



2009 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 43

July 6, 2009 – Introduced by Senators ERPENBACH, MILLER, HOLPERIN, CARPENTER, VINEHOUT, A. LASEE, RISSER, TAYLOR and LEHMAN, cosponsored by Representatives POPE-ROBERTS, BERCEAU, KESSLER, HINTZ, SINICKI, HEBL, MILROY, BLACK, VRUWINK, ROYS, PASCH, BENEDICT, HILGENBERG, STEINBRINK, CULLEN, TURNER, RICHARDS, BERNARD SCHABER, MASON, POCAN, JORGENSEN and TOWNSEND. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of Linda Farley.

2 Whereas, Linda Farley, a lifelong advocate and champion of health care reform,
3 passed away at the age of 80 on Tuesday, June 9, 2009; and

4 Whereas, as a young girl growing up in a working class neighborhood in
5 Rochester, New York, Linda cultivated her ambition to improve the health care field
6 by becoming a doctor while reading novels about the heroic work of doctors in
7 Appalachia; and

8 Whereas, in order to realize her dream, Linda worked for Eastman Kodak, and
9 later as a nurse's aide, so that she could afford her medical school tuition at the
10 University of Rochester in New York, where she met her husband Gene; and

11 Whereas, after graduating medical school, Linda began her career with an
12 internship at the University of Colorado, Denver General Hospital, a mostly
13 inner-city facility that served many poor and uninsured, followed by a two-year
14 period working on a Navajo reservation, a brief stint training nurses in Jamaica with
15 her husband, and a return to her native state and the Denver area to practice rural

1 medicine before she finally settled in the Madison area to practice, teach at the
2 University of Wisconsin–Madison, and continue her advocacy; and

3 Whereas, Linda credits her time on the Navajo reservation with the
4 development of her philosophy and attitude toward the medicinal field, which
5 cultivated in her a greater understanding of community and cross-cultural
6 medicine; and

7 Whereas, at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, Linda served as an
8 assistant professor and later as an emeritus assistant professor in Family Health
9 and was awarded for the impact she had in this capacity with the Society of Teachers
10 of Family Medicine Task Force Appreciation Award in 1993, the Wisconsin State
11 Medical Society Physician Citizen of the Year in 1995, and the American Academy
12 of Family Physicians President’s Award in 2001; and

13 Whereas, Linda will be known best for her dedication and advocacy for health
14 care reform and her desire to bring this message to the people by sharing, with her
15 pleasant and level-headed demeanor, her intimate knowledge of the medical field;
16 and

17 Whereas, it was for this work that a few years ago, Congresswoman Tammy
18 Baldwin nominated Linda to be honored as part of the National Library of Medicine’s
19 Local Legends program, describing her as Wisconsin’s passionate crusader for health
20 care reform; and

21 Whereas, Linda, almost always accompanied by her husband Gene, built a
22 network of followers that believed in her dream of a single-payer health care system
23 which eventually changed the dynamics of health care politics in the Dane County
24 area; and

