

1999 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of Robert W. Warren.

2 Whereas, Robert W. Warren was born on August 30, 1925, in Raton, New
3 Mexico, and died on August 20, 1998, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and

4 Whereas, Mr. Warren lived in several Wisconsin communities as he was
5 growing up, graduated from Sturgeon Bay High School as 1943 class valedictorian
6 and was a wrestling champion; and

7 Whereas, he served in the U.S. Army Infantry from 1943 to 1946, was seriously
8 wounded in France in 1944 and was a member of the Military Order of the Purple
9 Heart; and

10 Whereas, he received a bachelor's degree in economics from Macalester College,
11 St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1950, graduating magna cum laude, received a master's
12 degree in public administration at the University of Minnesota in 1951 and served
13 as a foreign service officer in the U.S. Department of State from 1951 to 1953; and

1 Whereas, he returned to Wisconsin and received his law degree at the
2 University of Wisconsin in 1956 and set up private practices in Elkhorn and Green
3 Bay from 1956 to 1959; and

4 Whereas, he served Brown County as an assistant district attorney from 1959
5 to 1960 and as district attorney from 1960 to 1964; and

6 Whereas, he was elected to the Wisconsin senate as a republican in 1964, served
7 one 4–year term and was selected as assistant majority leader of the senate in 1967;
8 and

9 Whereas, he was elected to a 2–year term as attorney general of Wisconsin in
10 1968 and reelected to a 4–year term in 1970; and

11 Whereas, as attorney general he successfully advocated legislation that
12 increased the attorney general’s ability to combat organized crime and drug dealing,
13 established an office of consumer protection in the department of justice and was
14 particularly proud of the department of justice’s cooperation with local law
15 enforcement during his tenure in office; and

16 Whereas, he was appointed U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of
17 Wisconsin in August 1974, and was appointed chief judge of the Eastern District in
18 1986 and served in that capacity until he went on senior status in 1991; and

19 Whereas, he earned a reputation from other judges and practicing attorneys as
20 a no–nonsense judge who was knowledgeable in the law and who had an “incredible
21 sense of fairness”; and

22 Whereas, he continued to hear cases as a senior judge into the summer of 1998,
23 a few months before his death; now, therefore, be it

24 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the
25 Wisconsin legislature commend the devoted public service that Robert W. Warren

1 gave to this state and to the federal judiciary, express their sorrow at his death and
2 extend condolences to his family and friends; and, be it further

3 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint
4 resolution to Mr. Warren's wife, Laverne; to his sons, Iver, Gregg and Lyle; and to his
5 daughters, Cheryl, Treva and Tara.

6 (END)