

2005 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17

1 **Relating to:** honoring the life and service of Gaylord Nelson.

2 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson was born on June 4, 1916, in Clear Lake, Wisconsin;

3 and

4 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson served his nation honorably during World War II,
5 including service in the Okinawa campaign; and

6 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson served for 10 years in the Wisconsin state senate; and

7 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson served 2 terms as governor of Wisconsin; and

8 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson represented the state of Wisconsin in the United
9 States senate for 18 years, from 1962 to 1980; and

10 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson was the author of the nation's first open meetings law
11 in the 1950s, and was a leader on issues of open and accountable government; and

12 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson was responsible for legislation creating the national
13 trail system, the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and the St. Croix Wild and
14 Scenic Riverway; and

1 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day in 1970, an achievement
2 described by *American Heritage* magazine as “one of the most remarkable
3 happenings in the history of democracy”; and

4 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson has continued to be a national leader on
5 environmental issues through his work for 14 years on behalf of the Wilderness
6 Society; and

7 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson has been twice honored by the United Nations, in
8 1982 with the Environmental Leadership Award, and on Earth Day 1992 with the
9 Only One Earth Award; and

10 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson was honored in 1995 with the Presidential Medal of
11 Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award, for his instrumental role in founding
12 Earth Day and inspiring the awareness of environmental issues that was inspired
13 by that event; and

14 Whereas, in 2001 the Gaylord Nelson Environmental Chair was established at
15 the University of Wisconsin; and

16 Whereas, in 2001 the Warren Knowles–Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000
17 program was established in honor of his lifelong commitment to public stewardship
18 and the environment; and

19 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson is scheduled to be honored with an honorary doctor
20 of science degree on May 14, 2005, by the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh; and

21 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson, though a fierce advocate and a fiery leader, was a
22 popular member of the Wisconsin state senate and United States senate and was
23 respected by democrats and republicans alike; and

24 Whereas, Gaylord Nelson embodies the spirit of advocacy based on principle,
25 not on personal pettiness; now, therefore, be it

