



2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 114

1 **Relating to:** the retirement of Don Dyke, Chief of Legal Services, Legislative
2 Council Staff, following a long and distinguished career in nonpartisan service
3 to the Wisconsin legislature.

4 Whereas, Don Dyke was born in Urbana, Illinois, and spent most of his youth
5 in Florida and Kentucky before his family's fortuitous move to Janesville, Wisconsin
6 in the middle of Don's ninth grade year; and

7 Whereas, Don received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University
8 of Wisconsin, interning as a law student at the Legislative Council under the
9 legendary tutelage of Bonnie Reese and joining the council staff full time in January
10 1977; and

11 Whereas, Don embodied the finest qualities of nonpartisan legislative staff —
12 competent, diligent, trustworthy, and discreet; and

13 Whereas, for 33 years, Don ably staffed numerous legislative standing
14 committees, primarily in the assembly, concentrating on municipal law and the
15 judiciary; and

1 Whereas, according to legislators whose committees he staffed, Don provided
2 invaluable counsel promptly and accurately, never failing to explain extremely
3 complicated legal elements of bills discussed in committee, and providing relief with
4 his ready smile and sense of humor during controversial and testy discussions; and

5 Whereas, Don capably staffed many Legislative Council study committees,
6 assisting legislators and citizen members in crafting complex legislation in areas
7 ranging from marital property and family law to product liability and town laws; and

8 Whereas, Don was a trusted and respected colleague whose door was always
9 open to his fellow staffers for advice on substantive legal and sensitive political
10 matters; and

11 Whereas, Don was a dedicated noon-time runner with council friends,
12 continuing to meet them for a Friday run in his retirement; and

13 Whereas, Don was and remains an avid sports enthusiast, from his days in
14 Little League and Babe Ruth League; as a high school baseball player, sprinter, and
15 long jumper; as coach of his sons' baseball teams; and, emulating his legislative
16 abilities, as an exceptionally solid third baseman for Madison's Wet Noodle softball
17 team; and

18 Whereas, Don wishes to acknowledge the love and valued support of his family
19 that enabled him to devote himself fully to his legislative career; and

20 Whereas, Don's steady hand and calm demeanor will be missed by all who
21 worked (and played) with him; now, therefore, be it

22 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
23 Wisconsin legislature honor and commend Don Dyke for his 33 years of devoted
24 service to the Wisconsin legislature and wish him many fruitful, active, and
25 enjoyable years in retirement; and, be it further

