

**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing Dennis Patrick Neary on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

**Pelath, Arnold L, Austin, Bacon,
Baird, Bartlett, Battles, Bauer,
Behning, Beumer, Bosma, Braun,
Brown C, Brown T, Burton,
Candelaria Reardon, Carbaugh,
Cherry, Clere, Cox, Culver,
Davisson, DeLaney, Dermody,
DeVon, Dvorak, Eberhart,
Errington, Forestal, Friend,
Frizzell, Frye R, GiaQuinta,
Goodin, Gutwein, Hale, Hamm,
Harman, Harris, Heaton, Heuer,
Huston, Karickhoff, Kersey,
Kirchhofer, Klinker, Koch,
Kubacki, Lawson L, Lehe, Lehman,
Leonard, Lucas, Lutz, Macer,**



**Mahan, Mayfield, McMillin,
McNamara, Messmer, Moed,
Morris, Morrison, Moseley, Neese,
Negele, Niemeyer, Niezgodski, Ober,
Pierce, Porter, Price, Pryor,
Rhoads, Richardson, Riecken,
Saunders, Shackleford, Slager,
Smaltz, Smith M, Smith V, Soliday,
Speedy, Stemler, Steuerwald,
Sullivan, Summers, Thompson,
Torr, Truitt, Turner, Ubelhor,
VanDenburgh, VanNatter,
Washburne, Wesco, Wolkins, Zent,
Ziemke**

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing Dennis Patrick Neary on the occasion of his 70th birthday.

Whereas, Through his career, civic achievements, and many activities, Dennis Neary has brought credit and distinction to himself and has improved life in the local community and throughout the state;

Whereas, The ninth child of Charles Joseph and Loretta Vollrath Neary, Dennis was the first of his 14 siblings to be born in a hospital - Holy Family Hospital in LaPorte - February 11, 1944, and grew up in a three-bedroom, one-bath house on Hawthorne Street;

Whereas, Dennis attended Saint Joseph Elementary School and LaPorte High School, obtained a bachelor's degree in history at Murray State in Kentucky, attending on a baseball scholarship, and later acquired a master's of education at Indiana University South Bend;

Whereas, Employed since the fourth grade, Dennis has been a Herald Argus newspaper boy, a soda jerk at Theatre Pharmacy, and a Red Shultz gas station attendant during high school, and held college summer jobs including Christmas tree trimmer and weed picker with his sister Kay for Bernacchis' Landscaping, always turning his paychecks over to his father to help support the family;

Whereas, Dennis also worked as a laborer for the Indiana State Highway Department and as a full-time and part-time



employee for NIPSCO for three years;

Whereas, For 23 years, Dennis taught fifth and sixth grade students at Long Beach Elementary School, where he coached every sport offered, including boys' and girls' basketball and track and boys' football and softball, providing rides home after practice and games for children without transportation so they could participate in team sports;

Whereas, Active in sports his entire life, Dennis played summer baseball on his father's team, the LaPorte Sportsmen, freshman, junior, and senior baseball as a member of the LaPorte High School Slicers, and safety, running back, and quarterback on the high school football team;

Whereas, While in his fifties, Dennis played for the Valley Boyz baseball team in California and has been a season ticket holder for the Colts since 1984;

Whereas, Dennis's lifelong dedication to political service began as a child when he and his siblings walked the precincts for his father's campaign;

Whereas, In 1968 Dennis served as the LaPorte County chairman for Robert Kennedy's campaign, riding in the backseat of a convertible with Robert and Ethel Kennedy and their dog in a motorcade to the courthouse and joining Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, Ethel Kennedy, and Eunice Shriver for tea before being asked by the Kennedy campaign to join them in California, an opportunity he declined due to his teaching responsibilities;

Whereas, Dennis attended the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago, serving as a worker for the Birch Bayh for Vice President Campaign;

Whereas, A natural politician, his maternal grandfather was a councilman in Ottawa, Illinois, in the early 1900s, his father was a LaPorte city councilman for 16 years, and Dennis ran for Long Beach Town Council in 1974 but was defeated;



Whereas, Dennis was elected to the Indiana Senate in 1976 in an upset victory over the favored and established incumbent;

Whereas, Dennis rose through the ranks in the Senate, holding the positions of Assistant Caucus Chairman, Caucus Chairman, and Democratic Floor Leader;

Whereas, Dennis was appointed by newly elected Governor Frank O'Bannon as Chairman of the Education and Labor Relations Board and currently works with the legislature as Director of Legislative and Political Affairs with the Indiana Health Care Association, sometimes calling on his former elementary school student, Indiana House Democratic Leader Scott Pelath;

Whereas, Dennis maintains friends on both sides of the aisle as a legislator and beyond, marrying a lifelong California Republican who was also raised in a political family with relatives who served in the legislature;

Whereas, When daughter Katelyn was born, Dennis asked the doctor, "Is it a Democrat or a Republican?" Startled, the doctor exclaimed, "Neither, it's a girl";

Whereas, Dennis is the proud father of Robert, Ryan, and Abigail with Mary Beth Neary, and Katelyn and Savannah with Suzan Davis Neary, whom he married in the Indiana State House at a wedding officiated by then Lieutenant Governor Frank O'Bannon, Dennis's mentor and close friend;

Whereas, Dennis is Grandpa D. to Rory, Molly, Mary Cate, Liam, Ella, and John Ryan Neary;

Whereas, Dennis has served on the boards of countless organizations, including the Knights of Columbus, LaPorte Old Timers, Saint Anthony Hospital, Alpha Home, and, most recently, as Vice President of the Minority Health Coalition;

Whereas, Active in his community, Dennis gathers donations for numerous charities and entities, including Indianapolis Public School 54, volunteers his time for



Second Helpings, and delivers food and items to needy families;

Whereas, Through the years Dennis has displayed a weakness for Long's donuts, which he shares with his legislative staff members, interns, state workers, and parking lot attendants;

Whereas, Dennis possesses an impressive collection of hats that often evoke a lighter, more playful side of otherwise serious individuals and which have been worn by hundreds of people at conventions, upscale weddings, legislative barn dances, and even a gubernatorial inaugural party where the collection was particularly enjoyed by the newly elected officials' children, volunteers, and party goers; and

Whereas, It is appropriate to highlight his many accomplishments and extend to him special honors and the highest commendation: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,
the Senate concurring:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That the members of the Indiana General Assembly
- 2 congratulate Dennis Neary on the occasion of his 70th birthday and
- 3 wish him many more years of happiness and productivity.
- 4 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
- 5 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to Dennis Neary and
- 6 his family.

