



2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 61

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of Ralph Houghton and honoring his many
2 accomplishments.

3 Whereas, Ralph Houghton was born on April 14, 1920 in Hoopeston, Illinois
4 and died on June 1, 2009 in Kenosha, Wisconsin at the age of 89; and

5 Whereas, Ralph Houghton served in World War II as an army infantry captain
6 and was captured by the German army at the Battle of the Bulge, but escaped and
7 was honorably discharged in 1945; and

8 Whereas, Ralph Houghton received his bachelor's degree in music education
9 from Illinois State University; and

10 Whereas, Ralph Houghton received his master's degree in administration from
11 DePaul University; and

12 Whereas, Ralph Houghton was a loving husband for 63 years to his wife Jane,
13 father of five, grandfather of 16 and great-grandfather of nine; and

14 Whereas, Ralph Houghton was the Kenosha Unified School District's Director
15 of Music from 1956 to 1979; and

1 Whereas, Ralph Houghton served as the KUSD Assistant Superintendent of
2 Schools until his retirement in 1987 at the age of 67; and

3 Whereas, Ralph Houghton initiated the Band-O-Rama, the Great Lakes Band
4 Championship, the Orchestra Festival, the Choral Festival, and over a dozen annual
5 music events; and

6 Whereas, Ralph Houghton helped combine the competing Tremper High School
7 and Bradford High School bands to form the Band of the Black Watch, which won
8 many national awards and became nationally recognized, and founded the Band
9 Boosters as a network of band support for parents and the community; and

10 Whereas, Ralph Houghton was instrumental in having Kenosha Unified music
11 programs known throughout the nation and as a result many Kenosha Unified music
12 students have gone on to careers as music teachers at schools and colleges across the
13 country, as members of professional symphony orchestras, and as stage and studio
14 musicians; and

15 Whereas, in 2008, he received the Anderson Arts Center 2007 Lifetime
16 Achievement Award and was presented the last two portraits done by renowned
17 Wisconsin artist George Pollard; and

18 Whereas, Ralph Houghton was a founding member of the Kemper Center board
19 of directors and established a high school music honors program for the Wisconsin
20 School Music Association; and

21 Whereas, in 2008, the sheet music and recording archive at the Wisconsin
22 Center for Music Education, in Waunakee, was named the Ralph Houghton Honors
23 Library; now, therefore, be it

1 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the legislature
2 commends the life and public service of Ralph Houghton and mourns his passing;
3 and

4 ***Be it further resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of
5 this joint resolution to Ralph Houghton's wife Jane.

6

(END)