



1995 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 34

April 5, 1995 - Introduced by Representatives La Fave, Gard, Lorge, Travis, Schneider, Porter, Baldus, Prosser, Baumgart, Hasenohrl and Rutkowski; cosponsored by Senators Drzewiecki, Ellis, Risser, Andrea, A. Lasee, Plewa and C. Potter.

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of Reuben La Fave.

2 Whereas, Reuben R. La Fave was born in the town of Lena in Oconto County
3 on September 27, 1915, and died in Portage on March 12, 1995; and

4 Whereas, Reuben La Fave graduated from Oconto High School; and

5 Whereas, Mr. La Fave served in the Coast Guard Reserve during World War II,
6 was a member of the Oconto County Board for 9 years, was a member of many civic
7 and benevolent organizations, was a social worker and realtor and operated a
8 business in Oconto; and

9 Whereas, he was elected to the assembly in 1950 and served in that house until
10 1957 and was a member of the senate from 1957 to 1977; and

11 Whereas, Mr. La Fave's leadership abilities were recognized by his colleagues
12 in the assembly when he was named assistant floor leader, and he also served as
13 chair of the senate transportation committee; and

14 Whereas, in his position as chair of the Menominee Indian Committee, Mr. La
15 Fave was a strong advocate for the Menominees and other Indian tribes, and he was
16 instrumental in helping the Menominee Indian Tribe greatly improve its
17 infrastructure; and

1 Whereas, he was a co-chair of the joint survey committee on retirement
2 systems and of the retirement research council, in which positions he mastered the
3 intricacies of retirement law and policy; and

4 Whereas, he is recognized as one of Wisconsin's great leaders relative to state
5 public pension plans, and many of his initiatives toward providing equitable benefits
6 and the merger and consolidation of public pension plans were continued or
7 completed after his departure; and

8 Whereas, from his youth Reuben La Fave had a strong love and respect for the
9 outdoors; and

10 Whereas, at age 13, he was struck with polio and over several years time built
11 up his physical strength by taking long walks on crutches in the woods along the
12 shore of Lake Michigan; and

13 Whereas, Reuben La Fave was known for his tenacious and effective devotion
14 to conservation; as evidenced by his service as chair of the Sportsmen's Conservation
15 Congress, his being named "Mr. Conservation" in 1960, his receipt of the Milwaukee
16 Sentinel's first annual award for outstanding achievement in conservation in 1953,
17 his receipt of an award for conservation work from the Wisconsin Federation of
18 Women's Clubs, his service as president of the Northeast Conservation Council, his
19 service as a member and as chair of the assembly conservation committee and his
20 service as a member of the senate conservation committee; and

21 Whereas, conservation and wildlife organizations sought protected status for
22 the mourning dove for over a decade; and

23 Whereas, in 1971, Reuben La Fave authored the legislation resulting in
24 deleting the mourning dove from the definition of game bird and making it the
25 Wisconsin state symbol of peace; and

1 Whereas, in 1972 he was honored by nearly 1,000 persons in Marinette at an
2 appreciation dinner for his 25 years of public service; now, therefore, be it

3 ***Resolved by the assembly, the Senate concurring, That*** the members of the
4 Wisconsin legislature salute Reuben La Fave's many decades of effective and devoted
5 public service, in particular his advancement of the cause of conservation, express
6 their sorrow at his death and extend their condolences to his family and friends; and,
7 be it further

8 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint
9 resolution to Mr. La Fave's wife, Grace, and to his son, Gary.

10

(END)