

**2009 DRAFTING REQUEST**

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

Received: **04/08/2009**

Received By: **smiller**

Wanted: **As time permits**

Identical to LRB:

For: **Jim Ott (608) 266-0486**

By/Representing: **ginger**

This file may be shown to any legislator: **NO**

Drafter: **smiller**

May Contact:

Adl. Drafters:

Subject: **Memorials - life and public ser.**

Extra Copies:

Submit via email: **YES**

Requester's email: **Rep.OttJ@legis.wisconsin.gov**

Carbon copy (CC:) to:

**Pre Topic:**

No specific pre topic given

**Topic:**

Former Rep John L. Merkt

**Instructions:**

See attached

**Drafting History:**

<u>Vers.</u>	<u>Drafted</u>	<u>Reviewed</u>	<u>Typed</u>	<u>Proofed</u>	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Jacketed</u>	<u>Required</u>
/?	smiller 04/17/2009	kfollett 04/20/2009		_____			
/1	smiller 04/20/2009	kfollett 04/21/2009	jfrantze 04/20/2009	_____	mbarman 04/20/2009		
/2			jfrantze 04/21/2009	_____	sbasford 04/21/2009	cduerst 04/21/2009	

FE Sent For:

*None*

**<END>**

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/1		12 kf 4/21	jfrantze 04/20/2009	_____	mbarman 04/20/2009		

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Handwritten signatures and dates: 4/21, 4/21, and <END>

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/?	smiller	1/15f 4/20	26 4/20	ND 4/20			

FE Sent For:

<END>

**From:** "Dave Gove" <DGove@cressfuneralservice.com>  
**To:** <david.prosser@wicourts.gov>  
**Date:** 4/2/2009 4:32 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Please print following obituary in the Friday, April 3, 2009 edition. a photo has been attached to run with obit. Send copy and costs to this e-mail address. Please include a flag with obit. thank you, Dave Gove  
**Attachments:** merkt.jpg

6-0486  
Jim Ott - singer  
4/8/09

LRB 2570

News Graphic  
OZAUKEE

Madison-John L. Merkt, age 62, passed away peacefully at his home on April 1, 2009 after a long battle with lupus and congestive heart failure. He was born on October 2, 1946 in Milwaukee the youngest of three children of Gervase and Anna (O'Shea) Merkt. He was a graduate of Milwaukee Marquette High School. John attended Marquette University from 1964 to 1968 and then continued his studies at UW-LaCrosse where he received his degree in secondary education. He served for over 6 years in the Army Reserve and taught for 4 years at St. Margaret Mary's School in Milwaukee. He was elected to the State Of Wisconsin Assembly in 1976 and served until 1988 as a State Representative serving the Washington and Ozaukee counties. During his terms in the assembly, he was an early champion of raising the drinking age in the early 1980's and was the main author of the "Len Bias Law" which helps prosecute for drug related deaths. John was noted for his many ingenious ideas. He left a legislative legacy even though most of his years as a state representative he was in the minority party. After he decided to not run for re-election, he was employed with Assemblyman David Prosser until 1996 when he was forced to retire due to lupus. He was instrumental in keeping the Brewers in Milwaukee by facilitating the support for the building of Miller Park. John was a member of Doric Lodge #356 F. and A.M., Madison Scottish Rite, Zor Shrine Temple and Zor Shrine Veterans Patrol. He was a past member of the Diamond Squares and currently a member of the Overseas Square Dance Association. John was united in marriage to Nancy Callaway on November 21, 1992 in the Wisconsin State Assembly Chambers with 400 family and friends present to celebrate their love and devotion. She will miss him dearly. Besides his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Katie Schmidt; three special young ladies who were his step-daughters, Susan (Michael) Crockett, Dr. Karen (Martin J.) Bordson and Christine Mathias; three loving grandchildren, Martin C. Bordson, Keith Mathias and Kathryn Crockett; his sister, Mary Ellen (Frank) Haldeman-Lorbiecki; brother-in-law, Harold (Pat) Crabb; his former wife, Kim (David) Schmidt; many nieces, nephews and cousins; and close friend and colleague, Supreme Court Justice David T. Prosser, Jr.. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Nancy Lorbiecki, brother-in-law, Robert Haldeman and a granddaughter, Kelly Mathias. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on April 4, 2009 at 1:00 p.m at St. Dennis Catholic Church, 505 Dempsey Road, Madison, with Father Lance Schneider presiding. Burial will be held at St. Mary's Cemetery, Pine Bluff, WI. Visitation will be held at the funeral home on Friday, April 3, 2009 from 5-8:00 p.m. and

on Saturday at the church from 12:00 p.m. until the time of service.  
John's family wishes to express HEART FELT THANKS to the Madison Hospice  
Team associated with HospiceCare for their compassionate care and  
support.

Cress Funeral & Cremation Service

3325 E. Washington Ave

Madison, WI

[www.cressfuneralservice.com](http://www.cressfuneralservice.com)



John L. Merkt  
Madison, Wisconsin

Former Representative John L. Merkt (R-Mequon) passed away at his home in Madison on Wednesday, April 1. He was 62 and had been in poor health for several years.

Merkt, a former journalist and teacher, represented an Assembly district based in Ozaukee County for six terms, from 1977 through 1988.

"John Merkt never served in the majority, but he left a very significant legislative legacy," said Justice David Prosser, a former legislator. "John was very popular with colleagues and had an uncanny ability to spot issues that the legislature needed to address."

- Employment for convicted offenders
- Drinking age, early 1980s
- Seatbelts
- Motorcycle helmets
- Len Bias Law
- Drugs in school zones
- A stadium for Milwaukee Brewers

2009-2010 DRAFTING INSERT  
FROM THE  
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

2570  
LRB  
CGR.....  
gf 1

m 4-17

LRB INTERNAL DOCS  
"MERKT"

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

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

X  
X  
X  
X

Whereas, John L. Merkt graduated from Milwaukee Marquette High School, and attended Marquette University from 1964 to 1968 and earned a B.S. degree in secondary education from the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse in 1971; and

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

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

X

Whereas, John L. Merkt strongly opposed street drugs and was invited by President Ronald Reagan to the White House for the signing of federal legislation that significantly toughened penalties for people who supplied drugs to individuals who died as a result <sup>emdash</sup> the "Len Bias Law"; and

Whereas, John L. Merkt introduced "Len Bias" legislation in Wisconsin which was also signed into law; and

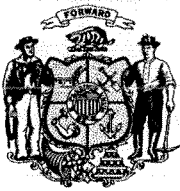
Whereas, John L. Merkt should be remembered for the many causes he championed related to the Milwaukee Brewers; and

X

Whereas, after his retirement from the legislature, John L. Merkt worked for Speaker David Prosser until 1996 and, as a staff member, worked on legislation that led to the construction of Miller Park; and, now, therefore, be it

**Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That** the members of the Wisconsin legislature commend the devoted public service that John L. Merkt contributed to this state and his community, express their sorrow at his death, and extend their condolences to his family and friends; and be it further

**Resolved, That** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint resolution to John L. Merkt's wife, Nancy, and his daughter, Katie Schmidt.



2

## 2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

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

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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 dies as a result — the “Len Bias Law”; and

died



**Barman, Mike**

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**From:** Rep.OttJ

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2009 11:09 AM

**To:** LRB.Legal

**Subject:** Draft Review: LRB 09-2570/2 Topic: Former Rep John L. Merkt

Please Jacket LRB 09-2570/2 for the ASSEMBLY.

04/21/2009