June 3, 2021 - Introduced by Representatives DUCHOW, KNODL, VOS, VORPAGEL, DALLMAN, DITTRICH, EDMING, GUNDRUM, KERKMAN, KITCHENS, KRUG, KUGLITSCH, MAGNIFICI, MOSES, MURPHY, NOVAK, PLUMER, STEFFEN, THIESFELDT, TITTL, TRANEL, STUBBS, ANDERSON, DRAKE, HEBL, SINICKI, SUBECK and VRUWINK, cosponsored by Senators DARLING, BALLWEG, FEYEN, MARKLEIN, CARPENTER, ERPENBACH and L. TAYLOR.

Relating to: honoring the career and accomplishments of Barry Alvarez.

Whereas, Barry Alvarez will retire on June 30, 2021, after a legendary career in the University of Wisconsin–Madison athletic department lasting more than 30 years; and

Whereas, Barry Alvarez began his career at the UW–Madison as head football coach in 1990, a position in which he served for 16 seasons; and

Whereas, under Barry Alvarez’s leadership, the Badger football team quickly transformed from a team that struggled to compete into a Big Ten powerhouse, winning the first Rose Bowl Game in school history during Alvarez’s third season as head coach; and

Whereas, throughout his tenure as head coach, Barry Alvarez led the Badgers to three Big Ten titles and three Rose Bowl victories, amassing a record of 119–74–4; and

Whereas, Barry Alvarez is UW–Madison’s all–time winningest coach and one of just sixteen coaches in Big Ten history to win at least 100 games at one school; and
Whereas, in 2004, after 16 seasons as head football coach, Barry Alvarez transitioned to Director of Athletics, guiding the UW-Madison athletic department for the subsequent 18 years; and

Whereas, during Barry Alvarez’s tenure as athletic director, UW-Madison has enjoyed remarkable success, winning a combined 16 team national titles and 74 regular season or tournament conference championships; and

Whereas, Barry Alvarez has played a critical role in the unprecedented success seen in recent years by UW-Madison’s football, men’s basketball, women’s hockey, women’s volleyball, and men’s cross country teams; and

Whereas, under his leadership, six coaches hired by Barry Alvarez have gone on to receive Big Ten coach of the year honors, and in 2018, Alvarez earned Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year honors; and

Whereas, as athletic director, Barry Alvarez has managed several notable capital improvements to UW-Madison facilities, including upgrades to Camp Randall Stadium, the UW Field House, the Zimmer Championship Cross Country Course, and the construction of LaBahn Arena, home to the national championship-winning women’s hockey team; and

Whereas, in 2012, under the direction of Barry Alvarez, the UW-Madison athletic department created Badgers Give Back, a program committed to improving the communities of its fans and encouraging the growth of student athletes beyond the field of play; and

Whereas, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Barry Alvarez has served as a widely respected leader in the NCAA, chairing the Big Ten’s Return to Competition Task Force and playing a key role in helping the conference hold safe and successful seasons in 2020; and
Whereas, Barry Alvarez has been inducted into five halls of fame, including the State of Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame, the Rose Bowl Hall of Fame, the College Football Hall of Fame, the UW Athletics Hall of Fame, and the Orange Bowl Hall of Fame; and

Whereas, throughout his career, Barry Alvarez has had a positive impact on the lives of countless student athletes and has established a standard of excellence for the UW–Madison athletic program; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the members of the Wisconsin Legislature honor the legendary career of Barry Alvarez and celebrate his retirement from the University of Wisconsin–Madison athletic department.

(END)