

2009 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 31

April 21, 2009 – Introduced by Senators RISSER and MILLER, cosponsored by Representatives BLACK, POCAN and BERCEAU. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1	Relating to: the life and public service of Marjorie Midge Cavins Leeper Miller.
2	Whereas, Marjorie "Midge" Cavins Leeper Miller was born on June 8, 1922, in
3	Morgantown, West Virginia, and died on April 17, 2009, in Madison, Wisconsin; and
4	Whereas, Midge earned a B.A. degree in sociology from the University of
5	Michigan in 1944 and an M.S. degree in anthropology from the University of
6	Wisconsin-Madison in 1962; and
7	Whereas, Midge was widowed with four children after her first husband, Dean
8	Leeper, died in a shipwreck during a typhoon in 1954 near Japan where the couple
9	worked as missionaries; and
10	Whereas, after this tragedy Midge returned to the United States and, in 1958,
11	moved to Madison to attend graduate school; and
12	Whereas, Midge became an assistant dean in UW-Madison's College of Letters
13	and Sciences in 1960; and
14	Whereas, Midge married UW-Madison professor Ed Miller, a widower with five
15	children, in 1963, and they remained together until his death in 1995; and

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1	Whereas, Midge Miller got her start in politics in the 1960s opposing the
2	Vietnam War and working on anti-war Democrat Eugene McCarthy's presidential
3	campaign; and
4	Whereas, Midge Miller was first elected to the Wisconsin assembly in 1970, and
5	served in the 1971 through 1983 sessions; and
6	Whereas, Midge served as chairperson of the Assembly Committee on Higher
7	Education and Vocational Education (1983 session) and chairperson of the Assembly
8	Committee on Commerce and Consumer Affairs (1977, 1979, and 1981 sessions); and
9	Whereas, along with Gloria Steinem and others, Midge helped found the
10	National Women's Political Caucus in 1971 and helped create the Madison Institute,
11	a local progressive think tank, in 1985, before retiring; and
12	Whereas, during her tenure in the legislature, she was consensus-builder who
13	championed a number of progressive causes and she worked tirelessly to streamline
14	state government; create and strengthen the University of Wisconsin System;
15	expand consumer and environmental protections; preserve open politics and clean
16	government; and make Wisconsin a leader in defending civil liberties and expanding
17	civil rights protections; now, therefore, be it

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18 Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the members of the 19 Wisconsin legislature commend the devoted public service that Marjorie "Midge" 20 Miller contributed to this state and her community, express their sorrow at her 21 death, and extend their condolences to her family and friends; and, be it further

Resolved, That the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
resolution to Midge Miller's children, Steve, David, Cedar, and Ken Leeper and
Mark, Sterling, Nancy, Jeff, and Randy Miller.

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(END)