



## 2009 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 28

April 22, 2010 – Introduced by Representatives SINICKI, RICHARDS, DANOU, SHERMAN, PASCH, KESSLER, BENEDICT, BERCEAU, MASON, RADCLIFFE, SMITH, BERNARD SCHABER, SCHNEIDER, TOLES, SHILLING, NELSON, BARCA, HEBL, SHERIDAN and CLARK. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1     **Relating to:** commemorating the Bay View labor strike and massacre.

2             Whereas, Wisconsin workers and reformers made important contributions to  
3     the history of labor in the United States, helping to enact legislation such as Worker’s  
4     Compensation and Unemployment Insurance, models which, in turn, were adopted  
5     by other states; and

6             Whereas, the study of labor history itself also began in Wisconsin, when  
7     University of Wisconsin economist John R. Commons set out to document the history  
8     of work and labor in America at the turn of the twentieth century; and

9             Whereas, in the 1880s workers in Milwaukee began to advocate for the  
10    eight-hour workday, which we now take for granted; and

11            Whereas, until that time workers generally labored at physically punishing  
12    jobs for many hours each day; and

13            Whereas, on May 1, 1886, a national campaign to require that all employers  
14    adopt a standard eight-hour day culminated when workers’ unions urged all  
15    American workers to cease labor until their employers met the demand; and

1           Whereas, in Milwaukee, civil parades and demonstrations followed as striking  
2 workers shut down factories peaceably and without violence during the first five  
3 days of May 1886; and

4           Whereas, the morning of May 2nd revealed the turmoil among Milwaukee's  
5 laborers, as more than a dozen strikes had begun in the city, involving the carpenters,  
6 coal heavers, sewer diggers, iron moulders, teamsters, common laborers, and other  
7 workmen striking for better pay; and

8           Whereas, during this period, the good citizens of Milwaukee began to receive  
9 word of the bloody conflict in Chicago's Haymarket Square, where police had killed  
10 demonstrators; and

11           Whereas, news of the bloodshed at Haymarket Square elevated tensions among  
12 the citizenry of Milwaukee and many of Milwaukee's workers and businessmen  
13 began to prepare for armed confrontation; and

14           Whereas, the last grand factory to remain open was the North Chicago Railroad  
15 Rolling Mills Steel Foundry, in Bay View; and

16           Whereas on May 5th, a crowd of demonstrators went to the rolling mill to enjoin  
17 the workers to participate in the general strike; and

18           Whereas, the assemblage of striking workers was fired upon by National Guard  
19 forces, under the order of Governor Jeremiah Rusk, killing five people and wounding  
20 four; and

21           Whereas, the events of that day will remain in the historic and cultural legacy  
22 of Wisconsin forever, serving as a reminder of the sacrifices our forebearers made so  
23 that we might lead happier, more prosperous lives; now, therefore, be it

