



2005 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 75

January 31, 2006 - Introduced by Representatives ZEPNICK, KESSLER, BOYLE, CULLEN, JESKEWITZ, KRUSICK, LEHMAN, SINICKI, TOLES, TRAVIS and TURNER, cosponsored by Senators CARPENTER, COGGS, ERPENBACH, MILLER and PLALE. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of Thomas J. Parker.

2 Whereas, Thomas J. Parker was born on June 7, 1940, in Milwaukee,
3 Wisconsin, and died on January 1, 2006, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and

4 Whereas, Thomas J. Parker was a machinist and lifelong union man who
5 worked tirelessly for workers' rights, which often included union involvement in
6 political campaigns which enabled him to meet 7 different presidents; and

7 Whereas, Thomas J. Parker called Milwaukee home. He attended Marquette
8 University High School before graduating from St. Pius XI High School in 1958; and

9 Whereas, Thomas J. Parker married Marie Fedder on May 12, 1962, and
10 celebrated 43 years of marriage with her until his death. Together they had 7
11 children; and

12 Whereas, Thomas J. Parker began as a machinist at Allis-Chalmers and other
13 firms before settling at Miller Brewery where he worked from 1962 to 1973, except
14 during the years he served active duty stateside with the army. He continued his
15 military service in the Army Reserve until 1969; and

1 Whereas, Thomas J. Parker began his union service in 1973 as the full-time
2 secretary-treasurer of the Machinists Union Lodge 66. In addition to managing the
3 local union, he often problem solved for other lodges in the Midwest at the request
4 of the International Machinists Union; and

5 Whereas, Thomas J. Parker was elected to the post of president of the
6 Milwaukee County Labor Council in 1978, which then represented more than 96,000
7 workers with about 200 AFL-CIO locals. He was reelected every 2 years until he
8 stepped down in 1999, taking with him his own style of leadership to the post, which
9 was aggressive when needed, but mostly quiet and dignified; and

10 Whereas, Thomas J. Parker served on a wide variety of boards, committees, and
11 commissions, including the Greater Milwaukee Committee, Forward Wisconsin, the
12 City of Milwaukee Plan Commission, the Aurora Health Care board of directors, the
13 Bradley Center construction board, the American Red Cross, and his favorite, the
14 United Way of Greater Milwaukee, for which he served one year as chair; and

15 Whereas, Thomas J. Parker was an inspiration to many, lived and loved the
16 labor movement, was well known for his straight-thinking logic and honesty, fought
17 and cared for the underdog and people who needed help in order to make the world
18 a better place; now, therefore, be it

19 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
20 Wisconsin legislature commend the devoted public service Thomas J. Parker
21 contributed to this state and his union brotherhood, express their sorrow at his
22 death, and extend condolences to his family and friends; and, be it further

23 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
24 resolution to Mr. Parker's wife, Marie, and their 7 children, Jean Marsicek, Susan

1 Gilles, Peggy Rogalinski, Julie Ferkovich, Patricia Bessmer, Amy Parker, and
2 Michael Parker, and to his brothers Edward and Bernard.

3 (END)