



2009 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 78

April 20, 2010 – Introduced by Senator MILLER, cosponsored by Representative SOLETSKI. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** the retirement of John Stolzenberg, chief of research services,
2 Legislative Council staff, following a long and distinguished career in
3 nonpartisan service to the Wisconsin legislature.

4 Whereas, John Stolzenberg was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio,
5 graduating from the University of Cincinnati in 1970; and

6 Whereas, Ohio's loss was Wisconsin's gain, as John moved to Madison for
7 graduate school at the University of Wisconsin, earning a masters degree in chemical
8 engineering, followed in 1975 by a PhD in environmental studies; and

9 Whereas, John met his future wife, Louise, through the Wisconsin Hoofers,
10 marrying in 1978; and

11 Whereas, while still in graduate school, John was hired by the
12 forward-thinking Bonnie Reese as the first staff scientist at the Legislative
13 Council—assuming the position full time in November 1975—as part of a national
14 effort to incorporate scientific and technical expertise into the cadres of legislative
15 staff following the energy crisis and the growth in environmental regulation; and

1 Whereas, John exemplified the Bonnie Reese paradigm of legislative staff work
2 by early and active involvement in legislative issues and by the cogent presentation
3 of complex information through innovative tables, charts, and diagrams; and

4 Whereas, John has capably staffed innumerable Legislative Council study
5 committees on complex subjects ranging from recycling, privacy, and the Great
6 Lakes Compact to nuclear power, acid rain, and telecommunications restructuring,
7 as well as working groups and special projects to develop legislative proposals on
8 groundwater protection, solid and hazardous waste management, wetlands
9 protection, energy efficiency, and renewable energy; and

10 Whereas, John has provided invaluable guidance to his standing committee
11 chairs and members, focusing on issues relating to the environment, natural
12 resources, information policy, telecommunications, and utilities and energy; and

13 Whereas, John has worked tirelessly on legislative efforts to implement the
14 recommendations of the Governor’s Task Force on Global Warming; and

15 Whereas, John helped to design and provide training for new legislative staff,
16 beginning with the 2001 session; and

17 Whereas, John has been a valued and collegial member of the council staff for
18 35 years, serving for the past 10 years as chief of research services, sporting his
19 once-trademark bowtie, cheerily answering phone calls with “Greetings, John
20 Stolzenberg,” making time to socialize and share with his colleagues on the
21 Wednesday Legislative Council lunch run, bounding off to the capitol for yet another
22 meeting after dropping another of his trademarks—the rush project—into the
23 workbasket, and often being the last to turn off his office lights at night; and

24 Whereas, John’s well-rounded life is exemplified by his many pursuits outside
25 of work, as an active church member, flute player in the VFW Community Band,

1 homebuilder with Habitat for Humanity from Madison to Guatemala and El
2 Salvador, ballroom dancer, and enthusiast for the great Wisconsin outdoors; and

3 Whereas, John's exuberance, love of learning, and generosity of spirit will be
4 greatly missed by all who worked with him; now, therefore, be it

5 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the
6 Wisconsin legislature honor and commend John Stolzenberg for his 35 years of
7 devoted service to the Wisconsin legislature and wish him many fruitful, active, and
8 enjoyable years in retirement; and, be it further

9 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint
10 resolution to John and his wife Lou and their children, Karen and David.

11

(END)