



2025 Assembly Joint Resolution 4

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to: honoring the life and public service of Justice David T. Prosser Jr.

Whereas, Justice David Prosser served the people of Wisconsin in various capacities for more than 40 years, including 18 years in the Wisconsin Legislature and another 18 years on the Wisconsin Supreme Court; and

Whereas, during his tenure in public service, Justice David Prosser served in all three branches of state government and took part in the writing, enforcement, and interpretation of the laws of Wisconsin; and

Whereas, Justice David Prosser developed an interest in politics as a young child and chose a career in public service at an early age, first serving as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice and then joining the office of U.S. Congressman Harold Froehlich, his longtime mentor, before returning to Wisconsin; and

Whereas, upon returning to his hometown of Appleton, Justice David Prosser was elected Outagamie County district attorney and served in that position for two years before he was elected in 1978 to represent his community in the Wisconsin Assembly; and

Whereas, while serving in the legislature, Justice David Prosser was an instrumental member of various committees, including the Joint Committee on Finance and the Assembly Committee on Judiciary, and was known by his peers as a gifted orator, a meticulous researcher, and a natural-born leader; and

Whereas, Justice David Prosser served nine terms in the Wisconsin Assembly and was elected by his colleagues to serve as assembly minority leader for six years and assembly speaker for two years; and

Whereas, following his tenure in the legislature, Justice David Prosser was appointed to serve on the Wisconsin Tax Appeals Commission, where he conducted hearings and ruled on disputes related to state taxation; and

Whereas, in 1998, Justice David Prosser was appointed to the Wisconsin Supreme Court by Governor Tommy Thompson, and was later elected to serve two 10-year terms in 2001 and 2011, before retiring in 2016; and

Whereas, Justice David Prosser was highly regarded by his colleagues for his keen intellect, his thoughtful approach to drafting opinions, and his deep sense of fairness while serving on the Wisconsin Supreme Court; and

Whereas, throughout his tenure in public service, Justice David Prosser served as a valued member on numerous councils and commissions, including the Wisconsin Judicial Council, the Wisconsin Supreme Court Planning and Policy Advisory Committee, the Wisconsin Sentencing Commission, the Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice, and the Uniform Law Commission, of which he was a Life Member; and

Whereas, Justice David Prosser was a committed mentor who devoted his time to building up the next generations of lawyers and policymakers, inspiring them to set high standards and lofty goals; and

Whereas, Justice David Prosser, who passed away on December 1, 2024, at the age of 81, credited the support of his loving family and endless stream of loyal friends for his decades-long career in public service; and

Whereas, the extraordinary legacy of Justice David Prosser and his lifetime dedication to the betterment of this state will long be remembered by the people of Wisconsin; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the members of the Wisconsin Legislature join in honoring the life and service of Justice David T. Prosser Jr. and extend their condolences to his family and friends.

Senator Mary Felzkowski
President of the Senate

Representative Robin J. Vos
Speaker of the Assembly

Date

Edward A. Blazel
Assembly Chief Clerk