



2021 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 139

February 16, 2022 - Introduced by Representatives PETERSEN, DITTRICH, DRAKE, HINTZ, KRUG, MACCO, MURPHY, MURSAU, SINICKI, THIESFELDT, VOS and VRUWINK, cosponsored by Senators BALLWEG, MARKLEIN, CARPENTER and TESTIN. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** honoring the life and public service of Senator Joseph Leean.

2 Whereas, Senator Joseph “Joe” Leean, a public servant and dedicated husband,
3 father, and grandfather, passed away on February 2, 2022; and

4 Whereas, Senator Leean was born to Sidney and Marie Leean on March 10,
5 1942, and was raised in Iola, Wisconsin, graduating from Iola High School as
6 salutatorian in 1960; and

7 Whereas, Senator Leean earned his bachelor’s degree from Augustana College
8 in 1964 and went on to do graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison
9 and Western Michigan University. Shortly thereafter, he began teaching high school
10 math and physics in Waupaca; and

11 Whereas, Senator Leean spent his summers working at Ding’s Dock until he
12 purchased the business in 1973; he later purchased and renovated the boat now
13 known as *Chief Waupaca*, fulfilling his dream of bringing a unique tour boat to the
14 Waupaca Chain O’ Lakes; and

1 Whereas, Senator Leean embarked upon many other business ventures,
2 including expanding the Ponderosa into Fort Waupaca, creating a petting zoo
3 themed park, and cofounding Shepherd of the Lakes Church with other business
4 leaders in his community; and

5 Whereas, for over 20 years, Senator Leean served as president of the Chain O'
6 Lakes Sanitary District, which developed the sewer system that has kept the lakes
7 he loved crystal clear; and

8 Whereas, after a long career in business, in 1984, Senator Leean was elected
9 to represent the people of the 14th Senate District, which he went on to serve for 10
10 years, until 1995; and

11 Whereas, during his tenure in the legislature, Senator Leean served with
12 expertise on various committees, including the Joint Committee on Finance, which
13 he co-chaired for several years; and

14 Whereas, Senator Leean left elected office to serve as secretary of the Wisconsin
15 Department of Health and Family Services for six years, during which time he was
16 instrumental in the creation of BadgerCare; and

17 Whereas, Senator Leean subsequently served as a consultant to U.S.
18 Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson in
19 Washington, D.C.; and

20 Whereas, after 20 years in public service, Senator Leean spent the next two
21 decades traveling, spending time with his family, building things in his workshop,
22 and taking evening dinner cruises with his wife and family on the *Senate Chambers*
23 paddle wheel boat; and

