



2011 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 59

February 6, 2012 – Introduced by Senators C. LARSON, MILLER and TAYLOR, cosponsored by Representatives HONADEL, STONE, JORGENSEN, PASCH, TURNER, CRAIG, J. OTT, BROOKS and ZIEGELBAUER. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of Richard (Dick) Bolender.

2 Whereas, Richard “Dick” Bolender was born on January 12, 1943, in South
3 Milwaukee, and died on December 11, 2011, in Oak Creek at the age of 68; and

4 Whereas, Dick was a lifelong resident of Milwaukee County, graduating from
5 South Milwaukee High School and then the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater,
6 and working almost every day on his farm, tending to his horses and cows on one of
7 the few remaining farms in the area; and

8 Whereas, Dick enlisted in the U.S. Air Force Reserves upon graduating from
9 UW–Whitewater, and was stationed close to home at the 440th in Milwaukee, and
10 in 1970 began his 36–year career with American Family; and

11 Whereas, Dick served the city of Oak Creek as an elected official for nearly a
12 decade, first as alderman of the 4th District, serving from 2002 to 2003, and then as
13 mayor for three terms from 2003 to 2011; and

14 Whereas, during his tenure as mayor of Oak Creek, Dick was instrumental in
15 many redevelopment projects, including the 85–acre former Delphi site, opening the

1 lakefront area for public access, facilitating Bucyrus International headquarters
2 (now Caterpillar) moving to Oak Creek, and recruiting redevelopment along South
3 Howell Avenue which included Woodman’s grocery store; and

4 Whereas, Dick was well respected as an honest public servant and was always
5 accessible to the community, holding regular “meet the mayor” sessions at city hall
6 and the countless meetings in living rooms of Oak Creek residents; and

7 Whereas, Dick had announced his retirement, wanting to spend more time with
8 his family, just one week before his untimely passing; and

9 Whereas, Dick was a devoted husband and friend to Christine, father to
10 Michael and Lisa, and grandfather to Brittany, Cindy, Brianna, Taylor, Robby, and
11 Madison; now, therefore, be it

12 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the
13 Wisconsin legislature commend the distinguished career and public service of
14 Richard “Dick” Bolender, express their sorrow at his death, and extend their
15 condolences to his family and friends; and, be it further

16 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide copies of this resolution to
17 Dick Bolender’s widow, Christine Bolender; his son, Michael Bolender; and his
18 daughter, Lisa Reid.

19

(END)