2017 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 114

February 26, 2018 – Introduced by Representatives C. TAYLOR, HEBL, SUBECK, BERCEAU, ZAMARRIPA, CROWLEY, SINICKI, SPREITZER, POPE, SHANKLAND, ANDERSON, SARGENT, ZEPNICK and BROSTOFF, cosponsored by Senators LARSON, L. TAYLOR, RISSER and RINGHAND. Referred to Committee on Rules.

Relating to: proclaiming March 20, 2018, as Mister Rogers Day in Wisconsin.

Whereas, Mister Fred Rogers, celebrated American television personality, was born March 20, 1928, and passed away on February 27, 2003, at the age of 74; and

Whereas, Mister Rogers was famous for creating, hosting, and composing the music for the educational preschool television series Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood (1968–2001), which featured his kind-hearted, gentle, soft-spoken personality and directness to his audience; and

Whereas, Mister Rogers, initially educated as a minister, was displeased with the manner in which television addressed children, and in attempt to create change he began to write for and perform on Pittsburgh-area shows devoted to youth, stating, “I went into television because I hated it so, and I thought there’s some way of using this fabulous instrument to nurture those who would watch and listen”; and

Whereas, Mister Rogers became an icon of American children’s entertainment and was known for his advocacy of various public causes, which included a court testimony in favor of time shifting of television shows as well as a testimony to a U.S.
Senate committee advocating for increased funding of children’s television programs; and

Whereas, Mister Rogers taught that in times of great change and uncertainty it is crucial to hold onto patience, kindness, diversity, collaboration, and peace; and

Whereas, thanks to his unparalleled outpour of love and compassion into children and children’s media, children’s television and the world at large are both kinder places; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That** the members of the Wisconsin legislature honor the life and public service of Mister Fred Rogers on his 90th Birthday, and thank him for leaving footprints of change and bettering the lives of millions of children; and, be it further

**Resolved, That** the legislature proclaims March 20, 2018, as Mister Rogers’ Day in Wisconsin.

(END)