

1999 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 37

March 18, 1999 – Introduced by Representatives JOHNSRUD and BLACK. Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Resources and Campaign Finance Reform.

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of Carroll D. “Buzz” Besadny.

2 Whereas, Buzz Besadny was born on August 9, 1929, in Kewaunee, Wisconsin,
3 and died on March 16, 1999, in Madison, Wisconsin; and

4 Whereas, he graduated from the University of Wisconsin–Madison with a B.S.
5 degree in Biology in 1951 and an M.S. degree in Wildlife Management in 1956; and

6 Whereas, he began his public career in 1952 as a conservation aide in the
7 Wisconsin Conservation Department and devoted 42 years of his life to that agency
8 and its successor the Wisconsin department of natural resources (DNR); and

9 Whereas, he was appointed as Secretary of Natural Resources in 1980 and
10 served in that capacity for 12 years, earning the respect of the 3 governors that he
11 served, until his retirement in January 1993; and

12 Whereas, as DNR Secretary he provided the leadership for a number of
13 historical environmental initiatives including the Wisconsin Acid Rain Law and
14 Lakes Protection Program, recycling, groundwater protection, meeting the “fishable
15 and swimmable” standards of the federal Clean Water Act, the tax form checkoff for

1 the Endangered Resources Fund, the Wisconsin Stewardship Program, and
2 numerous wildlife management programs; and

3 Whereas, as DNR Secretary he supervised the purchase of hundreds of
4 thousands of acres of Wisconsin countryside, including the Chippewa Flowage, for
5 the immediate and future use and enjoyment of all Wisconsin residents and visitors
6 to the state; and

7 Whereas, he served as President of the International Association of Fish and
8 Wildlife Agencies (1983–84), President of the Wildlife Society (1974–75), member of
9 the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation Board of Directors, and Commissioner
10 of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission (appointed in 1990); and

11 Whereas, he received numerous awards for his work in the conservation and
12 environmental fields including the Seth Gordon Award of the International
13 Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (1986), Environmentalist of the Year from
14 the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point
15 (1986), First Centennial Award of the College of Letters and Science at the
16 University of Wisconsin–Madison (1989), the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Special
17 Service Award, and the Wisconsin Idea Award in Natural Resources Policy (1997);
18 and

19 Whereas, the DNR named a salmon and migratory trout egg-collecting facility
20 in Kewaunee after him in 1993, and the Wisconsin Environmental Working Group
21 and Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce instituted a conservation scholarship
22 in his honor in 1994; and

23 Whereas, he was an avid fisherman and a Ruling Elder in the United
24 Presbyterian Church; and

