

2003 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 46

September 25, 2003 - Introduced by Representative Musser, cosponsored by Senator Brown. Referred to Committee on Rules.

Relating to: commending outgoing Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary 1 2 Raymond G. Boland on his service to veterans and the state of Wisconsin. 3 Whereas, Raymond G. Boland was appointed Secretary of the Department of 4 Veterans Affairs in February of 1992; and 5 Whereas, Secretary Boland shortly thereafter organized a committee 6 comprised of representatives of the veterans community, legislators, and 7 department staff to study the needs of Wisconsin veterans over the following decade 8 and recommend changes to the agency's programs; and 9 Whereas, the department's Tuition and Fee Reimbursement Program grew out 10 of that study in 1993; and 11 Whereas, Secretary Boland participated in the dedication ceremony for the 12 Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison in June of 1993; and 13 Whereas, later that same year he oversaw the dedication ceremony for Ainsworth Hall at King Veterans Home, which expanded bed capacity, created a 14

1	Special Care Unit for persons with dementia, and replaced an aging residential
2	building; and
3	Whereas, in 1994 he established the Veterans Assistance Program in
4	partnership with the federal government and other agencies to provide
5	comprehensive services to thousands of homeless veterans; and
6	Whereas, he began implementation of the Troops to Teachers Program in 1995,
7	thereby enabling former soldiers with a baccalaureate degree to obtain teaching
8	certification at an accelerated pace; and
9	Whereas, he presided over the opening of the Southern Wisconsin Veterans
10	Memorial Cemetery at Union Grove in 1996; and
11	Whereas, that same year he created the Personal Loan Program to offer eligible
12	veterans a low-interest, long-term loan to meet household, business, and education
13	needs; and
14	Whereas, he received the American Veterans (AMVETS) Silver Helmet Award
15	as the Civil Servant of the Year in 1997; and
16	Whereas, he worked toward enactment of legislation in 1998 that allowed for
17	the creation of the state's 2nd veterans home on the grounds of the Southern
18	Wisconsin Center; and
19	Whereas, he was awarded the Department of the Army Distinguished Civilian
20	Service Medal that same year; and
21	Whereas, in 1999 he received the Melvin Dixon Award from the National
22	Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs; and
23	Whereas, he gained the authority in 2000 to coordinate and implement the
24	Wisconsin Military Funeral Honors Program; and

1	Whereas, that same year he instituted the Supermarket of Veterans Benefits,
2	a nationally recognized and award-winning program that assists veterans in
3	obtaining benefits owed them through a "one-stop shop" approach; and
4	Whereas, he served as President of the National Association of State Directors
5	of Veterans Affairs from 2001 to 2003; and
6	Whereas, he created the National Veterans Leadership Forum to establish and
7	implement uniform claims training, accreditation, and performance standards in
8	2002; and
9	Whereas, in 2003 he was appointed by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
10	Secretary Anthony Principi to serve on the federal Capital Asset Realignment for
11	Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission; and
12	Whereas, Secretary Boland's involvements, achievements, and honors are too
13	numerous to list here in their totality; now, therefore, be it
14	Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the Wisconsin
15	legislature congratulates Secretary Boland on his retirement from the department
16	and commends and thanks him for his long-standing and dedicated service to
17	veterans, the state of Wisconsin, and the United States of America; and, be it further
18	Resolved, That the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
19	resolution to outgoing Secretary Boland.
20	(END)