



2007 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 87

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of John R. Moses.

2 Whereas, John R. Moses, who after 21 years became the longest serving
3 secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, passed away on
4 Saturday, December 8, 2007, at the age of 88 in Madison, Wisconsin; and

5 Whereas, John R. Moses entered military service in September 1941 and served
6 14 months in an anti-aircraft unit at Dutch Harbor, Aleutian Islands, during which
7 time it came under Japanese air carrier attack; and

8 Whereas, in 1943, John R. Moses graduated from Armored Force Officer
9 Candidate School at Fort Knox, Kentucky, was later assigned to the 10th Armored
10 Division, and ordered overseas in August 1944; and

11 Whereas, John R. Moses participated in the attack of German forts at Metz,
12 France, led the point platoon in General Patton's drive across Moselle River to
13 Siegfried Line, was severely wounded in combat on the German border, and was
14 subsequently hospitalized for 13 months; and

1 Whereas, John R. Moses retired as a first lieutenant on permanent disability
2 in December 1945; and

3 Whereas, John R. Moses was educated at the University of North Dakota and
4 George Washington University and graduated from the University of Wisconsin
5 School of Law in 1951; and he practiced law for ten years in Madison and Gays Mills;
6 and

7 Whereas, John R. Moses was active in the Gays Mills community serving as a
8 senior Boy Scout leader, a member of the board of trustees of Our Savior's Lutheran
9 Church, master of the Masonic Lodge, and as president of the Gays Mills School
10 Board for ten years, taking pride in increasing the size of the school district,
11 broadening the curriculum, and improving school facilities; and

12 Whereas, John R. Moses was appointed by Governor Gaylord Nelson as director
13 and then secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, serving from
14 November 1961 to October 1982, a tenure far longer than any of his predecessors or
15 successors; and

16 Whereas, John R. Moses greatly expanded state programs of assistance to
17 veterans, including the part-time study grant program to enhance veterans' job
18 skills, and created a new veterans home loan program and the only statewide
19 outreach program in the nation to find and assist returning Vietnam War veterans;
20 and

21 Whereas, John R. Moses directed the conversion of the Wisconsin Veterans
22 Home from an old soldiers' home to one of the largest skilled nursing care facilities
23 for veterans in the nation; and

24 Whereas, John R. Moses improved and expanded the exhibits at the Grand
25 Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Memorial Hall in the state capitol in the 1960s, a

1 veterans museum dedicated to Civil War memorabilia that eventually was
2 transformed into the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, considered to be the finest state
3 veterans museum in the United States; and

4 Whereas, John R. Moses served as chairman of the Governor’s Educational
5 Advisory Committee and secretary of the National Association of State Directors of
6 Veterans Affairs; and

7 Whereas, John R. Moses was a member of Disabled American Veterans,
8 Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Retired Officers
9 Association, Wisconsin Association of Concerned Veterans Organizations, 206th CA
10 (AA) Association, and the 10th Armored Division Veterans Association; and

11 Whereas, John R. Moses was always very proud of the many friendships and
12 relationships he developed over the years, and countless people whose lives he
13 touched took pride in calling him their friend, including so very many veterans whose
14 service and sacrifice spanned generations; now, therefore, be it

15 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the
16 Wisconsin legislature commend and honor John R. Moses for his decades of public
17 service, his distinguished leadership and extraordinary vision while becoming the
18 longest serving secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Wisconsin history
19 and his amazing grace and inspirational ways; express their deep sorrow at his
20 death; and extend their sincere condolences to his widow, Mildred Jaynes Moses,
21 family, and friends; and, be it further

22 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
23 resolution to John R. Moses’ widow, Mildred Jaynes Moses, for herself, and so she

