



2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 95

November 3, 2009 – Introduced by Representatives MASON, TURNER, VOS, KERKMAN, BARCA, HINTZ, SHERMAN and ZEPNICK, cosponsored by Senators LEHMAN, MILLER, TAYLOR and LASSA. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** commemorating the City of Racine’s Demisemiseptcentennial (175th
2 Anniversary).

3 Whereas, the City of Racine was established as a permanent settlement in
4 November of 1834; and

5 Whereas, the settlement now known as the City of Racine was proclaimed Port
6 Gilbert by Captain Gilbert Knapp, who later became the first representative to the
7 Wisconsin territorial legislature from the Racine area; and

8 Whereas, this area had been previously settled by the Potawatomi Nation who
9 called the river and its surrounding area Kipikawi; and

10 Whereas, this area had been visited by French Voyageurs in 1679; and

11 Whereas, the Racine area was once the site of a fur trading post on a trail
12 running between Chicago and Green Bay, with French fur traders Vieaux and Kinzie
13 trading with the Potawatomi; and

1 Whereas, the river for which Racine is known has always been called the “Root”
2 in at least three languages: the “Kipikawi” in Potawatomi, the “Racine” in French,
3 and the “Root” in English; and

4 Whereas, the Horlick Dam was established on the rapids of the Root River,
5 bringing early industry and prosperity to the community; and

6 Whereas, Racine was also called the “Belle City of the Great Lakes,” from the
7 French word “belle” meaning beautiful; and

8 Whereas, the DeKoven Center has long been a landmark in the Racine
9 Community, first opening its doors as Racine College, affiliated with the Episcopal
10 Church, in 1852, and to this day its Gothic architecture still graces Racine’s
11 lakefront; and

12 Whereas, Racine High School graduated the first high school class in the state
13 of Wisconsin in 1857; and

14 Whereas, well before the Civil War, Racine was known for its strong opposition
15 to slavery, with many slaves escaping to freedom via the Underground Railroad
16 passing through the city; and

17 Whereas, the Racine community demonstrated this strong opposition to
18 slavery and to the Fugitive Slave Act by breaking into jail to free Joshua Glover, an
19 escaped slave who had made his home in Racine and who, after being liberated by
20 Racine’s abolitionists, found his way to Canada and freedom; and

21 Whereas, Olympia Brown, who in 1863 became the first ordained female
22 minister in the United States, served as the minister at Racine’s Good Shepherd
23 Universalist Church, today known as the Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist
24 Church; and

1 Whereas, Paul P. Harris, born in Racine in 1868, founded Rotary International,
2 the world’s first and most international service organization; and

3 Whereas, the lighthouse at Wind Point has guided ships into the Racine Harbor
4 since 1880, ensuring the safe passage of ships into what was once the fifth largest
5 port on all the Great Lakes; and

6 Whereas, the Racine community is and has been home to inventors and
7 innovators; explorers and astronauts; and tradespeople and risk-takers; and

8 Whereas, malted flavoring was invented in 1873 by Racine’s James and
9 William Horlick; and

10 Whereas, the Racine community is or has been home to innovative businesses
11 such as the J.I. Case Company, SC Johnson Wax, Horlick’s Malted Milk Company,
12 Gold Medal Folding Furniture, Western Publishing, Hamilton Beach, Oster, Massey
13 Ferguson, Jacobsen, Andis, Modine, Twin Disc, In-Sink-Erator and countless other
14 manufacturers, global and local, whose products have been dispersed around the
15 globe; and

16 Whereas, organized labor remains highly influential in Racine due to the city’s
17 heavy concentration and diversity of industry, and has been largely responsible for
18 improving the lives and working conditions of the community’s residents; and

19 Whereas, Racine became known as the “Small Engine Capital of the World” and
20 the term “Made in Racine” has become a mark of excellence known all over the world;
21 and

22 Whereas, Racine’s J.I. Case was a member of the state legislature from
23 1865–66, where he was so inspired by the bald eagle named Old Abe, whose battle
24 cry inspired Wisconsin’s brave Civil War soldiers, that he made the bald eagle the
25 Case Corporation mascot; and

1 Whereas, the Racine community encompasses the breadth of Frank Lloyd
2 Wright’s career, most famously embodied by the SC Johnson administrative
3 building, built in 1936, which includes Wright’s “Great Workroom”; and

4 Whereas, Racine was home to the Racine Belles, one of the nation’s only
5 women’s professional baseball teams and the winner of the league’s first
6 championship in 1943; and

7 Whereas, Racine has been home to a minor league football team, the Racine
8 Raiders, since 1953; and

9 Whereas, Racine has grown as a diverse community, enriched by the
10 contributions of successive immigrant populations, celebrated through annual
11 festivals such as Italian Fest, Armenian Fest, Greek Fest, Bohemian Fest, Serbian
12 Fest, and Mexican Fiesta; and

13 Whereas, Racine has long had a strong and vibrant African American
14 community, featuring leaders such as Corinne Owens, who founded the Racine
15 chapter of the NAACP; and

16 Whereas, Racine has a large Danish population with many bakeries in the area,
17 most famously known for their delicious pastry, Kringle; and

18 Whereas, the people of the Racine Community have the good sense to refer to
19 a water fountain as a Bubbler; and

20 Whereas, Racine’s Fourth of July parade is the Midwest’s largest, attracting
21 over 100,000 people annually; and

22 Whereas, Racine has a long and patriotic tradition of defending our country
23 through military service, with Racine veterans fighting in every war from the
24 Revolutionary War through current U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

1 Whereas, Racine has enjoyed many contributions from the Racine Dominican
2 Sisters, including St. Catherine’s High School, the Dominican College of Racine, and
3 most recently, the Racine Eco–Justice Center; and

4 Whereas, Racine Technical College, now known as Gateway Technical College,
5 was the nation’s first publicly supported technical institute, founded in 1911; and

6 Whereas, since 1923, Racine has been home to the Racine Zoo, first at Island
7 Park and then at its current location on the shores of Lake Michigan; and

8 Whereas, the Racine Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1932, is the oldest
9 continually operating symphony in Wisconsin; and

10 Whereas, Jens Jensen, internationally renowned landscape architect, designed
11 many of Racine’s parks and public green spaces; and

12 Whereas, in 1987, the new Racine harbor and marina was dedicated, turning
13 a declining downtown area into a vital, attractive harbor complex, attracting
14 tourism, convention, and civic and business activity; and

15 Whereas, Racine is home to North Beach, the cleanest beach on all the Great
16 Lakes and the first to receive the Blue Wave Clean Beach designation; and

17 Whereas, the Racine Heritage Museum is home to more than 200,000 objects
18 and more than 6,500 linear feet of archival material that documents the wonderful
19 story of Racine; and

20 Whereas, the City of Racine’s accomplishments, leaders, and contributions are
21 far too numerous to list in full and the above–mentioned list represents only a partial
22 enumeration of Racine’s first 175 years of progress, innovations, and historical
23 markers; now, therefore, be it

24 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
25 Wisconsin legislature commemorate the Demisemiseptcentennial (175th

1 Anniversary) of the founding of Racine, Wisconsin, and acknowledge the
2 community's extraordinary contributions to the State of Wisconsin.

3 (END)