

# State of Wisconsin



1997 Assembly Joint Resolution 83

---

## ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION

---

**Relating to:** commemorating the life of James D. Selk.

Whereas, James D. Selk, a legendary Madison journalist, died on November 15, 1997; and

Whereas, he was born in Marshfield, Wisconsin, in 1934; served his country in the U.S. army; and graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1958; and

Whereas, in his days as chief political reporter for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, he earned a reputation for his wit, iconoclasm and ability to scoop the competition; and

Whereas, he evolved from beat reporter to pundit as editorial page writer for the *Wisconsin State Journal* and as editor, publisher and columnist for *Madison Magazine*; and

Whereas, thousands of loyal readers eagerly awaited his monthly column "Selk at Large" to see hapless politicians pilloried, trendy ideas trashed and conventional wisdom debunked; and

Whereas, he was gifted with a style that made his writing irresistible even to those few who would quarrel with his curmudgeonly musings; and

Whereas, in June 1997, always a lover of the printed word, he concluded his final column thus: "So this is how it ends. Not with a bang, but with a little tiny dot called a period."; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That** the members of the Wisconsin legislature commemorate the life and mourn the death of James D. Selk and extend their sympathy to his family, colleagues and many friends who will miss him dearly; and, be it further

**Resolved, That** the assembly chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint resolution to his children; Jennifer, Mark and Michelle; and shall display a copy in a fitting manner in the press room of the state capitol.

---

Senator Fred Risser  
President of the Senate

---

Representative Scott R. Jensen  
Speaker of the Assembly

---

Date

---

Charles R. Sanders  
Assembly Chief Clerk