



2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 82

November 3, 2017 - Introduced by Senators OLSEN, MOULTON, BEWLEY, CARPENTER, COWLES, DARLING, FEYEN, HARS DORF, MARKLEIN, PETROWSKI, RINGHAND, RISSER, TIFFANY, VINEHOUT, VUKMIR and WIRCH, cosponsored by Representatives BALLWEG, RIPP, NERISON, BERCEAU, CONSIDINE, HEBL, KITCHENS, KRUG, KULP, LOUDENBECK, MILROY, MURSAU, NOVAK, NYGREN, PETRYK, PRONSHINSKE, ROHRKASTE, SHANKLAND, SINICKI, STEINEKE, TAUCHEN, THIESFELDT, TITTL, TRANEL, VANDERMEER and SPIROS. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** honoring the public service of Secretary Ben Brancel.

2 Whereas, after a long and successful career in public service, Ben Brancel, the
3 secretary of agriculture, trade and consumer protection, retired on August 11, 2017;
4 and

5 Whereas, after managing a dairy operation for 22 years, Ben now raises beef
6 cattle on his family's 290-acre farm, which is owned by his son and daughter-in-law,
7 Tod and Sondra, the sixth consecutive generation to farm the land; and

8 Whereas, Ben was born and raised in Marquette County, Wisconsin, and went
9 on to receive a bachelor's degree in animal science from the University of
10 Wisconsin-Platteville; and

11 Whereas, Ben was the first kid from Marquette County to show an animal at
12 the state fair, and he continues his support of current and future kids involved in
13 4-H; and

14 Whereas, Ben was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1986 and proudly
15 represented the 42nd Assembly District for ten years; and

1 Whereas, during his time in the Assembly, Ben helped craft the Right to Farm
2 Law and held several leadership positions, including co-chair of the Joint
3 Committee on Finance and Assembly Speaker; and

4 Whereas, in 1997, Governor Tommy G. Thompson appointed Ben to serve as the
5 secretary of agriculture, trade and consumer protection; and

6 Whereas, during his first tenure as secretary, Ben founded the Wisconsin
7 Discovery Farms and Pioneer Farm projects and led the effort to revitalize the
8 Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, which is now housed in the University
9 of Wisconsin System; and

10 Whereas, in 2001, Ben was appointed the Wisconsin state director of the U.S.
11 Department of Agriculture Farm Services Agency; and

12 Whereas, in 2009, Ben became the state relations liaison for UW–Madison’s
13 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, a role in which he worked to support the
14 Wisconsin Agricultural Research Stations; and

15 Whereas, in 2011 and 2015, Ben was again appointed secretary of agriculture,
16 trade and consumer protection by Governor Scott Walker; and

17 Whereas, throughout his career, Ben has lead several agricultural
18 organizations and has received many awards, including the Distinguished Alumnus
19 Award from the University of Wisconsin–Platteville, the Guardian of Small Business
20 award from the National Federation of Independent Businesses, an honorary
21 American FFA degree from the National FFA Organization, and the Distinguished
22 Service to Agriculture Award from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau; and

23 Whereas, through his hard work and dedication, Ben has earned the trust and
24 respect of farmers and others in the agricultural community across the state; now,
25 therefore, be it

