2001 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 85

January 16, 2002 – Introduced by Representatives JENSEN, PETROWSKI, MCCORMICK, KESTELL, RHOADES, WALKER, GUNDERSON, HUEBSCH, STONE, MILLER, BALOW, JESKEWITZ, LIPPERT, BIES, HAHN, LADWIG, KRAWCZYK, OLSEN, PETTIS, MUSSER, M. LEHMAN, URBAN, PLOUFF, HUNDERTMARK, STARZYK, TURNER, OWENS, RILEY, J. LEHMAN, PLALE, LASSA and VRAKAS, cosponsored by Senators PANZER, ZIEN, S. FITZGERALD, ROSENZWEIG, DARLING, KANAVAS, BRESKE, RISSER, WELCH, GROBSCHMIDT, HUELSMAN and ROESSLER. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** congratulating Brenda J. Blanchard for her long–term service to the

2 citizens of Wisconsin and wishing her well in her future endeavors.

3 Whereas, Brenda Blanchard's last day as secretary of the Wisconsin

4 Department of Commerce was August 31, 2001; and

5 Whereas, Brenda Blanchard was appointed by Governor Tommy G. Thompson

6 on December 30, 1998, and by Governor Scott McCallum on February 12, 2001, as

7 secretary of the Department of Commerce, which has 474 employees and a budget

8 totaling $193,000,000; and

9 Whereas, as secretary, Ms. Blanchard worked with the governor and legislature

10 to focus the state's economic development policies on the creation of high–paying jobs

11 and increased private investment with the establishment of the Wisconsin

12 Technology and Entrepreneurs Council, the creation of the Office of Science and

13 Technology, the development of the Certified Capital Company Program, and various

14 international trade and venture capital missions; and

1 Whereas, during her time as secretary, Ms. Blanchard approved nearly 1,800

2 Department of Commerce grant and loan awards for business and community

3 projects that created and retained more than 65,000 jobs and leveraged over

4 $2,500,000,000 in additional funds; and

5 Whereas, as secretary, she established a partnership with the University of

6 Wisconsin System Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), through which

7 the Department of Commerce would fund 75% of the costs to entrepreneurs of taking

8 University of Wisconsin System SBDC courses to guide them through the

9 development of their own business plans, and approved more than 330 awards in the

10 program's first year of operation; and

11 Whereas, under Ms. Blanchard's leadership as secretary, the Department of

12 Commerce assumed responsibility for low–risk and medium–risk petroleum

13 contaminated sites (65% of the total) and streamlined procedures for the closure of

14 these sites; and

15 Whereas, as secretary, she successfully led the Department of Commerce in

16 resolving contentious issues such as the promulgation of the revised Septic System

17 Code and model Building and Fire Code; and

18 Whereas, Brenda Blanchard served from 1996 to 1998 as the president of

19 Forward Wisconsin, Inc., the state's business attraction organization responsible for

20 marketing outside Wisconsin to attract new businesses, jobs, and investment to this

21 state; and

22 Whereas, she was the executive assistant at the Wisconsin Department of

23 Workforce Development from 1995 to 1996, focusing on private sector support for the

24 state's new comprehensive employment and training system and support for welfare

25 reform in Wisconsin; and

1   Whereas, Brenda Blanchard was the deputy secretary at the Wisconsin

2   Department of Development from 1993 to 1995, facilitating overall agency

3   management and directing the agency's programs in community development,

4   manufacturing competitiveness, and statewide recycling development; and

5   Whereas, she served as the president of the Greater Eau Claire Area Chamber

6   of Commerce from 1987 to 1993, where her programming strengths included

7   regional economic development, transportation, organization development, and

8   community leadership training; now, therefore, be it

9   ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the

10   Wisconsin legislature applaud the career of Brenda J. Blanchard, thank her for her

11   public service, and extend best wishes to her in her future endeavors; and, be it

12   further

13   ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint

14   resolution to Brenda J. Blanchard.

15   **(END)**