



2003 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 67

February 19, 2004 - Introduced by Representatives YOUNG, TAYLOR, HEBL, BOYLE, SCHNEIDER, SINICKI, KRUG, TURNER, MORRIS, TRAVIS, PLOUFF, LOTHIAN, GRONEMUS, POCAN, GUNDERSON, JESKEWITZ, MUSSER, D. MEYER, W. WOOD, HAHN, CULLEN, OTT, M. LEHMAN, BLACK, ZEPNICK, ALBERS, OLSEN, BERCEAU, BIES, VAN AKKEREN, KAUFERT, MILLER, TOLES, VRUWINK, KESTELL and A. WILLIAMS, cosponsored by Senators COGGS, MOORE, HANSEN, CARPENTER, ROBSON, RISSER, DECKER, KANAVAS, CHVALA, ERPENBACH, PLALE, ROESSLER and LASSA. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of Marcia P. Coggs.

2 Whereas, Marcia P. Coggs was born on April 5, 1928, in Kansas City, Kansas,
3 and died on December 9, 2003, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and

4 Whereas, she married Isaac Newton Coggs in 1952, who preceded her in death
5 in 1973; and

6 Whereas, Mrs. Coggs was first elected to the Wisconsin assembly in 1976,
7 serving in the 1977 through 1991 sessions; and

8 Whereas, she followed in the footsteps of her husband, who was one of the first
9 African-Americans elected to the Wisconsin legislature (serving 12 years in the
10 assembly); and

11 Whereas, Mrs. Coggs was the first black woman elected to the Wisconsin
12 legislature; and

13 Whereas, during her tenure in the legislature, Mrs. Coggs was a member on the
14 joint committee on finance; and

1 Whereas, she took great pride in initiating a bill to limit the tenure of the City
2 of Milwaukee police and fire chiefs; and

3 Whereas, she also introduced bills to allow nonvoters to file complaints against
4 police and to permit juveniles to make restitution instead of going to jail; and

5 Whereas, she introduced legislation focused on civil rights, including
6 protesting apartheid in South Africa and calling for divestiture of state funds in that
7 country; and

8 Whereas, she believed perseverance in addressing injustices such as apartheid
9 would bring change; and

10 Whereas, she declared, “It takes the black and white keys of the piano to play
11 ‘The Star-Spangled Banner’ You can’t do it with all white or all black”; and

12 Whereas, by the end of her tenure in the legislature, she was called the
13 “Conscience of the State of Wisconsin”; and

14 Whereas, she will be remembered as being “small in physical stature, but a
15 giant in terms of her impact”; and

16 Whereas, over the years, she received many honors, including being named
17 Queen Mother of the African World Festival in 2001; and

18 Whereas, she was the matriarch of her family and she was also the matriarch
19 of a political legacy; now, therefore, be it

20 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
21 Wisconsin legislature commend the devoted public service that Marcia P. Coggs
22 contributed to this state and her community, express their sorrow at her death, and
23 extend their condolences to her family and friends; and, be it further

24 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint
25 resolution to Mrs. Coggs’ daughter, Milwaukee County Supervisor Elizabeth

1 Coggs-Jones, and her nephews, State Senator Spencer Coggs, State Representative

2 Leon D. Young, Harold C. Young III, and Eric Young.

3 (END)