



2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 90

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of Rev. P. Harvey Stower.

2 Whereas, Pharis Harvey Stower, Jr., a dedicated life-long public servant and
3 advocate for social justice issues, passed away at the age of 65 on Tuesday, September
4 29, 2009; and

5 Whereas, Harvey Stower was born in Frederic, Wisconsin, on September 17,
6 1944, graduated from Amery High School in 1962, and earned degrees in political
7 science, English, and education from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in
8 1966; and

9 Whereas, Harvey Stower met Marilyn Nielsen while attending college at the
10 University of Wisconsin-River Falls, and they were married on March 11, 1967, in
11 River Falls, and together raised two daughters, Kate and Elizabeth; and

12 Whereas, while attending college at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls,
13 Harvey Stower was active in United Methodist youth, campus politics, and working
14 for social justice issues across the United States, including participating in the

1 Selma to Montgomery march with Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1965, beginning a
2 life-long commitment to working for civil rights; and

3 Whereas, after teaching English at Prescott, Clayton, and Nicolet high schools,
4 Harvey Stower attended Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C., to
5 pursue his dream of becoming an ordained United Methodist minister, and after his
6 ordination in 1977, Harvey and Marilyn moved to Milwaukee where he served as a
7 minister at Kenwood United Methodist Church for several years; and

8 Whereas, Harvey Stower returned to Amery in 1982 to run for the 28th
9 Assembly District seat, which he won, serving for the 1983–84 session, and then ran
10 again in 1988 and won, serving from 1989 until 1994; and

11 Whereas, during his time in the state assembly, Harvey Stower authored
12 legislation to create the Wisconsin Conservation Corps, support public schools and
13 rural communities, and improve the lives of farmers, workers, motorists, veterans,
14 and people with disabilities, while also championing core humanitarian issues like
15 hunger prevention and homelessness; and

16 Whereas, Harvey Stower had an extraordinary ability to work with legislators
17 from both political parties, was a man who had a remarkable and distinct
18 commitment to building relationships with every individual he encountered, and
19 approached his job as a lawmaker with high moral and ethical standards, which
20 earned him the title and legacy of being “The Conscience of the Legislature”; and

21 Whereas, Harvey Stower’s public service continued in his role as Amery’s
22 mayor for the past 14 years, where his visionary leadership focused on developing
23 the riverfront in Amery, downtown revitalization, economic growth, creating a
24 thriving arts center, and improving the city’s infrastructure through improved
25 facilities for the airport, hospital, library, and food pantry; now, therefore, be it

