



STATE OF WISCONSIN

Senate Journal

Ninety–Eighth Regular Session

2:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, January 3, 2007

The Senate met.

The Senate stood for the prayer which was offered by Father Gary Krahenbuhl of Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Beloit.

“God of all people and of all time, known to all, named by some: to you we bow our heads in humility, for we realize the tremendous responsibility that lies before us as citizens of Wisconsin. We seek your blessing.

Men and women of this state now entrust these Senators to work on their behalf. They have been given power and authority. We ask You, God, to inspire each and every member of this Senate, and all other elected officials, to use that power and authority to create communities that reflect justice and peace, neighborhoods that are safe and secure, and families that reflect love and respect.

Guided by you, Creator of all that is living, guide these Senators to find ways to preserve the natural wonders of our land upon which we live, to promote the inherent dignity of all people, to en flesh the dreams and hopes that are necessary for tomorrow, and continue the good works of those who have served so faithfully before them.

Help them as well, God, to have the patience to listen to the meekest of voices, the courage to speak up to protect those whose lives and freedoms have been made vulnerable, and the vision to see beyond their own boundaries.

Give them the confidence to lead when leadership is necessary and the humility to follow when others have already found a path that is right and good.

Finally, God, give them the Wisdom. She is the greatest of all gifts, striving always to make You known. On behalf of the people of Wisconsin, I ask You to bless these honorable women and men, now and forever. Amen.”

The Colors were presented by the Truax–Longmire VFW Post 8483 Color Guard Unit in Madison.

The National Anthem was performed by three members of the Emmanuel Baptist Church Choir from Beloit.

The Senate remained standing and Senator Carpenter led the Senate in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Remarks of President Lasee

“I would like to ask unanimous consent, as the outgoing President of the Senate, to say a few brief words.

First of all, thank you to the pastor, color guard, and choir for joining us today. Thank you to the Senator from the 3rd, Senator Carpenter, for leading us in the pledge. We all appreciate your willingness to participate in our ceremony today.

I want to welcome all of our friends, family and constituents. As you will see today, the Senate is a special place. I have spent the better part of 30 years serving in this institution—helping people work out their problems with their government and debating the many important issues that have confronted our state. Despite the constant stream of criticism the Legislature receives, I believe that the Senate is something that the people of this state can be proud of. In many ways, we are the complaint department of state government. We do extremely important work helping our constituents solve their problems. I think we have shown Wisconsin citizens can count on the Senate to operate in a fair, open and thoughtful manner as we debate the future direction of the state.

Wisconsin has had only three Senators elected by its members to the position of Senate President. In April 1979, a Constitutional Amendment passed which eliminated the Lieutenant Governor as the Presiding Officer of the Senate. As one of three members, I am honored at the privilege to have presided over this great body.

I want to express my gratitude to you my colleagues, for giving me the privilege of serving as your president. Today, I will be handing this gavel to the new Senate President, Senator Risser. Over my long legislative career, one of my greatest honors, without a doubt, has been to serve as the Senate President. When the Senate re–elected me as its President in January, 2005, I promised to respect the right of all members to express their thoughts and ideas. I also promised to follow in the tradition of former Presidents Rude and Risser, who were fair–minded leaders in this chamber. I hope that I have lived up to those promises and to the reputations of those who came before me.

Last but not least, I want to say thank you to my wife Jan who has been gracious while having to make sacrifices which allow me to be an effective legislator. I am forever grateful to her for stepping up and being patient when I’m late for dinner or have to stay over in Madison. Thank you to my children: Max, Jake, Joe, Susanna, Carrie and Polly for understanding when I was unable to make a concert or game. Additional thanks to Rob Marchant, our Senate Chief Clerk as well as Jeff Renk, Sarah Burhop, Rachel Veum and John Pellet, Sergeant Ted Blazel and staff along with our service agencies for all their hard work. I would like to recognize the hard work of our staff members who help in any way possible.

With that, I will ask the Clerk to read the certification of election from the State Elections Board.”

**State of Wisconsin
Elections Board**

December 11, 2006

The Honorable, The Senate:

I am pleased to provide you with a copy of the official canvass of the November 7, 2006 General Election vote for state senator along with the determination by the designee of the Chairperson of the State Elections Board of the winners.

With this letter, I am delivering the Certificates of Election and transmittal letters for the winners to you for distribution.

If the State Elections Board can provide you with further information or assistance, please contact our office.

Sincerely,
KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Executive Director

**Statement of Canvass
for
State Senator**

GENERAL ELECTION, November 7, 2006

I, David Anstaett, designee of the Chairperson of the State Elections Board, certify that the attached tabular statements, as compiled from the certified returns made to the State Elections Board by the county clerks of the several counties of the state, contain a correct abstract of the total number of votes given for the election of candidates for State Senator, at a General Election held in the several towns, wards, villages and election districts in said counties on the Seventh day of November, 2006.

I DO, THEREFORE, DETERMINE AND CERTIFY that the following candidates, having each received the greatest number of votes in their respective senatorial districts, are duly elected State Senator:

<u>Senate District</u>	<u>Elected</u>
1st District	Alan J. Lasee
3rd District	Tim Carpenter
5th District	James O. Sullivan, Jr.
7th District	Jeff Plale
9th District	Joe Leibham
11th District	Neal Kedzie
13th District	Scott Fitzgerald
15th District	Judy Robson
17th District	Dale W. Schultz
19th District	Michael G. Ellis
21st District	John W. Lehman
23rd District	Pat Kreitlow
25th District	Bob Jauch
27th District	Jon Erpenbach
29th District	Russ Decker
31st District	Kathleen Vinehout
33rd District	Theodore J. Kanavas

Done in the City of Madison, this 1st day of December, 2006.

