With ceremonies to celebrate its history, the members and officers of the UAW will remember the vision of its founders and the commitment of its workers that have brought them to this point. Fittingly, as they look to the past, they will also be casting an eye to the future and to the many ways in which United Auto Workers will continue to serve the working men and women of this great country; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives That the members of this legislative body declare February 11, 2017, as White Shirt Day in the state of Michigan. We commemorate the 80th anniversary of the first United Auto Workers contract with General Motors and commend everyone who has contributed to the UAW's success. We applaud their accomplishments and thank them for helping to strengthen and build Michigan's communities, workforce and economy.