

2001 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 21

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of Ben Marcus.

2 Whereas, Ben Marcus was born in Stolpce, Poland, on August 10, 1911, and died
3 in Fox Point, Wisconsin, on December 25, 2000; and

4 Whereas, Ben Marcus immigrated to America in 1925, quickly learned the
5 English language, finished high school in just one and one-half year, and began his
6 career at the Minneapolis Journal working in the circulation and advertising
7 departments; and

8 Whereas, Ben Marcus at age 24 opened his first theater, the Campus Theater,
9 in Ripon, Wisconsin, on November 1, 1935; and

10 Whereas, Ben Marcus, founder of the Marcus Corporation, through hard work,
11 effort, and determination expanded the business from its humble beginnings to
12 become the 15th largest theater chain in the United States, as well as the owner and
13 operator of over 200 motels, restaurants, and resorts throughout the nation; and

1 Whereas, Ben Marcus' commitment to his family and business were matched
2 only by his caring generosity towards the people of Milwaukee and to his faith and
3 heritage; and

4 Whereas, Ben Marcus gave freely of his time and talents to serve as the
5 chairman of the board of Mount Sinai Hospital, playing a critical role in its growth
6 and development into the Sinai Samaritan Medical Center, and founded the Variety
7 Club Children's Charities of Wisconsin; and

8 Whereas, Ben Marcus has shown a strong commitment to the performing arts
9 through his philanthropic support for construction of the Marcus Amphitheater and
10 the renovation of the Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, subsequently named the
11 Ben and Celia Marcus Center for the Performing Arts; and

12 Whereas, these 2 venues for the fine arts will serve as lasting memories and
13 tributes to Ben Marcus' dedication to the cultural and artistic needs of the
14 community; and

15 Whereas, Ben Marcus' love for America led him to join with other civic and
16 business leaders throughout this great nation to restore the Statue of Liberty and
17 Ellis Island; and

18 Whereas, Ben Marcus' support and commitment to his Jewish faith and
19 heritage both here and abroad earned him Israel's Prime Minister Medal, the highest
20 honor awarded to foreigners, and the State of Israel Humanitarian Award; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
23 Wisconsin legislature salute the life and public service of Ben Marcus and mourn his
24 passing; and, be it further

1 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
2 resolution to Ben's son, Stephen, and daughter, Diane.

3 **(END)**