DAVID ANSTAETT
Designee of the Chairperson, State Elections Board

Remarks of Majority Leader Robson

“We have just celebrated the fresh start of a new year 2007. We gather today a few days later to mark a new beginning...the dawning of the 98th session of the Wisconsin State Senate.

I am sure my 32 colleagues in this distinguished body will agree...we Senators are so blest and honored to share this proud day of distinction with our families and friends present.

My family is here from places like California, North Carolina, and Ohio. I want to thank my children and all my

grandchildren who are here. My family from Ohio who joined my special friend to witness and celebrate this historic day.

I also want to extend a heartfelt welcome to your family members and friends of every state senator with us this afternoon.

They are all here because they share our willingness...and share our desire...to embrace this opportunity and this responsibility that come with public service. To them and the sacrifices they made...for us...we say thank you.

Thank you.

It is an honor and privilege to serve in the Wisconsin State Senate. The Senate has had just over 1,000 members since it first convened in 1848.

In just a few moments, four new Senators will become part of the legacy of a Senate that’s deeply rooted in an honored, celebrated history.

Today we celebrate not only where we’ve been...but also where we’re headed...together in the spirit of public service...in a representative democracy.”

Pursuant to Senate Rule 5 (4) (a), Chief Clerk Marchant in the chair.

With unanimous consent, the party leaders introduced their respective members as they came before the bar to be sworn in.

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Lasee

“Senator Alan Lasee was elected to the Senate in 1977 in a special election and has been reelected since that time.

Senator Lasee served as Senate President during the 2005 and 2003 session where he focused on bringing back civility and decorum to this distinguished body. There is no question that while he was the presiding officer, he was successful in helping to restore respect among colleagues and making the Senate more professional.

Senator Lasee has served on several committees during his time in the Senate, but most notably, has been the Chairman of the Committee on Transportation, Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Co-Chairman of the Joint Committees on Organization, Employment Relations and Legislative Council.

During his tenure, Senator Lasee has fought tirelessly for crime victims, taxpayers and rights of property owners.

During the past session, Senator Lasee chaired the Senate Select Committee on DNR Regulatory Reform where he held hearings statewide taking testimony from citizens and business owners in hopes of encouraging the DNR to be more responsive to our citizens and administer their agency in a more efficient manner. No doubt Senator Lasee will continue to lead the charge on these issues in the upcoming session.

Senator Lasee is joined today by his wife Jan and their daughter Polly and her fiancé Mike.”

Senator Robson Introduced Senator Carpenter

“The Senator from the 3rd is beginning his second term in the State Senate after eight terms in the Assembly, representing the residents of the South Side of Milwaukee and Greenfield.

He has lived in Milwaukee his entire life. In fact, Milwaukee is a city that his family has called home for over 55 years. His father worked at the Falk Corp and his mother was a telephone operator. She also worked as a poll worker at Morgandale Elementary School, which instilled in him a passion for good government. She passed away a few years ago of Parkinson’s disease, adding to his passion to make sure that

Wisconsin leads the way in finding medical cures and providing health care to all.

He currently lives with his father, Ken, in a duplex on South 38th Street.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Senator Tim Carpenter.”

Senator Robson Introduced Senator Jim Sullivan

“The Senator from the 5th is the first of four brand new Senators who we welcome today.

Although he is a new face in the Senate, his district is well known to all of us as the home of the Milwaukee County Medical Complex, Miller Park, State Fair Park, the Milwaukee Mile, the Pettit Ice Center and Milwaukee County Zoo.

He has spent his life serving his community. He grew up in the Milwaukee area, attending public schools and graduated from UW–Madison in 1991. He has served in the U.S. Navy Reserves since 1999. In 2001, He graduated from Marquette Law School, professionally continuing his commitment to serve the people of his community. He also served for six years on the Wauwatosa City Council where he earned a reputation as an effective, thoughtful, consensus building representative of his constituents.

He lives in Wauwatosa with his wife Linda, an accountant with the “Next Door Foundation” and his two sons, Jack (age 8) and Malcolm (age 4).

Ladies and Gentlemen, Senator Jim Sullivan.

Joining Senator Sullivan today are his wife Linda Docter Sullivan and his parents Carolyn and James Sullivan, Sr.

Please stand and be recognized.”

Senator Robson Introduced Senator Plale

“The Senator from the 7th is beginning his first full term in the State Senate. He initially came to the Senate after winning a special election in 2003.

The 7th District is one of the state’s most dynamic and diverse communities. It includes many of the cultural and commercial centers in the state. From the soaring artistic beauty of the Calatrava to the cutting edge manufacturing advancements at Bucyrus in his hometown of South Milwaukee, this is a community moving forward.

That commitment to progress is evident in all of the major institutions of higher learning that occupy the 7th District: UW–Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College and Milwaukee School of Engineering.

His district is also home to Summerfest, the World’s Premier Music Festival, as well as the largest Irish and Polish festivals anywhere in the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Senator Jeff Plale.

Joining Senator Plale today are his sons, Jack and Joey, and his parents Don and Josephine Plale. Please stand and be recognized.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Leibham

“Senator Leibham was first elected to the State Senate in November 2002 and was re–elected this past November. Prior to his election to the Senate, Joe served in the State Assembly from 1998–2002.

