2019 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 58

August 8, 2019 – Introduced by Senators Wanggaard and Wirch, cosponsored by Representatives Ohnstad, Kerzman, McGuire and Neubauer. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

Relating to: Honoring the lives of the individuals involved in the May 3rd explosion and fire at AB Specialty Silicones, as well as their heroic efforts to look out for one another during this devastating event.

Whereas, AB Specialty Silicones is an industrial silicone manufacturing company located in Waukegan, Illinois, with employees from the surrounding area of both northeastern Illinois and southeastern Wisconsin; and

Whereas, on the evening of Friday, May 3, 2019, there was a massive, catastrophic explosion and fire at the facility that resulted in the loss of four lives of those who were working at the plant and caused injuries to both other employees and first responders; and

Whereas, Jeff Cummings, 57, of Kenosha, Wisconsin, was killed in the explosion; and

Whereas, Mr. Cummings is survived by his wife, Denise; son, Dustin; and his granddaughter, Arya, as well as other family members and friends. He was a production supervisor with seven years of experience at the facility, and, according
to several accounts, he heroically returned into the plant in the midst of the blasts
to attempt to rescue his colleagues who remained inside; and

Whereas, Byron Biehn, 53, of Brighton Township, Wisconsin, passed away in
the explosion; and

Whereas, Mr. Biehn is survived by his wife, Dian, and their children Helena, Byron Carl, and Mathias, as well as other family members and friends. He was a
production supervisor with nine years of experience with the company, including
serving as one of the company’s first employees, and he was instrumental to the
company’s growth; and

Whereas, Allen Stevens, 29, of Salem, Wisconsin, did not survive injuries due
to the explosion; and

Whereas, Mr. Stevens is survived by his wife, Jennifer, as well as other family
members and friends. He was a chemical operator who had been with the company
for the past two years and known for his good humor, intellect, and smile; and

Whereas, Daniel Nicklas, 24, of Beach Park, Illinois, died as a result of the
explosion; and

Whereas, Mr. Nicklas is survived by his fiancé, Kyrstan Bower, as well as other
family members and friends. He was a quality control chemist and had made a true
impact on those around him in his eight months with the company; and

Whereas, our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of those involved in
this tragedy; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the members of the
Wisconsin Legislature honor the lives of these individuals, as well as their heroic
efforts to look out for one another during this devastating event.

(END)