

2005 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 44

1 **Relating to:** designating the state of Wisconsin’s maritime museum.

2 Whereas, the Manitowoc Submarine Memorial Association was formed in 1968
3 to bring a World War II Manitowoc–built submarine to the city of Manitowoc to show
4 to the world the fine work done by the Manitowoc Shipbuilding Company and its
5 employees during World War II; and

6 Whereas, a dedicated and visionary group of community leaders founded the
7 Manitowoc Maritime Museum in 1969 to receive a submarine from the Department
8 of the Navy; and

9 Whereas, USS *Cobia*, a submarine of the type built in Manitowoc, arrived in
10 Manitowoc on August 17, 1970, and hosted onboard the first submariners’ memorial
11 service on August 7, 1971; and

12 Whereas, now, on the 35th anniversary of its arrival in Manitowoc, USS *Cobia*
13 is the “nation’s most completely restored World War II submarine” and the maritime
14 museum, now named Wisconsin Maritime Museum, is acknowledged as the finest

1 maritime museum on the Great Lakes, having been visited by more than 1 million
2 people; and

3 Whereas, the Wisconsin Maritime Museum is dedicated to the preservation and
4 interpretation of local, state, and regional maritime history; and

5 Whereas, the Wisconsin Maritime Museum will honor the maritime heritage
6 of the state’s Native American people, who first developed the region’s rich fisheries,
7 water transportation, and fur trade; and

8 Whereas, the founders, veterans, volunteers, and community of Manitowoc
9 have created, as a gift to the nation, the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, a facility of
10 60,000 square feet with a state-of-the-art computerized classroom, the “Learning
11 Adventure Center”; the Children’s Waterways Room, a unique watercourse model of
12 the Great Lakes and locks system; 12 exhibit galleries; a climate-controlled,
13 state-of-the-art 1,500 square-foot library and archives facility containing 350
14 ship’s logs and 200 maps, a photographic collection of 40,000 images, 2,000
15 blueprints, 8,000 books, and approximately 2,000 periodicals, and one of the largest
16 intact collections of World War II submarine blueprints; a film library of more than
17 800 items, including one-of-a-kind World War II color film footage; and

18 Whereas, the Wisconsin Maritime Museum’s library and archives annually
19 responds to more than 150 research and photo requests from scholars, authors,
20 historical institutions, and other individuals and hosts interns and researchers from
21 a variety of graduate and undergraduate programs throughout the state of
22 Wisconsin and elsewhere; and

23 Whereas, the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, its archives, collections, and
24 “Wisconsin-built boat gallery” preserve and honor the great craft and tradition of
25 boat building in Wisconsin, as exemplified in the past by such manufacturers as

1 Thompson Boat Company of Peshtigo, Dan Kidney Boat Company of De Pere,
2 Dunphy Boat Company of Oshkosh, Tomahawk Boat Company of Lake Tomahawk,
3 Mirrocraft of Manitowoc, and Melges Boat Works of Zenda and as represented by
4 present-day manufacturers such as Burger Boat of Manitowoc, Cruisers, Inc., of
5 Oconto, and Palmer Johnson of Sturgeon Bay; and

6 Whereas, in 1990 the Wisconsin Maritime Museum was awarded accreditation
7 by the American Association of Museums, the highest professional designation a
8 museum can receive, and was the first maritime museum on the Great Lakes to be
9 so honored; and

10 Whereas, in 1991, the Wisconsin Maritime Museum was elected into
11 membership of the International Congress of Maritime Museums and is a member
12 of the Council of American Maritime Museums; and

13 Whereas, in 2005, the Wisconsin Maritime Museum became the only museum
14 in Wisconsin and in the north central states and the only maritime museum on the
15 Great Lakes to be named an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, earning access
16 to Smithsonian national collections and its expertise and ability to develop
17 educational and programmatic initiatives; now, therefore, be it

18 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** from this day
19 henceforth, the Wisconsin Maritime Museum shall be known also as the “State of
20 Wisconsin’s Maritime Museum,” bestowing honor on all those who have had a hand
21 in its creation and care and expressing to the nation the museum’s role in preserving
22 and displaying the unique heritage of the people of Wisconsin and their relationship
23 with our Great Lakes and inland lakes, rivers, and streams.

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(END)