During his time in the State Senate, Senator Leibham has served as a legislative leader in our state’s economic development efforts and worked to enhance and improve our job creation efforts through his co–authorship of the Job

Creation Act and Job Training legislation during his first session in the State Senate.

Last session, Senator Leibham was successful in working to enact the most comprehensive package of election law reform measures since the late ’70s, and has continued to serve as an outspoken advocate for restoring integrity to our election process through his legislative efforts to require a photo ID to vote.

Through his efforts as a member of the Joint Finance Committee, Senator Leibham served as a leader in our efforts to control government spending and lower taxes.

Undoubtedly, Senator Leibham will serve as a stronger leader for families in the upcoming session as he and his wife, Heather, are expecting their first child in February.

Joe is joined here today by his wife Heather; his parents, Ken and Sue; and his in–laws, Cliff and Joan Hansen.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Kedzie

“State Senator Neal Kedzie was first elected to the Wisconsin State Senate in November 2002 and re–elected in November 2006.

The 11th Senate District includes portions of Walworth, Waukesha, Jefferson and Kenosha Counties in Southeastern Wisconsin. Prior to being elected to the Senate, he served three terms in the Wisconsin State Assembly, representing the 43rd Assembly District.

During the 2005–06 session, Senator Kedzie served as the Assistant Senate Majority Leader and Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Transportation Committee. He is also continuing his service as Chair of the Special Committee on Great Lakes Water Resources Compact Committee.

A trademark of Senator Kedzie’s legislative career has been his ability to build consensus among generally polarized groups. This strength has led to the enactment of many significant environmental initiatives, garnering national and even international attention.

Some of those efforts include:

- the 2005 Groundwater Quality Protection Act
- the 2003 Groundwater Quantity Protection Act
- the 2003 Green Tier Act
- the 2001 Isolated Wetlands Act
- and the 2000 Wetland Mitigation Act

Senator Kedzie has resided in rural Walworth County for more than 32 years with his wife Kerrie and three children – Erika, Ryan and Sean – and Kerrie is here today for his inauguration.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Schultz

“Senator Dale Schultz has served in the Senate since 1991, representing a large region of southwest Wisconsin.

During his tenure Dale has served on committees covering virtually every issue of the day. Although he has gained expertise in many issues, particularly insurance and natural resources, he is best known as a person with broad understanding of how government works and an ability to cut to the chase to help broker bipartisan compromise.

Last session, Dale served as Majority Leader.

Among his accomplishments, he helped restore civility and decorum to the institution. He signed the agreement that launched WisconsinEye to bring C–SPAN–like television coverage to Wisconsin government. And he brought historic

bills to the Senate floor for votes – notably SB 1 regarding ethics reform which passed with bipartisan support.

Perhaps the main reason why Dale has just been elected to his fourth full term is that he shares his constituents' values. That's because he is as comfortable wearing pinstripes and using a microphone as he is wearing plaid and working on tractors.

Dale is joined today by his wife Rachel, who is Superintendent of the Richland School District, and also other members of his family."

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Ellis

"Senator Michael G. Ellis served as alderman on the Neenah City Council from 1969–1975. He represented Neenah–Menasha in the State Assembly from 1970 until his election to the State Senate in 1982.

He has been re-elected to represent the 19th Senate district six times since then, twice without opposition. The 19th Senate district includes portions of Winnebago and Outagamie counties.

Senator Ellis has served in leadership positions in the Senate, including Assistant Minority Leader, Minority Leader and Majority Leader.

Senator Ellis is known as a leading voice on the state's budget, ethics reform, campaign finance reform and education funding reform.

Senator Ellis and his wife Sandy own and operate the Ellis Quarter Horse farm and stables near Neenah."

Senator Robson Introduced Senator Lehman

"The Senator from the 21st is beginning his first term in the State Senate. However, he comes to the Senate with a wealth of experience as a public servant. He served his constituents well in the State Assembly for the past ten years and prior to that was alderman from the south side of Racine for 12 years.

He is also well known in his community for years of service as a high school economics & history teacher. He and his wife Cathie, his parents and two of his three daughters are all graduates of Southside Racine Washington Park High School. Last but not least, he is known to bring the famous Racine pastry called the "kringle" to his colleagues in the State Capitol.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Senator John Lehman.

Joining Senator Lehman today are his wife Cathy, as well as other friends and family from Racine. Please stand and be recognized."

Senator Robson Introduced Senator Kreitlow

"The Senator from the 23rd is beginning his first term in the State Senate.

His district includes northern Eau Claire County, all of Chippewa County, and portions of Clark, Dunn, Marathon, Wood, Taylor and Barron Counties.

He is proud to be a UW–Eau Claire Blugold fan and to hail from the Town of Eagle Point in Chippewa County, the area that "Old Abe," Wisconsin's beloved war eagle, once called home.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Senator Pat Kreitlow.

Joining Senator Kreitlow today is his wife of 20 years, Dr. Sharry Kreitlow, who grew up on a dairy farm near Manitowoc. With them are their daughters Samantha and Chelsea, plus Pat and Sharry's first grandson, Mason Patrick Kreitlow. Please stand and be recognized."

Senator Robson Introduced Senator Jauch

"The Senator from the 25th is beginning his sixth term in the Senate and his 25th year in the State Legislature.

He represents far northern Wisconsin, a district that is over 12,000 square miles and is larger than Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware and the District of Columbia combined.

