2021 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 14

March 8, 2021 – Introduced by Representatives SPREITZER, LOUDENBECK, BOWEN, CONLEY, DRAKE, EMERSON, HESSELBEIN, HINTZ, S. RODRIGUEZ, SHELTON, SKOWRONSKI, SUBECK, TAUCHEN and VRUWINK, cosponsored by Senators RINGHAND, NASS, CARPENTER, COWLES and FELZKOWSKI. Referred to Committee on Rules.

Relating to: commending the life and art of O.V. “Verne” Shaffer.

Whereas, Owen Verne Shaffer was born in 1928 in Princeton, Illinois, and passed away on February 16, 2021; and

Whereas, Shaffer was a prolific and renowned artist with long-standing ties to southern Wisconsin as both an artist and an educator; and

Whereas, Shaffer graduated from Beloit College in 1950, and returned in 1955 as both an art instructor and the first full-time Director of the Wright Museum of Art at the college; and

Whereas, Shaffer spent many years making his sculptural pieces in a studio in rural Clinton, including the eight-ton “Celebration” sculpture that stands at Riverside Park in Beloit; and

Whereas, Shaffer has an estimated 1,200 pieces to his credit, including sculptural works in welded and cast metal, concrete, and wood; and

Whereas, Shaffer’s art can be found in the collections of museums, corporations, private homes, communities, and parks throughout the U.S. and the world; and
Whereas, more than 25 pieces of Shaffer’s outdoor sculpture can be found displayed in Beloit; and

Whereas, Shaffer was recognized as having more public art on display than any other artist in Wisconsin; and

Whereas, Shaffer received the Governor’s Award in the Arts in 1970; and

Whereas, Shaffer’s life and work were celebrated in 2015 with events and a road trip to visit some of his notable pieces on display around the state; and

Whereas, Shaffer’s work as an educator and a sculptor will continue to inspire Wisconsinites for years to come; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the members of the Wisconsin Legislature recognize and commend the life and art of O.V. “Verne” Shaffer.

(END)