



2001 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 38

June 19, 2001 - Introduced by Senators GROBSCHMIDT, SCHULTZ, CHVALA, ERPENBACH, BRESKE, ROBSON, PLACHE, SHIBILSKI, BURKE, JAUCH, MOEN, A. LASEE, ROSENZWEIG, ROESSLER, HANSEN, GEORGE, DARLING, LAZICH, RISSER, DECKER and HARS DORF, cosponsored by Representatives HAHN, SCHNEIDER, HEBL, GRONEMUS, SINICKI, KESTELL, MUSSER, J. LEHMAN, BOCK, WASSERMAN, MONTGOMERY, COGGS, BOYLE, OLSEN, POCAN, SYKORA, WADE, LIPPERT, NASS, RYBA, BERCEAU, FREESE, LADWIG, TURNER, MILLER, MEYERHOFER, ALBERS, PLALE, KRAWCZYK, JESKEWITZ, TRAVIS, PLOUFF, OTT, HUBER, LASSA, HUNDERTMARK, OWENS and GUNDERSON. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 **Relating to:** honoring and commending the devoted public service of John T.
2 Benson.

3 Whereas, John T. Benson will be retiring from the position of state
4 superintendent of public instruction on July 1, 2001; and

5 Whereas, John T. Benson was born in Mauston, Wisconsin, on November 18,
6 1937; and

7 Whereas, he received his high school diploma from Mauston High School in
8 1955 and continued his education at Luther College, where he received his bachelor
9 of arts degree in elementary education in 1960; and

10 Whereas, he continued his education by receiving a master of science degree in
11 school administration from the University of Minnesota-Winona in 1963, and he
12 continued his postgraduate studies at both the University of Minnesota-Winona and
13 the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and

14 Whereas, John T. Benson began his teaching career in 1960 as an elementary
15 teacher in the Harmony, Minnesota, public schools; and

1 Whereas, after moving to a principal position at Barneveld Public Schools in
2 Wisconsin in 1962, his devotion to public education continued over the next 40 years
3 as a principal, district administrator, assistant state superintendent, and state
4 superintendent of public instruction of Wisconsin; and

5 Whereas, in April 1993, John T. Benson was first elected state superintendent
6 of public instruction and was reelected to that position in 1997; and

7 Whereas, one of his greatest accomplishments during his years of service as the
8 state superintendent was his stewardship in the fight to maintain the independence,
9 integrity, and dignity of the Department of Public Instruction and the office of state
10 superintendent; and

11 Whereas, during these years, not only did he serve children in prekindergarten
12 to grade 12, but he also served children attending higher education institutions
13 throughout Wisconsin through his service on the Board of Regents of the University
14 of Wisconsin System and the Wisconsin Technical College System Board; and

15 Whereas, John T. Benson also served at the national level as a member of the
16 Council of Chief State School Officers, the American Association of School
17 Administrators, the Education Commission of the States, the National Council for
18 Accreditation of Teacher Education, and the Agency for Instructional Technology;
19 and

20 Whereas, upon his retirement, John T. Benson looks forward to spending
21 additional time with his wife, Debbie; his 3 sons and their wives, Tim and Sheri, Tom
22 and Deb, and James and Jan; and his grandchildren, Jennifer, Julie, Joshua, Mark,
23 Jessa, Kirk, Eric, and Joel; and

24 Whereas, he also looks forward to spending more time on his farm in the Town
25 of Medina; and