He considers northern Wisconsin the most beautiful region of the state. It borders on Lake Superior and contains the headwaters for the St. Croix scenic waterways and the Mississippi River. The region he represents includes Bayfield, rated the best little city in the Midwest and the gateway to the Apostle Island National Lakeshore.

He has passionately championed public education and children issues and is constantly fighting for economic justice for all citizens.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Senator Bob Jauch.

Joining Senator Jauch today is his wife, Cecelia, who recently retired from 33 years of teaching and his two children Jessica and Christopher. Also with him are his mother Jan from Lac du Flambeau and his mother-in-law Irene, from Park Falls. Please stand and be recognized."

Senator Robson Introduced Senator Erpenbach

"The Senator from the 27th is beginning his 3rd term in the State Senate. His district is truly distinctive – from the North side of Madison, the second largest city in the state and State Capitol – to suburban Dane County – to rural Green County and Evansville in Rock County. Its diversity can make balancing the issues and voting very interesting.

He looks forward to continuing to work toward a health care solution, meaningful property tax relief, discussing our education funding model and finding resolution to what he calls "the million dollar monkey on all our backs" -- campaign finance reform. He is an Aquarius, who likes long walks on the beach.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Senator Jon Erpenbach.

Joining Senator Erpenbach today is his family, including his parents, children and other friends. Please stand and be recognized."

Senator Robson Introduced Senator Decker

"The senator from the 29th is beginning his fifth term in the State Senate.

He has had the honor and privilege of representing the people of north central Wisconsin for sixteen years. As an active sportsman who enjoys the outdoors, including hunting and fishing, he is definitely representative of his district.

He is also a journeyman bricklayer and still works in construction when the Legislature is not in session. But first and foremost, he is a legislator who is deeply committed to improving the lives of the residents of the 29th District. With that always in his mind, he plans to continue to work on his ongoing legislative priorities, including education and affordable health care.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Senator Russ Decker.

Joining Senator Decker today is his wife, Kathy. Please stand and be recognized."

Senator Robson Introduced Senator Vinehout

"The Senator from the 31st is the fourth and final new Senator that we welcome today.

From cranberry bogs to rolling hills of dairy farms and on to bluffs high above the Mississippi River, her Senate District

covers all or parts of nine rural counties and the southern half of the city of Eau Claire, including the UW Eau Claire.

With her background as a farmer and former university professor, she is ideally suited to represent the 31st District. She is the 28th senator to serve the district and the first woman.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Senator Kathleen Vinehout.

Joining Senator Vinehout today are her husband, Doug Kane and her son, Nathan. Please stand and be recognized.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Kanavas

“Senator Ted Kanavas was elected to serve the 33rd Senate District in the summer of 2001 by winning a special election. Since his election victory in 2001, Senator Kanavas has won two more elections by large margins.

Senator Kanavas’ district includes portions of Waukesha, Washington and Dodge Counties.

His focus, since being elected, has been on economic development and job creation initiatives, which have been instrumental in helping make our state more attractive for business retention and attraction.

Senator Kanavas has served on the Joint Committee on Finance, chaired the Senate Committee on Job Creation, Economic Development and Consumer Affairs, and has used his private sector experience to shape high-quality public policy.

In the Senate, Senator Kanavas was a leader in the effort to pass the Broadband Deployment Act, Act 255—which increased venture capital activity in this state. He authored the County Board Reduction Bill, making it easier for county boards to reduce their size. He has also helped craft both the GROW Wisconsin Agenda and Invest Wisconsin Package.

Senator Kanavas has been a life-long resident of the city of Brookfield, where he and his wife Mary are raising their three children—Kelly, Nick, and Kate.

Joining him today are his wife Mary, his daughter Kate, his son Nick and his mother Min Kanavas.”

Senator Leibham Introduced Senator Fitzgerald

“Senator Scott Fitzgerald was first elected to represent the 13th Senate District in 1994. Last November he was re-elected to his 4th term. The 13th Senate District includes parts of Dodge, Jefferson, Columbia, Waukesha and Dane Counties.

Scott has been elected by his Republican colleagues to serve as Minority Leader during this legislative session.

In prior sessions, he has served as Majority Leader, Co-Chairman of the Joint Committee on Finance, and Chairman of Senate Corrections Committee. He is a Lt. Colonel in the US Army Reserves.

As co-chair of the finance committee last session, Scott helped craft a budget that froze property taxes, supported public education, cut taxes and fully-funded vital health care programs. He is recognized as a leader who can work across partisan lines to find solutions and is a tireless advocate for Wisconsin taxpayers.

Scott has been honored for his work on behalf of Wisconsin’s veterans, farmers and small business owners.

Scott is joined today by his wife Lisa; his sons Scottie, Brennan and Connor; his parents, Steve and Bonnie; and his in-laws, Elvin and Louise Will.”

Senator Jauch Introduced Senator Robson

“Each inauguration marks a milestone in our Democracy as duly elected officials are sworn to uphold the Constitution and begin the important work of fulfilling our responsibilities to serve the public will. On November 7th the Wisconsin electorate chose Democrats as majority party in the State Senate and it is my privilege to introduce Senator Judy Robson, the new Senate Majority Leader.

It is an historical occasion for so many reasons and a day of firsts for all of us. Notably Judy Robson will be the first woman in Wisconsin history to hold the office of Democratic Majority Leader.

This historic day affirms an essential principle that Wisconsin women are established as powerful players but also are a part of the basic furnishing of the State Senate.

