



IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE

2025-03

John Campbell

Whereas the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners pays tribute to the memory of ***John Campbell***, who was of tremendous service to the economic growth in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Whereas, Mr. ***John Campbell*** has spent over thirty years helping to foster economic growth and development in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. A lifelong Michigan resident, Mr. Campbell was born and raised in Brown City, Michigan. In 1956, he graduated from Central Michigan University with a major in biology and minors in Chemistry and Physical Education. His graduate studies were taken at Michigan State University and Wayne State University from 1958 to 1963. In early 1969, Mr. Campbell began his career at the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning & Development Commission as an economic planner. As early as his very first grant request, Mr. Campbell demonstrated his resolve and commitment to bringing funding for projects to the Upper Peninsula.

Whereas, his first grant request came for Kinross Township, which was seeking funding for a recreational proposal. The plans for the proposal, which were sketched upon a tattered, torn and coffee-stained brown paper bag, included the construction of a lighted racetrack, a grandstand and an underground walkway. At the time, the Department of Natural Resource's Recreation Grant Program did not cover any of these projects. Despite this challenge, Mr. Campbell toiled tirelessly and within the next five years, each of these projects was brought to completion. As the Assistant Director of the Regional Commission from October 1970 through August 1973, Mr. Campbell directed and coordinated the planning, research, and grant efforts of the staff.

Whereas, during his early career at Regional Planning, Mr. Campbell was principally in charge of the Overall Economic Development Plan, which was produced with grant funding from the Economic Development Administration. Mr. Campbell was also an integral figure in finding ways to reuse the Kincheloe Air Force Base. When Kincheloe Air Force Base was closed in the 1970s and it was announced that 10,000 service people would leave the region, it was expected that the local area would undergo a massive economic hit. However, thanks in large part to Mr. Campbell's hard work and creativity, Kincheloe Air Force Base and surrounding base sites were

modified to be used for other purposes, creating additional economic activity. Within 12 years after the closing, four prisons and one work camp were installed at the base, along with 12 industrial companies and 15 retail businesses. In all, the local tax base had doubled, and the civilian payroll created by the new ventures had reached \$110 million. While perhaps best known, the redevelopment of Kincheloe Air Force Base was by no means Mr. Campbell's only project.

Whereas, over his more than thirty years of work on economic development in the Upper Peninsula, Mr. Campbell was involved in nearly every major project in the immediate region. Among the projects he worked upon, Mr. Campbell helped oversee: the Newberry Streetscape/Infrastructure Project; Creation of the Luce County Economic Development Corporation and two Revolving Loan Funds in Luce County, road improvements near Hessel Block Company and Maples Sawmill CDBG; Tahquamenon Scenic Heritage Route Management Plan; a study of I-75; Easterday Avenue Interstate Bridge Crossing Study; DeTour Village Water System Improvements; Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Solid Waste Management Plan; Portage Township Land Use Plan; the establishment of the Chippewa County Industrial Park, Moran Township Water Extension along US-2, City of Mackinac Island Water Treatment facility improvements, and Whitefish Township Plan.

Therefore, be it resolved that, throughout his distinguished career of service, Mr. Campbell has established a reputation as a consensus builder who could bring together different parties in the community to achieve shared results. Residents throughout the Eastern Upper Peninsula describe Mr. Campbell as a quiet but determined planner who knows the specifics of every project down to the last detail. Never one to seek credit for a particular project, he was known for his quiet demeanor, moving projects along to completion, but always humbly sharing the acclaim with those around him. We hereby honor the memory of Mr. Campbell, who passed away on January 23, 2025, at the age of 90, for his many years of labor on behalf of economic growth in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

March 13, 2025



Jim Martin, Chairman
Chippewa County Board of Commissioners