
Relating to: the life and service of Joe Bee Xiong.

Whereas, Joe Bee Xiong was born in 1962 in the village of Mong Cha, Laos, and died on March 31, 2007; and

Whereas, Joe Bee Xiong bravely fought in the Vietnam War at the young age of 14, leading teams to rescue shot-down American pilots; and

Whereas, Joe Bee Xiong led 3,000 of his neighbors across the Mekong River to safety in Thailand and came to reside in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, in 1980; and

Whereas, Joe Bee Xiong graduated from Memorial High School in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and went on to receive a degree in computer science from Chippewa Valley Technical College and a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Mount Senario College in Ladysmith, Wisconsin; and

Whereas, Joe Bee Xiong distinguished himself as the first Hmong elected to public office in the United States, serving two terms on the Eau Claire City Council; and

Whereas, Joe Bee Xiong was a role model for all those in the community; and
Whereas, Joe Bee Xiong served as a clan leader, and in his many accomplishments, served as a role model for the Hmong community; and

Whereas, Joe Bee Xiong was a master performer on the Hmong bamboo instrument qeej; and

Whereas, Joe Bee Xiong's dedication to public service led him to run for the 68th Assembly District in 2004; and

Whereas, Joe Bee Xiong is survived by his wife, Ta, and eight children; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the legislature of the state of Wisconsin commemorates the remarkable life of Joe Bee Xiong and extends its deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and colleagues; and, be it further

Resolved, That the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint resolution to Joe Bee Xiong's wife, Ta.

(END)