

## 2001 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 83

1       **Relating to:** the life and public service of Wisconsin Governor and Federal Judge

2             John W. Reynolds, Jr.

3             Whereas, John W. Reynolds, Jr., was born on April 4, 1921, in Green Bay,  
4       Wisconsin, and died on January 6, 2002, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and

5             Whereas, Mr. Reynolds was born into a family that was active in progressive  
6       politics and he gained political experience from his grandfather, Tom Reynolds of  
7       Door County, who was elected to the Wisconsin assembly, serving in the 1907 and  
8       1909 sessions, and was credited with establishing Peninsula State Park, and his  
9       father, John W. Reynolds, Sr., who was Wisconsin attorney general from 1927 to  
10       1933; and

11            Whereas, Mr. Reynolds graduated from Green Bay East High School and  
12       attended the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he studied economics and  
13       earned a Ph.D. degree in 1946 and an LL.B degree in 1949; and

14            Whereas, he served his country as a first lieutenant in the Counter Intelligence  
15       Corps in the U.S. Army during World War II from 1942 to 1946; and

1           Whereas, in 1947, he married Patricia Ann Brady, who preceded him in death  
2 in 1967; and he later married Jane C. Conway in 1971; and

3           Whereas, Mr. Reynolds was appointed director of the federal Office of Price  
4 Stabilization from 1951 to 1953; and

5           Whereas, he joined his father's law firm in Green Bay and practiced law from  
6 1952 to 1958; and

7           Whereas, he became the U.S. commissioner for the Eastern Federal Judicial  
8 District of Wisconsin and served from 1955 to 1958; and

9           Whereas, following in his father's footsteps, Mr. Reynolds was elected  
10 Wisconsin attorney general in 1958 and reelected in 1960, serving from 1959 to 1963;  
11 and

12           Whereas, while attorney general, Mr. Reynolds worked to improve conditions  
13 and services for patients in the state mental hospitals; and

14           Whereas, he was elected governor of Wisconsin in 1962, serving from 1963 to  
15 1965; and

16           Whereas, during his tenure as governor, Mr. Reynolds won passage of the  
17 Homestead Tax Credit plan, giving relief to low-income homeowners and renters;  
18 established the first Commission on Women and Council on the Arts; and was an  
19 early advocate of Wisconsin's open records law; and

20           Whereas, after serving as governor, he was appointed a federal judge to the  
21 Eastern District of Wisconsin in 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson; and

22           Whereas, after 14 years (1971 to 1986) as chief federal judge, Mr. Reynolds  
23 retired in 1986, continuing to hear cases as a senior judge as long as his health  
24 permitted; and

1           Whereas, throughout his entire distinguished career as federal judge, Mr.  
2 Reynolds stood for fairness and was long known as a champion of civil rights; and

3           Whereas, Mr. Reynolds was regarded as a fair and impartial judge; and

4           Whereas, as chief judge in 1976, Judge Reynolds issued the decision most  
5 strongly associated with his name: the order to desegregate the Milwaukee Public  
6 Schools; and

7           Whereas, in his later years on the court, he served as one of 3 judges on another  
8 landmark case that changed state law on involuntary mental commitment; and

9           Whereas, in 1988, Mr. Reynolds won the *Distinguished Service Award* from the  
10 University of Wisconsin–Madison Law School Alumni Association, and, in 1999,  
11 received an honorary degree from the University of Wisconsin–Madison; now,  
12 therefore, be it

13           ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the  
14 Wisconsin legislature commend the devoted public service that John W. Reynolds,  
15 Jr., contributed to this state, express their sorrow at his death, and extend their  
16 condolences to his family and friends; and, be it further

17           ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint  
18 resolution to Mr. Reynold’s wife, Jane Conway Reynolds; to his sons, Jim, Tom, Jake,  
19 and John III; and to his daughters, Kate Lindquist and Frances Reynolds.

20

(END)