

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

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1	Whereas, John L. Merkt introduced "Len Bias" legislation in Wisconsin which
2	was also signed into law; and
3	Whereas, John L. Merkt should be remembered for the many causes he
4	championed related to the Milwaukee Brewers; and
5	Whereas, after his retirement from the legislature, John L. Merkt worked for
6	Speaker David Prosser until 1996 and, as a staff member, worked on legislation that
7	led to the construction of Miller Park; now, therefore, be it
8	Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the members of the
9	Wisconsin legislature commend the devoted public service that John L. Merkt
10	contributed to this state and his community, express their sorrow at his death, and
11	extend their condolences to his family and friends; and be it further
12	Resolved, That the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
13	resolution to John L. Merkt's wife, Nancy, and his daughter, Katie Schmidt.
14	(END)