



2017 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 59

June 6, 2017 - Introduced by Representatives TUSLER, ALLEN, ANDERSON, BERCEAU, BOWEN, R. BROOKS, CROWLEY, EDMING, HORLACHER, KITCHENS, KNODL, KRUG, KULP, MURPHY, RIPP, SCHRAA, SPREITZER, STEFFEN, SUMMERFIELD and ZIMMERMAN, cosponsored by Senators LASEE, CARPENTER and COWLES. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** recognizing July 16, 2017, as National Atomic Veterans Day in
2 Wisconsin.

3 Whereas, the United States conducted the nuclear Trinity test, the first
4 detonation of an atomic weapon that took place at Alamogordo Air Force Base in New
5 Mexico on July 16, 1945, as part of the Manhattan Project, which led to atomic bombs
6 being dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki less than one month later; and

7 Whereas, soon after World War II ended, the United States ramped up its
8 nuclear testing program, including a wide range of experiments and exposures to
9 various subjects, by conducting at least 235 atmospheric and undersea nuclear
10 weapons tests in the Pacific Ocean and in the southwestern states; and

11 Whereas, approximately 250,000 veterans of the United States were directly
12 affected by nuclear weapons technology testing while serving from 1945 to 1963, as
13 were those who served in Hiroshima or Nagasaki during the period of the occupation
14 of Japan by the United States immediately following World War II; and

1 Whereas, from 1977 to 1980, an additional 8,033 U.S. veterans and civilian
2 contractors participated in the Enewetak Atoll Atomic Cleanup Mission, which
3 disposed of radiation-tainted debris, in the Marshall Islands; and

4 Whereas, the health of many individuals—both military and civilian—who had
5 worked in connection with the nuclear testing program and many of the children of
6 those individuals may have been adversely affected by exposure to ionizing
7 radiation; and

8 Whereas, the National Association of Atomic Veterans was formed in August
9 1979 to help atomic veterans obtain medical care and assistance related to health
10 issues that may have been precipitated by their exposure to ionizing radiation while
11 participating in a nuclear weapon test detonation, a post-test event, or post-test
12 cleanup; and

13 Whereas, in accordance with Public Law 98-54, July 16, 1983, was designated
14 as National Atomic Veterans Day, a day “dedicated to those patriotic Americans who
15 through their participation in these tests helped lead the United States to the
16 forefront of technology in defense of our great Nation and the freedoms we as
17 Americans hold so dear”; and

18 Whereas, in 1996, the United States Congress repealed the Nuclear Radiation
19 and Secrecy Agreements Act, freeing atomic veterans to describe their military
20 involvement in nuclear testing and to file for veterans benefits for conditions they
21 may have developed as a result of radiation exposure; and

22 Whereas, the State of Wisconsin recognizes the patriotism and sacrifice of the
23 thousands of members of the United States Armed Forces, including Wisconsinites,
24 in defense of the nation; now, therefore, be it

