2015 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 43

June 30, 2015 – Introduced by Senators RISSER, BEWLEY, ERPENBACH, L. TAYLOR and RINGHAND, cosponsored by Representatives SUBECK, C. TAYLOR, SARGENT, SINICKI, BERCEAU, HESSELBEIN, OHNSTAD, POPE and BROSTOFF. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

Relating to: the life and public service of Anne Nicol Gaylor.

Whereas, Anne Nicol Gaylor was born on November 25, 1926, in Tomah, Wisconsin, and died on June 14, 2015, in Madison, Wisconsin; and

Whereas, Anne graduated from high school at age 16 and earned an English degree from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1949; and

Whereas, Anne began her long and distinguished career as a pioneer, activist, and reproductive rights advocate in 1967 when, as editor and owner of the Middleton Times–Tribune, she wrote an editorial calling for legalized abortion in Wisconsin; and

Whereas, in 1974, Anne cofounded the Women’s Medical Fund and, in 1976, became principal founder of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, both nonprofit organizations, advocating reproductive rights and promoting the separation of church and state; and
Whereas, Anne is the author of a book detailing her experiences advocating for reproductive rights, and has appeared on television and radio programs such as Crossfire, Larry King’s radio show, and Oprah Winfrey’s A.M. Chicago; and

Whereas, Anne was the recipient of numerous awards and honors over the years, including the Wisconsin National Organization for Women’s Feminist of the Year Award, the Service and Commitment Award from the Wisconsin chapter of the National Women’s Political Caucus, the Humanist Heroine Award from the American Humanist Association, the Zero Population Growth Recognition Award, and NARAL’s Tiller Award; and

Whereas, Anne’s years of activism on behalf of reproductive rights for women and the right to freedom from religion never wavered, even after her retirement from over 40 years of volunteer work in the spring of 2015; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the members of the Wisconsin legislature do commend the devoted public service of Anne Nicol Gaylor, express their sorrow at her death, and extend their condolences to her family and friends; and, be it further

Resolved, That the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint resolution to Anne’s children, Andrew, Annie Laurie, Ian, and Jamie Gaylor, and to her brother, Tom Nicol.

(END)