



2003 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 46

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

1 **Relating to:** commending outgoing Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary
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
14 Ainsworth Hall at King Veterans Home, which expanded bed capacity, created a

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

