

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.173

Rep. Posthumus offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare October 2021 as Library Appreciation
2 Month in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, The Michigan Library Association (MLA) annually
4 designates the month of October as a statewide observance to
5 celebrate the contributions of Michigan's libraries, librarians,
6 and library staff; and

7 Whereas, Michigan's libraries (school, public, academic,
8 tribal, cooperatives, and special libraries) are vital, dynamic
9 centers of discovery and lifelong learning, serving as cornerstones
10 in healthy communities; and

11 Whereas, Librarians and library workers play key roles in
12 connecting their community members to resources and information,
13 helping people explore, imagine, and discover new horizons in the

1 vast world of information, knowledge, and entertainment; and

2 Whereas, Today's libraries are less about what they have on
3 the shelves and more about what they can do with and for their
4 communities, whether it's through virtual services or in-person
5 visits; and

6 Whereas, Libraries and librarians work to create an equitable
7 society by providing free access to accurate information to all
8 people; and

9 Whereas, In times of crisis, libraries and library staff play
10 a critical role in continuing to support their communities when
11 they need it the most; and

12 Whereas, Libraries bring together diverse populations and are
13 a resource for all members of the community regardless of race,
14 ethnicity, creed, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or
15 socio-economic status; and

16 Whereas, Libraries strive to develop and maintain programs and
17 collections that are as diverse as the populations they serve; and

18 Whereas, Libraries serve as a vital connection to the people,
19 places, and ideas of the world through books, magazines, videos,
20 and the Internet and are the primary point of online access for
21 people without computers at home, school, or work; and

22 Whereas, Libraries provide indispensable educational resources
23 for children and teenagers and are on the front lines in the battle
24 against illiteracy, offering plenty of free activities, as well as
25 safe, enriching entertainment for the whole family; and

26 Whereas, One-half of all Michiganders hold library cards, and
27 in 2020, visited their local libraries in-person more than 33
28 million times, virtually nearly 55 million times, and borrowed over
29 57 million physical items and close to 12 million e-materials; and

1 Whereas, In 2020, Michigan public libraries provided more than
2 13,000 live virtual programs for children, teens, and adults
3 reaching over 608,000 people; and

4 Whereas, During the worldwide pandemic in 2020, 76% of
5 Michigan's public libraries offered curbside services and 82%
6 continued to provide reference services via phone and internet -
7 providing a way to continue getting information and materials to
8 residents even when library buildings were closed to the public;
9 and

10 Whereas, Hundreds of libraries and millions of library
11 supporters across Michigan are celebrating Michigan Library
12 Appreciation Month this October; now, therefore, be it

13 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
14 this legislative body declare October 2021 as Michigan Library
15 Appreciation Month in the state of Michigan. We encourage all
16 residents to visit their library in person or virtually to connect
17 to the myriad of services, resources, and collections their library
18 provides.