

State of Michigan
State Board of Education

RESOLUTION

MICHAEL PRESSLEY

WHEREAS, Michael Pressley, born and raised in Pennsylvania, attended West Allegheny School where he experienced a variety of science-enrichment educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 1968 a summer session in research psychology at Western Michigan University changed Michael Pressley's life forever by sparking his understanding that research psychology could inform education; and

WHEREAS, Michael Pressley earned a scholarship to Northwestern University, where he explored various academic pursuits his first two years until deciding to follow his passion, which was psychology applied to education; and

WHEREAS, after Michael Pressley graduated from Northwestern with honors in psychology and a Phi Beta Kappa key, he pursued a Ph.D. in Child Psychology in Minnesota where he received the doctorate from the Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota, specializing in cognitive development; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his career, Michael Pressley served the faculties of California State University, Fullerton; University of Western Ontario; University of Maryland-College Park; University at Albany, State University of New York; University of Notre Dame; and Michigan State University; and

WHEREAS, in 2003-2004, Michael Pressley led the development of the Michigan Department of Education's Grade Level Content Expectations for English Language Arts for elementary and middle school; and

WHEREAS, Michael Pressley's favorite place to be was K-12 schools, with university campus life attractive only to the extent it permitted him to think about K-12 schooling and encourage young scholars to begin to reflect on how they might improve schooling in America and across the world; and

WHEREAS, Michael Pressley always took very seriously his roles as teacher, mentor, and citizen of the academic community, and involved students as collaborators, and through his classes, he immersed students in education policy issues and helped them understand how education research and education policy intermingle, and

WHEREAS, because Michael Pressley embodied the highest standards in all that he did, the field of education will continue to benefit from his research and scholarship and from his mentorship of colleagues and graduate students; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, expresses its deepest regret at the passing of Michael Pressley, who gave countless years of dedication to the field of education; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education extends to his wife Donna Forrest Pressley, and his family, its deepest sympathy and solicitous regard in their bereavement.



Adopted June 13, 2006

Kathleen N. Straus, President

Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman and
Superintendent of Public Instruction