

2001 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 36

February 22, 2001 – Introduced by Representatives LIPPERT, LADWIG, STARZYK, VRAKAS, JENSEN, WASSERMAN, UNDERHEIM, McCORMICK, GUNDERSON, RYBA, WADE, RHOADES, SHILLING, GRONEMUS, HEBL, HOVEN, WARD, ZIEGELBAUER, KEDZIE, PETTIS, DUFF, LEIBHAM, OLSEN, SINICKI, PLOUFF, RILEY, HUEBSCH, MILLER, FREESE, HAHN, POCAN, ALBERS, KESTELL, POWERS, KRAWCZYK, JOHNSRUD, TOWNSEND, PETROWSKI, SCHNEIDER, PLALE, MUSSER, BOCK, COGGS, TURNER, URBAN, AINSWORTH, WALKER, BERCEAU, BALOW, GUNDRUM, JESKEWITZ, SERATTI, OTT and J. LEHMAN, cosponsored by Senators ERPENBACH, PANZER, DARLING, ZIEN, COWLES, RISSER, ROSENZWEIG, LAZICH, A. LASEE, BRESKE, ROESSLER, HUELSMAN, SCHULTZ, S. FITZGERALD, PLACHE, GROBSCHMIDT, BURKE, GEORGE, WIRCH and HARSDORF. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** honoring and commending the devoted public service of Sue Ann
2 Thompson.

3 Whereas, Sue Ann Thompson earned her bachelor’s degree from Viterbo
4 College in La Crosse and postgraduate credits from the University of
5 Wisconsin–Madison; and

6 Whereas, Sue Ann Thompson and Governor Tommy G. Thompson have been
7 married since 1968 and have 2 daughters and a son, as well as grandchildren; and

8 Whereas, Sue Ann Thompson served an unprecedented 14 years as Wisconsin’s
9 first lady working on issues that promote and enhance the diverse culture and strong
10 values that embody the state of Wisconsin; and

11 Whereas, she spent 34 years in the noble profession of schoolteacher, serving
12 not only her classes but the community, by working with children and adults who
13 strive to learn to read; and

14 Whereas, she served diligently as a member of the Wisconsin Literacy Council
15 and the Governor’s Commission on Schools for the 21st Century; and

1 Whereas, Sue Ann Thompson has served as chair of the National Governor's
2 Association Spouses Program, president of the Executive Residence Foundation, and
3 as a member of the Ronald McDonald House Board of Trustees, the Viterbo College
4 Board of Directors, the Wisconsin Women Government's Board of Directors, the
5 American Players Theatre Advisory Board, and the Juneau County Parent
6 Mentoring Advisory Board; and

7 Whereas, she has served as the president of Very Special Arts, an international
8 organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of the disabled through music, dance,
9 and the arts, and is a representative on the Very Special Arts National Board of
10 Directors; and

11 Whereas, Sue Ann Thompson has had the courage to publicly discuss her own
12 treatment for breast cancer as a way of bringing women's health issues to public
13 attention, has promoted cancer awareness among women, and has become an
14 inspiration to others who have survived cancer treatment; and

15 Whereas, she created and works extensively with the Wisconsin Women's
16 Health Initiative, whose mission is to promote awareness of diseases that afflict
17 women through education, prevention, and outreach, and to provide funding for
18 research and opportunities for women in the medical field; and

19 Whereas, Sue Ann Thompson also serves as honorary chair of Wisconsin
20 Women's Health Initiative and is active with the Wisconsin Women's Cancer Control
21 Program; and

22 Whereas, she has received several awards for her work as an educator and
23 promoter of women's health issues, including the Health Education Center's
24 *Wisconsin's Health is Power Award* in 1997 and the *Action for Cancer Awareness*
25 *Award* from Congressional Families for Cancer Awareness in 1998; and

1 Whereas, Sue Ann Thompson has established the Wisconsin Women’s Health
2 Foundation to focus not only on cancer, but also on the general health, education, and
3 well-being of women in this state; and

4 Whereas, the Wisconsin Women’s Health Foundation offers educational
5 programs on pertinent health programs for women of specific age groups, conducts
6 studies, and gathers data on the state of women’s health in this state and makes
7 recommendations on changing lifestyles for reasons of health, provides scholarships
8 and financial assistance to medical professionals and others specializing in women’s
9 health, and provides assistance to help poor women attend classes and conferences
10 on health care; and

11 Whereas, she has campaigned continuously to end health care disparities
12 between men and women, improve access to high-quality health care for women,
13 increase medical research focused on women, and provide health insurance that
14 covers primary care; now, therefore, be it

15 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
16 Wisconsin legislature honor and commend Sue Ann Thompson for devoted public
17 service and her contributions to and advocacy for women’s health care; and, be it
18 further

19 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint
20 resolution to her husband, Governor Tommy G. Thompson; her daughters, Tommi
21 and Kelli; and to her son, Jason.

22 **(END)**