

2007 SENATE RESOLUTION 23

February 27, 2008 – Introduced by Senators COGGS, TAYLOR, CARPENTER, LASSA and ROESSLER. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of Representative Isaac N. Coggs.

2 Whereas, Representative Isaac N. Coggs became the third African–American
3 elected to the Wisconsin legislature with his election to the state assembly in 1952,
4 serving until 1964 when he won election to the Milwaukee County Board of
5 Supervisors; and

6 Whereas, Representative Isaac N. Coggs, has the honor of being the first
7 African–American in the state of Wisconsin to serve as chairman of a legislative
8 committee, the 1959 Assembly Committee on Public Welfare; and

9 Whereas, Representative Isaac N. Coggs was a leading voice on legislation to
10 protect and enhance civil rights and was the legislative advocate for changes to
11 housing discrimination laws inspiring the Open Housing Marches led by Father
12 James Groppi and the Reverend Richard Kirkendoll; and

13 Whereas, Representative Isaac N. Coggs helped to create a legacy of political
14 greatness and social justice, a legacy carried on in Wisconsin by his daughter,

1 Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs–Jones, and in the state legislature by his nephews,
2 Representative Leon Young and Senator Spencer Coggs; and

3 Whereas, the adoption of this senate resolution is supported not only by the
4 senate, but also by members of the assembly, including specifically Representatives
5 Young, Grigsby, Turner, Zepnick, Sheridan, and Toles; now, therefore, be it

6 ***Resolved by the senate, That*** the members of the Wisconsin senate honor the
7 career and dedication of “Mr. Civil Rights,” Representative Isaac N. Coggs, for
8 establishing a tradition of legislative service that has set the standard for all future
9 African–American legislators, a standard of service we celebrate today.

10 (END)