



2011 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 70

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of Harry Franke.

2 Whereas, Harry Franke, former Wisconsin Representative and Senator, passed
3 away on February 4, 2012; and

4 Whereas, Harry Franke is survived by his wife Mary and their three children,
5 Jay, John, and Mary Ann; and

6 Whereas, Harry was born on October 13, 1922, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and

7 Whereas, Harry attended the University of Wisconsin, but left to join the Army
8 during World War II where he served stateside as a trainer; and

9 Whereas, Harry resumed his studies at Marquette University at the conclusion
10 of the war and later went on to earn a law degree at the University of Wisconsin; and

11 Whereas, in 1950, Harry Franke was elected to the Wisconsin assembly, serving
12 one term; and

13 Whereas, in 1952, Harry served in the Wisconsin senate for one four-year term;
14 and

1 Whereas, Harry joined a law firm that would eventually become Cook & Franke
2 in 1960, and eventually became a full-time lobbyist; and

3 Whereas, many have praised Harry for his work as a lobbyist and credit his
4 success to his straightforward, honest, and thoughtful approach to the job; and

5 Whereas, Harry was recognized for his philanthropic and volunteer work as
6 evidenced by the Harry and Mary Franke Idea Fund, which gave money to start-up
7 organizations; and

8 Whereas, Harry also started Franke Scholars, which awarded Milwaukee
9 public school graduates with scholarships to state colleges; and

10 Whereas, Harry dutifully served his community, being involved with groups
11 including the Inbusch Foundation, Public Policy Forum, Skylight Theatre, the
12 Downtown YMCA, Children's Service Society, the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre,
13 and Alverno College; and

14 Whereas, Harry was recognized for his hard work and dedication to the
15 community, receiving awards such as the Milwaukee Foundation Community
16 Service William Frye Award, Milwaukee Bar Association Lawyer of the Year, and
17 Boy Scouts' Distinguished Citizen Award; and

18 Whereas, Harry never shied away from his beliefs despite criticism, as
19 evidenced by his speaking out against Wisconsin Senator Joe McCarthy's
20 anti-communist rhetoric; and

21 Whereas, Harry will long be remembered for his love of limericks, reciting one
22 at the end of each Milwaukee Rotary meeting, where he served as President and
23 District Governor for Wisconsin; now, therefore, be it

24 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the legislature
25 commends the life and dedicated service of Harry Franke, expresses sorrow at his

1 death, and extends its condolences to his family, friends, and all those who were
2 touched by his work; and, be it further

3 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
4 resolution to Mr. Franke's family.

5 (END)