



2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 47

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of John L. Merkt.

2 Whereas, John L. Merkt was born on October 2, 1946, in Milwaukee, and died
3 on April 1, 2009; and

4 Whereas, John L. Merkt graduated from Milwaukee Marquette High School,
5 attended Marquette University from 1964 to 1968, and earned a BS degree in
6 secondary education from the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse in 1971; and

7 Whereas, John L. Merkt was first elected to the Wisconsin assembly in 1976,
8 serving in the 1977 through 1987 sessions; and

9 Whereas, during his tenure in the legislature, John L. Merkt demonstrated
10 talent for identifying issues that captivated public imagination and was an
11 independent thinker with a big heart; and

12 Whereas, John L. Merkt strongly opposed street drugs and was invited by
13 President Ronald Reagan to the White House for the signing of federal legislation
14 that significantly toughened penalties for people who supplied drugs to individuals
15 who died as a result — the “Len Bias Law”; and

