



2013 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8

January 31, 2013 - Introduced by Senators OLSEN and RISSER, cosponsored by Representative BALLWEG. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** the retirement of Pam Shannon, Senior Staff Attorney, Legislative
2 Council Staff, following a long and distinguished career in nonpartisan service
3 to the Wisconsin legislature.

4 Whereas, Pam Shannon was born in Connecticut where both of her parents
5 were attending graduate school at Yale University, courtesy of the GI Bill; and

6 Whereas, Pam began her love of travel as an infant, flying to Madison when her
7 father joined the faculty of the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Extension, and,
8 following her parents' instructive example, began a lifetime of learning and civic
9 engagement; and

10 Whereas, Pam grew up in Madison, attended Middleton High School, and
11 moved with her family to Beirut, Lebanon, for two years, graduating from the
12 American Community School of Beirut in 1968; and

13 Whereas, Pam graduated from UW-Madison with honors in 1972, majoring in
14 history, but not neglecting French, Italian, and Arabic; and

1 Whereas, Pam, in her various travels, met future husband Doug Bradley, a
2 Vietnam veteran and graduate student, in Pullman, Washington, the site of
3 Washington State University; and

4 Whereas, following a stint as a VISTA volunteer at Wisconsin Judicare and
5 working with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Pam graduated from the UW
6 Law School in 1977, where her favorite class was Professor Willard Hurst's course
7 on Legislation; and

8 Whereas, while working for the UW Law School's continuing legal education
9 program, Pam followed the work of the Legislative Council's Special Committee on
10 Determinate Sentencing, staffed by future colleagues and, despite of that early
11 exposure, accepted a position as a staff attorney at the Legislative Council in March
12 of 1981; and

13 Whereas, Pam staffed the American Indian Study Committee, drafting initial
14 legislation establishing the county-tribal law enforcement program and drafting
15 bills relating to tribal courts, burial sites preservation, and Indian health,
16 culminating in an Inter-Tribal Council award "in appreciation for outstanding
17 service and dedication to the Indian Tribes of Wisconsin and the Great Lakes
18 Inter-Tribal Council"; and

19 Whereas, Pam, as a jack of all trades, staffed legislative study committees
20 ranging from lead poisoning prevention and child support to corrections and
21 nanotechnology, as well as major statutory recodifications of the laws regarding
22 actions affecting the family, veterans, military affairs, and emergency management;
23 and

24 Whereas, Pam served as the longtime staff to the Joint Legislative Audit
25 Committee, working closely with a succession of three state auditors and

1 innumerable committee cochairpersons and drafting legislation in response to
2 audits of the State of Wisconsin Investment Board, the Transportation Projects
3 Commission, the PECFA program, and state economic development programs; and

4 Whereas, as staff to committees on veterans and military affairs, Pam worked
5 on legislation creating the Wisconsin GI Bill and the veterans and surviving spouse
6 property tax credit; and

7 Whereas, Pam served as the director of the Legislative Council's
8 Administrative Rules Clearinghouse, overseeing staff review of proposed
9 administrative rules and making presentations to the legislature, state agencies,
10 and private sector groups, explaining the extensive changes made to the
11 rule-making process in the 2011 legislative session; and

12 Whereas, in 2005, Pam provided training in French to parliamentary staff in
13 Morocco, Algeria, and Lebanon, as a participant in a joint program of the National
14 Conference of State Legislatures and the U.S. State Department's Middle East
15 Partnership Initiative; and

16 Whereas, Pam regards as particular highlights of her 32-year legislative career
17 her collegial working relationship with the Legislative Audit Bureau and the Joint
18 Audit Committee, her tenure as director of the Rules Clearinghouse, her mentoring
19 and supervision of younger colleagues at the Legislative Council (including assisting
20 in the production of some famously raucous scenes in Legislative Council holiday
21 party films), and her role in helping legislative offices to respond to open records
22 requests; and

23 Whereas, Pam's Council colleagues will sorely miss her in-office collaborative
24 efforts, her thorough and timely work product, her approachability and willingness

1 to lend a hand, and, in the tradition of her Council forbears, her persnickety, yet
2 welcome, editing style; and

3 Whereas, many of Pam’s colleagues have become lifelong friends, have shared
4 peak life experiences with her, and have turned to her for advice and wisdom on all
5 topics ranging from Lebanese cooking and world travel to college selection and elder
6 care options; and

7 Whereas, Pam is especially proud to have worked alongside both of her children
8 when they served as senate staffers, carrying on the family’s tradition of public
9 service exemplified by their late grandmother, Dorothy Shannon; and

10 Whereas, Pam’s retirement plans include working with her 94-year-old father
11 to complete his World War II memoirs, traveling to the four states she has yet not
12 visited, assisting with her daughter’s wedding planning, and visiting family in
13 Arizona, Oregon, and Washington; now, therefore, be it

14 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the
15 legislature honor and commend Pam Shannon for her 32 years of devoted service to
16 the Wisconsin legislature and wish her many fruitful, active, and enjoyable years in
17 retirement; and, be it further

18 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint
19 resolution to Pam and her husband, Doug; her daughter, Summer; her son, Ian; and
20 her father, Ted Shannon.

21 (END)