



2013 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 49

September 13, 2013 - Introduced by Senators GROTHMAN, DARLING, CARPENTER, ERPENBACH, SCHULTZ, COWLES, L. TAYLOR, LEHMAN, HANSEN, T. CULLEN, VINEHOUT, SHILLING and LASSA, cosponsored by Representatives STRACHOTA, THIESFELDT, BORN, KAHL, KERKMAN, KESTELL, PRIDEMORE, SANFELIPPO, DANOU, POPE, GOYKE, A. OTT, RINGHAND, KESSLER, BIES, VRUWINK, MARKLEIN, STONE, HINTZ, BROOKS, MURPHY, PETERSEN, MURTHA, BERCEAU, SCHRAA, KOOYENGA, HUTTON, KAPENGA, TITTL, JORGENSEN and KNODL. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** the Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission.

2 Whereas, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, under the direction of the
3 Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, has organized the Wisconsin Civil War
4 Sesquicentennial Commission, also known as the “150th Commission,” to honor the
5 legacy of Wisconsin’s service and sacrifice in the Civil War; and

6 Whereas, on April 16, 1861, a day after President Lincoln issued his Civil War
7 proclamation entreating for a militia, Governor Randall called for volunteers to
8 comprise the 1st Wisconsin regiment; and

9 Whereas, despite Governor Randall’s lobbying on behalf of the enthusiastic
10 volunteers in the spring of 1861, the U.S. War Department would accept no more
11 than a single regiment of 10 companies from Wisconsin with 78 men each; and

12 Whereas, Wisconsin would eventually rank fifth in the number of soldiers sent
13 to war even though it was one of the least populous Northern states; and

14 Whereas, the wives and children of those soldiers were left behind to care for
15 farms and businesses as well as the many wounded and ill soldiers who returned; and

1 Whereas, of the 91,327 Wisconsin soldiers enlisted, 12,301 died in battle, and
2 thousands more were wounded or confined in Southern military prisons; and

3 Whereas, Wisconsin was the only state to organize replacements for troops that
4 had already been fielded; and

5 Whereas, Wisconsin soldiers served in every Southern state except Florida; and

6 Whereas, the 2nd, 6th, and 7th Regiments of the famed Iron Brigade, noted for
7 their strong discipline, their unique uniform appearance, and their tenacious
8 fighting ability, were composed of young men from Wisconsin; and

9 Whereas, the Iron Brigade “stood like iron” in the face of withering enemy fire,
10 thus suffering the highest percentage of casualties of any brigade in the war; and

11 Whereas, Lieutenant Alonzo H. Cushing, a native of Delafield, is worthy of the
12 Medal of Honor for sacrificing his life in his command of Battery A, 4th U.S. Artillery,
13 at Gettysburg against Pickett’s Charge; and

14 Whereas, in the fall of 1864, Navy Lieutenant William Cushing of Delafield led
15 a daring and successful night raid against the Confederate ironclad warship
16 *Albemarle*; and

17 Whereas, Sergeant Francis Jefferson Coates of the 7th Wisconsin Volunteer
18 Infantry of the Iron Brigade was one of the 64 Union soldiers to receive the Medal
19 of Honor for his actions during the Battle of Gettysburg, in which he displayed
20 “unsurpassed courage in battle, where he had both his eyes shot out”; and

21 Whereas, Hans Christian Heg, an outspoken antislavery activist and the
22 highest-ranked Wisconsin soldier to be killed in combat, gave his life leading the 3rd
23 Brigade of the 1st Division in the Battle of Chickamauga, a battle with the
24 second-highest number of war casualties; and

1 Whereas, Cordelia Harvey, widow of Wisconsin Governor Louis Harvey,
2 successfully built three military hospitals in the state after entreating President
3 Lincoln for his consent; and

4 Whereas, at war's end, Cordelia Harvey, nicknamed "The Wisconsin Angel,"
5 converted the Harvey hospital into the home of nearly 700 orphans whose family
6 members died in the war; and

7 Whereas, in the midst of the war, Wisconsin's two iconic industries, beer
8 brewing and cheesemaking, were instituted; and

9 Whereas, Wisconsin's German-immigrant soldiers would offer their favorite
10 drink to their new Yankee compatriots; and

11 Whereas, during the span of the war, the first 30 cheesemaking factories were
12 erected in Wisconsin to supply the soldiers at the front with an easily imported food;
13 and

14 Whereas, the 150th Commission will serve to coordinate the efforts by
15 Wisconsin's museums, libraries, schools and universities, historical societies,
16 veterans' organizations, and citizens to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the
17 Civil War; now, therefore, be it

18 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the Wisconsin state
19 legislature, on this day, September 19, 2013, the 150th anniversary of the Battle of
20 Chickamauga, honors the Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and
21 joins it in humbly commending the sacrifice, courage, and dedication demonstrated
22 by the soldiers and citizens of Wisconsin, men and women who pledged their lives
23 and fortunes, shedding their blood to defend the integrity of the Union.

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(END)