



## 2011 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 68

1     **Relating to:** the life and public service of Richard Peterson.

2             Whereas, Richard Peterson was born on July 17, 1920, to Ely and Lattie  
3     Peterson in Waupaca, Wisconsin, where he lived until he graduated from Waupaca  
4     High School. In 1936, while still a high school student, Richard joined the National  
5     Guard; and

6             Whereas, Richard Peterson began his college career at the University of  
7     Wisconsin in Madison in 1938. His education was interrupted in October 1940 when  
8     he was called to serve his country as a member of the 32nd Red Arrow Division of the  
9     National Guard. Richard served on active duty for five years during World War II,  
10    and received his honorable discharge in November 1945; and

11            Whereas, Richard Peterson, while stationed in Victoria, Texas, met and  
12    married Irene Price on December 25, 1942. After his discharge, Richard and Irene  
13    returned to Madison where Richard completed his education and earned his Doctor  
14    of Law degree. Having earned a high scholastic rating, he was invited to participate  
15    in the Honors Convocation at graduation time; and

1           Whereas, Richard Peterson opened a law office in Clintonville, Wisconsin. In  
2 the spirit of service he rejoined the National Guard, until his retirement in 1963 at  
3 the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His unit was sent to Washington state during the  
4 Cuban Missile Crisis. While in Washington, he served as Judge Advocate in the 32nd  
5 Division's legal department; and

6           Whereas, Richard Peterson was elected to the Wisconsin state assembly in 1950  
7 as a representative for Waupaca County, and was reelected for the next seven terms.  
8 He served as chairman of the Assembly Committee on Revision. Additionally, he sat  
9 as a member on the committees of: Veteran and Military Affairs, Education,  
10 Insurance and Banking, and Taxation and Judiciary. Notably, in 1956, he was  
11 appointed chairman of the Veterans Home Committee—a special legislative  
12 committee which was instrumental in ensuring the future of King Veterans Home;  
13 and

14           Whereas, Richard Peterson moved with Irene to a farm they purchased in  
15 Royalton in 1972. Deer Crossing Antique Shop was started a few years later in a  
16 building on the property. Profits from the business were donated to nonprofit  
17 organizations; now, therefore, be it

18           ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the  
19 Wisconsin legislature honor the life of Richard Peterson. We join his family, friends,  
20 and the community in memorializing his exemplary service to the United States of  
21 America, Waupaca County, and the state of Wisconsin; and, be it further

22           ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint  
23 resolution to Richard's wife Irene, and his sons Eric, Richard, and Randall.

24

(END)