

State of Misconsin 2013 - 2014 LEGISLATURE



2013 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 105

February 20, 2014 - Introduced by Representatives Bewley and Milroy, cosponsored by Senator Jauch. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1	Relating to: honoring the life of Leo H. LaFernier Sr.
2	Whereas, Leo H. LaFernier was born May 9, 1933, in Red Cliff, Wisconsin, and
3	passed away on January 13, 2014, at the age of 80; and
4	Whereas, Leo LaFernier grew up on the Red Cliff Reservation, attended school
5	at St. Francis, and hunted and fished for subsistence; and
6	Whereas, Leo deeply respected nature and carried that respect and spirituality
7	with him in his advocacy for native people, native rights, and natural resources; and
8	Whereas, Leo served in the U.S. Air Force in 1950, sailed on ore boats, worked
9	in the oil industry, and, while working for Chicago Landscaping from 1959 to 1973,
10	started the Chicago Indian Village; and
11	Whereas, Leo returned to Red Cliff with his family in 1973, he was elected to
12	the Tribal Council in 1980, and in 1983 he was elected vice chair of the Red Cliff Band
13	of Lake Superior Chippewa, a position he held until 1998; and
14	Whereas, in 1989 Leo traveled to Germany as an ambassador with other tribal
15	members to teach Native American culture; and

Whereas, in 1985 Leo helped found the Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITF) and
was the representative for the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa on VITF
until his death; and
Whereas, during Leo's nearly 30 years serving on VITF he was instrumental in
securing affirmation and implementation of many court cases and
intergovernmental agreements, including providing testimony in Lac Courte
Oreilles v. Wisconsin in 1990; and
Whereas, Leo was a leader in efforts to protect natural resources and
ecosystems of ceded territory, including efforts to assess the potential impacts of
radioactive waste storage in the ceded territory and to create the Red Cliff Tribal
Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Committee in 2005; and
Whereas, "Uncle Leo," as he was affectionately known, was a leader, mentor,
and advisor to his colleagues and was an ogichidaa, protector of the community; and
Whereas, Leo H. LaFernier was the loving husband of Shirley until her passing
in 2011 and the beloved father of Lois, Debra, Leo Jr., Theresa, Eugene, Richard,
Sherri, Gerri, Misty, and Cindy; now, therefore, be it
Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring. That the members of the

Wisconsin legislature commend the life and service of Leo H. LaFernier Sr., mourn his passing, and extend their condolences to his family and friends.

20 (END)