Judy has earned the distinction of serving as Senate Majority Leader. She has held public office since 1987 representing the citizens of southern Wisconsin. Formerly a nurse, she has been a leading advocate regarding senior citizen and health care issues. As a mother of two sons and one daughter she has passionately worked for a legislative agenda to strengthen families by providing opportunities for education, quality and affordable health care and an ability to achieve the promise of the American dream.

The foundation for Judy’s service and leadership are based upon the values of respect for others, her love of the Institution, and her desire to make the Legislative process serve public interests rather than politics.

Across the political spectrum she is respected for her diplomacy, fairness, for her reasonable approach to both public policy and politics and for her dedication to making this Institution and this process worthy of the confidence of Wisconsin citizens.

Judy’s commitment is to foster unity rather than division, tolerance rather than political partisanship, cooperation rather than conflict and encouragement for solving the important issues of the day. Judy’s leadership will set a high standard for her colleagues and for this body that will match or exceed public expectation.

This is an extremely special day for all of us, but it is most fulfilling for our families.

Joining Senator Robson today are her children; her son Mark, her son Matt and Matt’s wife, Linda, her daughter Beth and Beth’s husband Mark. Additionally, all four of her grandchildren are here, David, Kyla, Jesse and Ryanne.

Please join me in honoring Senator Robson and her family.”

OATH OF OFFICE

Upon the calling of the newly elected Senators on Wednesday, January 3, 2007, the following appeared before the Senate, took and subscribed the oath of office which was administered by the Honorable Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson of the Wisconsin State Supreme Court.

Alan J. Lasee	Tim Carpenter
James O. Sullivan, Jr.	Jeff Plale
Joe Leibham	Neal Kedzie
Scott Fitzgerald	Judy Robson
Dale W. Schultz	Michael G. Ellis
John W. Lehman	Pat Kreitlow
Bob Jauch	Jon Erpenbach

Russ Decker
and Theodore J. Kanavas
Senator Lasee in the chair.

Kathleen Vinehout

CALL OF ROLL

The roll was called and the following Senators answered to their names:

Senators Breske, Carpenter, Coggs, Cowles, Darling, Decker, Ellis, Erpenbach, S. Fitzgerald, Grothman, Hansen, Harsdorf, Jauch, Kanavas, Kapanke, Kedzie, Kreitlow, A. Lasee, Lassa, Lazich, Lehman, Leibham, Miller, Olsen, Plale, Risser, Robson, Roessler, Schultz, Sullivan, Taylor, Vinehout and Wirch – 33.

Absent – None.

Absent with leave – None.

Considered as privileged and taken up.

Senate Resolution 1

Relating to: notifying the assembly and the governor that the 2007–2008 senate is organized.

By Senators Robson, Risser, Hansen, Fitzgerald, and Leibham.

Read.

The question was: Shall **Senate Resolution 1** be adopted?

The ayes and noes were required and the vote was: ayes, 33; noes, 0; absent or not voting, 0; as follows:

Ayes – Senators Breske, Carpenter, Coggs, Cowles, Darling, Decker, Ellis, Erpenbach, S. Fitzgerald, Grothman, Hansen, Harsdorf, Jauch, Kanavas, Kapanke, Kedzie, Kreitlow, A. Lasee, Lassa, Lazich, Lehman, Leibham, Miller, Olsen, Plale, Risser, Robson, Roessler, Schultz, Sullivan, Taylor, Vinehout and Wirch.

Noes – None.

Absent or not voting – None.

Adopted.

SENATE OFFICERS OATH OF OFFICE

The President, Fred A. Risser, the President Pro Tempore, Tim Carpenter, the Chief Clerk, Robert J. Marchant, and the Sergeant at Arms, Edward A. Blazel, having been duly elected by the adoption of **Senate Resolution 1**, appeared together before the bar of the Senate, took and subscribed the oath of office which was administered by the Honorable Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Senate President Risser in the chair.

Remarks of President Risser

“Before I make any remarks, I notice that we have former Senator Rude with us. I would like to invite him up to the podium to join us for a minute. The three of us, Senator Lasee, Senator Rude, and myself are the only Senators to have served as President of the Wisconsin state Senate and I am so pleased that Senator Rude could join us today.

The gavel just handed to me by Senator Lasee is still warm and I notice several new notches in it. Senator Lasee has had a distinguished record as President of the state Senate for the last four years. One of his legacies is his effort, under very difficult circumstances, to run the Senate on schedule even to the exasperation of his own party at times. It’s an effort that I am going to continue. Senator Lasee did a very admirable job and I’m going to try to do as well as he did, and yet better if possible. I consider this an important part of Senate procedure.

I would like to express my appreciation also to Rob Marchant, our Chief Clerk, and to Ted Blazel, our Sergeant at Arms, for their past services and for their willingness to continue. It used to be that these jobs were patronage jobs and whenever the party shifted in the state Senate they would shift the Sergeant and the Clerk accordingly. Under our previous Chief Clerk Don Schneider, who served for 26–1/2 years, we professionalized these positions. I am so pleased that we have kept this tradition. I have full confidence that Rob and Ted will continue to serve Democrats and Republicans alike in the Senate in the same professional manner as they have in the past.

I am also pleased that Senator Tim Carpenter of Milwaukee has been selected as the President Pro Tem. He’s a student of the rules. He served in a similar position in the Assembly as the assistant to the Speaker Pro Tem. I am sure that he will serve us well.

