



State of Wisconsin  
2021 - 2022 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1336/1  
LTK:wlj

## 2021 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7

February 5, 2021 - Introduced by Senators SMITH and BERNIER, cosponsored by Representatives EMERSON, JAMES, PETRYK and SUMMERFIELD. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1     **Relating to:** honoring the life and public service of Senator Davis A. Donnelly.

2             Whereas, Davis A. Donnelly was a veteran, public servant, entrepreneur, and  
3     dedicated husband, father, and grandfather; and

4             Whereas, Donnelly was born in Augusta, Wisconsin, to Reverend William  
5     Donnelly and his wife Margret on March 9, 1927; and

6             Whereas, after joining the U.S. Navy at 17, he served during World War II in  
7     both the European and Pacific theaters and served once again during the Korean  
8     War; and

9             Whereas, after completing his military service and working as a salmon  
10     fisherman, machinist, and salesman, Donnelly took advantage of the G.I. Bill to  
11     attend Eau Claire State College, where he graduated in 1954, and the University of  
12     Wisconsin Law School, where he earned his law degree in 1957; and

13             Whereas, in 1956, after working as a clerk in the Wisconsin Assembly and while  
14     still in law school, Donnelly won a seat in the Wisconsin Senate; and

1           Whereas, Donnelly proudly represented the people of Eau Claire and Chippewa  
2 Counties during the two terms he served in the senate; and

3           Whereas, during his time as a senator, he served his rural constituents by  
4 sitting on the Senate Committee on Agriculture and championed many causes he  
5 cared about passionately, from raising the drinking age to improving state camping  
6 facilities; and

7           Whereas, in addition to practicing law, Donnelly established the Roman Inn  
8 Italian Restaurant in Eau Claire and created a line of frozen pizzas, Roma Pizza, that  
9 he sold to grocery stores across the upper Midwest for almost 40 years; and

10          Whereas, Donnelly's pizza business became so successful that, by the late  
11 1990s, the company he established to produce and market his pies, Dadco Food  
12 Products, employed approximately 200 people in Eau Claire; and

13          Whereas, after selling Dadco in 2000, Donnelly remained active overseeing  
14 other businesses he launched until age 90; and

15          Whereas, Donnelly was a loving husband to his wife Marilyn Ashley, whom he  
16 married in 1952, and a loving father to their three children, Mark, Todd, and Lisa;  
17 and

18          Whereas, Davis Donnelly passed away on September 15, 2020, at age 93; now,  
19 therefore, be it

20           ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the  
21 Wisconsin Legislature salute the life and public service of Davis A. Donnelly and  
22 mourn his passing; and, be it further

23           ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint  
24 resolution to the family of Davis A. Donnelly.

25

(END)