

2003 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 58

January 16, 2004 - Introduced by Senators PANZER and ERPENBACH. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** commending Donald J. Schneider for his many years of service to the
2 Wisconsin senate and the people of Wisconsin.

3 Whereas, Donald J. Schneider retired as senate chief clerk on July 4, 2003; and

4 Whereas, Donald J. Schneider was born in Sheboygan on May 29, 1947; and

5 Whereas, he served in the United States Air Force from 1966 to 1970; and

6 Whereas, he began his long career of service to the Wisconsin legislature by
7 serving as assistant assembly sergeant at arms during the 1973 and 1975 sessions;

8 and

9 Whereas, he was elected senate chief clerk in 1977, beginning an
10 unprecedented tenure of twenty-six and one-half years in that office; and

11 Whereas, he was active throughout his career in the American Society of
12 Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, serving as president in 1983-84, as a member of
13 the Mason's Manual Commission, and as chair and vice chair of numerous
14 committees of that society; and

1 Whereas, he received the Joseph A. Beck Distinguished Service Award from the
2 society in 1998; and

3 Whereas, he also distinguished himself in his activities with the National
4 Conference of State Legislatures, serving as staff chair in 1993, and heading the
5 Wisconsin Host Committee for the organization's annual meeting in Milwaukee in
6 1995; and

7 Whereas, he has used his knowledge of the legislative process to advance the
8 cause of democracy in countries with little history of representative government,
9 traveling to Central American, Africa, China, and Palestine to offer his assistance,
10 and opening his home to citizens of these countries who came to Wisconsin seeking
11 insights into our form of government; and

12 Whereas, his greatest achievements have been in the Wisconsin senate, where
13 he was in the forefront of automating the legislative process and increasing
14 efficiency; and

15 Whereas, his professionalism and even-handedness enabled him to earn the
16 respect of all members, allowing him to serve both Democratic and Republican
17 majorities with aplomb during his long tenure; and

18 Whereas, his value as a parliamentarian and a source of institutional memory
19 cannot be replaced; and

20 Whereas, the senate chamber will not be the same without his calm presence
21 and the smooth cadence of his voice; now, therefore, be it

22 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
23 legislature expresses its warm appreciation to Don for his decades of valuable
24 service, salutes his integrity, honesty, and love of the institution, and wishes him a
25 long, fruitful, healthy, and happy retirement; and, be it further