Just a little bit of history: We became a state in 1848 and until 1979 the presiding officer of the state Senate was the Lieutenant Governor. In 1979, a constitutional amendment was overwhelmingly supported by the voters of this state to provide that the state Senate select its own presiding officer as is done in 25 of the 50 states in the U.S. I was selected the first presiding officer. Since then there have been several shifts in the majority party and in the presiding officers of this body. Four years ago I handed this gavel to Senator Lasee. I’m honored to have it back again.

I want to welcome all our guests here today. We’re glad you could join us in our swearing-in ceremony this afternoon. In the same 50 years I have served in the Legislature, neither the Senate nor Assembly Chambers have been closed to the public. We welcome you to come and watch your government in action at any time. Later this spring or early this summer you may not have to travel to Madison to see what we are doing. The state Legislature has made an agreement with WisconsinEye to have them cover our sessions from gavel to gavel and also to photograph and broadcast some of the more important hearings. In the interest of good and open government I think this is a very desirable innovation.

I am truly honored to have the opportunity to serve as President of the Senate again and I pledge to all of you that I will try to make this body the best legislative body in the country and that we will be having an open and a fair forum to discuss and address the issues of the day.

Thank you so much.”

With unanimous consent, Senator Robson addressed the members from the rostrum.

Remarks of Majority Leader Robson

“Mr. President, leader Fitzgerald, fellow senators, public servants, family, friends, and proud citizens of the state of Wisconsin:

“If not us...who?”

“If not now...when?”

The words of Robert Kennedy from so many years ago remain relevant today. These precious words offer us a starting point...a stepping stone...a bridge to accomplish our shared goals.

As we begin this New Year and begin this 98th session of the State Senate, we embark on a journey together as public servants.

We are teachers, bricklayers, lawyers, dairy farmers and nurses. We are veterans, business entrepreneurs, factory workers, and truck drivers.

Diverse...yet...united. United as a community. A community of senators.

The first Wisconsin State Senate convened 159 years ago in 1848. Many eloquent speeches given...one thousand senators having served.

We now stand with each other before you...the people of this state as colleagues. Colleagues linked to this history but also linked to the future with our shared goal: to renew our commitment to uphold, honor and revere the legacy of this great institution.

With this power comes great responsibility: the awesome responsibility to protect and reaffirm the public's confidence and trust in its government.

For better or worse, the manner in which we work...the manner in which we speak...and the manner in which we act inside the walls of this chamber...places a public face to this process of trust.

We may have different approaches...but we have shared interests...working for the best interest of a representative democracy.

When this day of celebration is done and the music has faded...I hope we will continue to feel the strong, positive energy of this day.

I am honored and privileged to serve as the Senate's Majority Leader. I accept this new opportunity with all the fervor and enthusiasm of my being...and respect.

I ask you to assist in helping Wisconsin be a leader...a place where all people want to live, with good jobs, affordable health care, and a good education for our children.

We proudly call Wisconsin our home.

In conclusion...I would like to quote President Abraham Lincoln. He once said, “the fundamental test of a democracy is its capacity to elevate the condition of men, to lift artificial weights from all shoulders, and to clear the laudable paths.. for all.”

This is our challenge today and for tomorrow.

During this 98th session of the Wisconsin State Senate let our actions raise the bar of justice.

Let our work set a positive record in history.

Let our legacy plant the seeds for future leaders.

If not us...who?

If not now...when?

On Wisconsin!!”

With unanimous consent, Senator Fitzgerald addressed the members from the rostrum.

Remarks of Minority Leader Fitzgerald

“Mr. President, Majority Leader Robson, fellow colleagues, Chief Justice Abrahamson, families, friends and guests, good afternoon. I'd like to offer a warm welcome to the Wisconsin State Senate. It is an honor to be here today and to have all of you here to celebrate the start of the 98th regular session of the Wisconsin State Senate.

I'd like to thank my Republican colleagues for giving me the honor of serving them this session as their leader. I appreciate the trust they've put in me and pledge to do my best to represent their interests and priorities during the next two years.

Thomas Jefferson once said, “The enormity of the times in which we live has forced me to commit myself to the boisterous ocean of political passions.”

While President Jefferson's words were specific to his acknowledgement that public service is a calling for some, and not simply a passing interest, his words carry gravity for all who pass through this chamber.

Like all of you, I am honored to have been elected by the people of my district to represent them in the State Senate. We are all here because we are drawn to public service, because we want to make a difference for our families, for our children and for our children's children. Regardless of our party, we must all remember that we are here because the men and women of our districts have chosen us. They have placed their trust in the 33 of us, and our first job, always, is to repay that trust by serving with honor and principle.

We must also recognize that it is only under the Lord's hard and good will that we assemble here today. We find ourselves at the start of a new year, with the holidays and the business of the last legislative session behind us. Inauguration day always signifies the beginning of something new. And this session, like those before it and those yet to come will offer unique challenge and opportunities.

Last fall's elections once again changed the make up of this body. This is the third time control of the state senate has changed during my twelve years in office.

As Senate Republican Leader, I pledge to offer assistance to the majority party in measured form to reach common goals that serve the citizens of this great state. We will do our part to ensure that the senate runs smoothly, efficiently and respectfully.

I'll also do whatever I can to ensure we have a good relationship with our colleagues in the Assembly. Please know that I'll always be happy to reach out to a member of the Assembly leadership I've know for a long time, who I consider a good friend and someone I have a great relationship with. And if Speaker Huebsch isn't available I can always call my brother.

But I will also not hesitate to serve as the “loyal opposition” when our goals and our beliefs diverge from those of the majority party or the governor. Our two-party system has served us well and remains necessary to demonstrate that there are different ways to address the important issues that come before this body.

