2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 60

June 15, 2017 - Introduced by Senators CARPENTER, L TAYLOR, JOHNSON, HANSEN, WIRCH, VINEHOUT and LARSON, cosponsored by Representatives RIEMER, ZAMARRIPA, BALLWEG, ZEPNICK, KERKMAN, GOYKE, KESSLER, GENRICH, ANDERSON, SPREITZER, BERCEAU and CROWLEY. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

Relating to: the life and public service of Sister Joel Read.

Whereas, Sister Joel Read was a nationally known figure in education innovation; and

Whereas, she was born Janice Anne Read on December 30, 1925, to Joseph and Ellen, later taking her religious name, Joel, in honor of them; and

Whereas, Read became a member of the School Sisters of St. Francis in 1945, and graduated with a bachelor’s degree from Alverno College in 1948; and

Whereas, after earning a master’s degree in history at Fordham University, she returned to Alverno in 1955 to become chair of the history department; and

Whereas, Read was appointed president of Alverno College in 1968; and

Whereas, during her 35 years of leadership at Alverno, she developed the “assessment-as-learning” curriculum, which emphasized developing skills and abilities over grades; and
Whereas, Read's approach to education received both national and international attention, and she was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the National Council on the Humanities; and

Whereas, Read was a lifelong advocate for women's rights and helped to found the National Organization for Women in 1966; and

Whereas, Read retired as president of Alverno in 2003, but continued to work with the college and the city, developing a strategic plan for the Milwaukee Public Schools with the Greater Milwaukee Committee; and

Whereas, Read received awards from Harvard University, the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, and Wisconsin Women in Higher Education Leadership; and

Whereas, Read was invited to the White House to discuss education policy by three U.S. presidents; and

Whereas, Read died on May 25, 2017, at the age of 91; and

Whereas, she leaves a legacy at Alverno of creating a place for first generation college students, women from the city of Milwaukee, and women of color to succeed; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the legislature salutes Sister Joel Read's public service and honors her achievements; and, be it further

Resolved, That the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint resolution to Alverno College.

(END)