While we have an obligation to find solutions, we also must recognize that compromise does not mean abandoning our core principles. While we all agree on the major issues we must address during the next two years, we may have different solutions in mind.

We cannot and should not shy away from discussing and debating those differences.

We agree that the tax burden on Wisconsinites is too high. We should have an open debate on whether we address the problem through tax shifting or through meaningful caps on property taxes and tax cuts that benefit us all.

We agree that health care is too expensive and that we must work to make health care more accessible and more affordable for Wisconsin families. I look forward to a vigorous debate on whether the answer to the health care crisis is more regulation and policies that move us closer to socialized medicine or if the solutions lie in promoting private sector innovation and giving more control over health care dollars and decisions to Wisconsin families.

We agree that ensuring our children get the best education they possibly can at both the K-12 level and in our university system is vitally important to keep our economy moving forward. And we will debate whether the best path to achieve these goals is through higher taxes and simply throwing money at the problem or whether fundamental change in the system, how it is funded, and where dollars are directed is the path to a brighter future.

These are important issues, important differences and important debates to have. And I look forward to them.

As we prepare for the session that lies ahead, I call on the senior members of this body from both parties to use their institutional knowledge and command of parliamentary procedure to help guide the operation of the senate. And I challenge you to rekindle your want and will to work with a fresh perspective to help solve the state's problems.

For legislators in leadership roles, take your new charge humbly and seriously. With any shift in political control also comes a shift in responsibility. The majority has many jobs, they must lead, they must articulate and enact an agenda and they must run this body efficiently, effectively and fairly. I hope you will work with both parties to craft a legislative agenda that blends bold strokes with fairness. We must always remember that our job is to leave this state in better shape for the next legislature and the people of Wisconsin.

To the freshmen senators – the gentlemen from the 5th, the 21st and the 23rd and the lady from the 31st – you'll be getting a lot of advice in the next few weeks. Let me offer some of my own. Some may say you should just sit back and listen for your first two years, but only you can judge what you are ready for and when you are ready for it. When you raised your right hand today and took the oath of office you were thrust into a leadership role by the 170,000 citizens you represent. They elected you to bring a fresh perspective and new ideas to Madison. Don't let them down.

Former President Gerald Ford, who passed away last week put it well: "A government big enough to give us everything we want is a government big enough to take from us everything we have."

As we head into this new legislative session we should bear these words in mind. The money we will debate spending during the next two years is not ours – it belongs to the people of Wisconsin. We must spend it wisely and sparingly. We must fight the temptation to be all things to all people. We must focus on key priorities and fund them using real dollars and abandon the past practice of using segregated funds as piggy banks to plug budget holes and duck tough choices.

It's time to get back to basics, to get our fiscal house in order and give the people of Wisconsin who have sent us here to serve a government they can be proud of once again.

We're ready to get to work and look forward to working together with the outer ring, our colleagues in the Assembly and the governor to do the job the people expect from us. I'm optimistic and excited for the next two years.

Thank you very much."

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

The joint committee on **Legislative Organization** reports and recommends:

Senate Joint Resolution 1

Relating to: the session schedule for the 2007-2008 biennial session period.

Introduction.

Ayes, 10 – Senators Risser, Robson, Hansen, S. Fitzgerald and Leibham; Representatives Huebsch, Fitzgerald, Gundrum, Kreuser, and Richards.

Noes, 0 – None.

FRED RISSER

Senate Chairperson

Considered as privileged and taken up.

Senate Joint Resolution 1

Relating to: the session schedule for the 2007-2008 biennial session period.

Introduced by the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization.

Read.

The question was: Shall **Senate Joint Resolution 1** be adopted?

The ayes and noes were required and the vote was: ayes, 33; noes, 0; absent or not voting, 0; as follows:

Ayes – Senators Breske, Carpenter, Coggs, Cowles, Darling, Decker, Ellis, Erpenbach, S. Fitzgerald, Grothman, Hansen, Harsdorf, Jauch, Kanavas, Kapanke, Kedzie, Kreitlow, A. Lasee, Lassa, Lazich, Lehman, Leibham, Miller, Olsen, Plale, Risser, Robson, Roessler, Schultz, Sullivan, Taylor, Vinehout and Wirch – 33.

Noes – None.

Absent or not voting – None.

Adopted.

Senator Robson, with unanimous consent, asked that all action be immediately messaged to the Assembly.

Messaged.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Secretary of State

December 11, 2006

The Honorable, The Senate:

I, DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the following proposed amendments to the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin have been approved by the regular session of the 2005-2006 legislature and duly published as required by Section 1 of **Article XII** of the Constitution:

Enrolled Joint Resolution 2 (second consideration)

Enrolled Joint Resolution 30 (second consideration)

Enrolled Joint Resolution 39 (first consideration)

Enrolled Joint Resolution 40 (first consideration)

Enrolled Joint Resolution 46 (first consideration)

Sincerely,
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
 Secretary of State

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADJOURNMENT
 HONORS AND REMARKS UNDER SPECIAL
 PRIVILEGE**

Senator Erpenbach, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2007 inaugural; his parents Bill and Liz Erpenbach, and his kids Joey and Amy Erpenbach.

Senator Erpenbach, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourn, it do so in honor his children, Joey and Amy.

Senator Hansen, with unanimous consent, introduced his guest attending the 2007 inaugural; his wife Jane Hansen.

Senator Hansen, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourn, it do so in honor of his mother, Clare Hansen, who passed away in October.

Senator Jauch, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourn, it do so in honor of his wife Cecelia Jauch of Poplar, their two children, Jessica of Otsego, Minnesota and Christopher of Poplar, his mother Janet Jauch of Lac du Flambeau, his mother-in-law Irene Buraglio of Park Falls, his sister Sue Allen and her family of Glen Ellyn, Illinois, his aunt Harriette Jauch of Vernon Hills, Illinois, his cousin Tom and Tom's wife and children Jeanette, Katie and Tommy Jauch of Wauconda, Illinois, and his cousin Judge Richard Jauch and Richard's wife and children Marilyn, Stephanie and Krista of Castle Rock, Colorado.

Senator Kanavas, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2007 inaugural; his wife Mary, and two of his three kids--Nick and Kate, and his mother Min Kanavas.

Senator Kedzie, with unanimous consent, introduced his guest attending the 2007 inaugural; his wife Kerrie Kedzie.

Senator Kreitlow, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2007 inaugural; Wife, Sharry Kreitlow, Daughters, Chelsea and Samantha, 4 month old grandson Mason Patrick Kreitlow, Mother, Joan Kreitlow, and Sister, Steph Keenan.

Senator Lasee, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2007 inaugural; his wife Jan Lasee, Daughter Polly, and her fiancé Mike Tulachka.

Senator Lehman, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2007 inaugural; Cathie Lehman, Rachel, Michael, Lloyd and Leah Stohler, Catherine, Dave and Henry Saaskie, Mark and Gail Lehman, Linda Stege, Julie, Colin and Cameron McKenna, Rich and Jane Hinderholtz, Mike Goebel, and John Heckenlively.

Senator Leibham, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2007 inaugural; his wife, Heather Leibham, his parents, Ken and Sue Leibham, his in-laws, Cliff and Joan Hanson, his brother, Pete Leibham, and his wife's aunt, Margaret Lodl.

Senator Miller, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2007 inaugural; Nancy, Jason and Toby Goodden, Edward and Thale Varana, Josephine Oyama-Miller, Maiko Tomino, Becca Farley, Beth Bier, and Kelly Bowles.

Senator Plale, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2007 inaugural; Donald Plale, Josephine Plale, Joey Plale, and Jack Plale.

Senator Risser, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2007 inaugural; his wife Nancy Risser, his daughter Sara Risser, and son-in-law Doug Falck.

Senator Robson, with unanimous consent, introduced her guests attending the 2007 inaugural; her sons, Marc Robson and Matt Robson and Matt's wife Linda, her daughter Beth McLaughlin and son-in-law Mike McLaughlin, all four of her grandchildren: David and Jesse McLaughlin, Kyla and Ryanne Robson, and Jane and Ben Stankewicz, her sister and brother-in-law. She is also joined by her special friend, John Kalkirtz along with other district friends including Dennis Murphy, Barb Seguin, Sandy Gold, Betty Magnus, Lou Chalk, Kaye Lillesand, Jim Joiner, John Graf, Kris and Ed Grutzner, Ruth Lindgren and Ruth's granddaughter Kristin Brunzell.

Senator Roessler, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourn, it do so in honor of Marcie Malszycki whose last day of working in my office was Tuesday, January 02, 2007 and today begins her tenure in state Representative Carol Owens office. We will miss Marcie's cheerful disposition and attention to her work. We wish her a great new beginning in our capitol this new year of 2007!

Senator Schultz, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2007 inaugural; Rachael, Katie, and Amanda Schultz.

Senator Taylor, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourn, it do so in honor of Majority Leader Judy Robson, the first Democratic woman to hold the position of Majority Leader.

Senator Taylor, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourn, it do so in honor of Kathleen Vinehout, the 21st woman to serve in the Wisconsin State Senate.

Senator Vinehout, with unanimous consent, introduced her guests attending the 2007 inaugural; James Dawson, Kathy Dawson, Mari Frenier, Alejandro Frenier, Ivan Frenier, Monica Frenier, Erika Frenier, Marlyce Froseth, Darcy Haber, Maria Henley, John Hibbard, Becky Kane, Cindy Kane, Douglas Kane, Jessica Kane, Norman Kane, Linda Kleinschmidt, Frank Kuhlman, Martha Kuhlman, Joanna Luchterhand, Ken Luchterhand, Bob Miller, Joel Nilsestuen, Douglas E. Smith, Elizabeth Roby, Emily Roby, Anna Roby, Lou Anne Roby, Terri Stanley, Jeremiah Vinehout, Kaleb Vinehout, Nathan Vinehout Kane, Kelly Vinehout, William H. Vinehout, Judith Whelan, and Andrew Werthman.

Senate Chief Clerk, Robert J. Marchant, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2007 inaugural; Amy, Evelyn and Matthew Marchant, and Judy and Wayne Roller.

Senate Sergeant at Arms Ted Blazel, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2007 inaugural; his wife Hanna Blazel, his sons Benjamin and William Blazel, his parents Robert and Mary Kay Blazel, and his in-laws Dale and Dotty Heinecke.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Robson, with unanimous consent, asked that the Senate adjourn until Tuesday, January 9, 2007, pursuant to Section 13.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Adjourned.

3:25 P.M.

MESSAGES FROM THE ASSEMBLY

By Patrick E. Fuller, chief clerk.

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform you that the Assembly is organized and ready to proceed to the business of the 2007-2008 session.

Concurred in:

Senate Joint Resolution 1