

State of Misconsin 2013 - 2014 LEGISLATURE



## **2013 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 46**

June 28, 2013 – Introduced by Representatives VRUWINK, KESSLER and DANOU, cosponsored by Senator Lassa. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1	<b>Relating to:</b> the life and public service of Zelotes S. Rice II.
2	Whereas, Mr. Zelotes S. Rice II, known as Zel, passed away May 1, 2013, at age
3	89; and
4	Whereas, Mr. Rice grew up in Sparta, Wisconsin, and after graduating from
5	Sparta High School in 1941 his undergraduate education at the University of
6	Wisconsin was interrupted by his service to our country in World War II as a machine
7	gunner; and
8	Whereas, Mr. Rice fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was wounded in battle
9	near Colmar, France, and received a Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal, in
10	addition to the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Colmar coat of arms, the Belgian
11	Fourragère, and the French Croix de Guerre for valor and bravery in service; and
12	Whereas, Mr. Rice earned his bachelor of science degree in political science from
13	the University of Wisconsin in 1948, graduated from the University of Wisconsin
14	Law School in 1951, and went on to practice in New York and Washington, D.C.,
15	before returning to Sparta to practice law with his father and brother; and

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1	Whereas, Mr. Rice served the state of Wisconsin as a member and commissioner
2	of the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission from 1963 until his 1974
3	appointment by Governor Patrick J. Lucey as the secretary of transportation, after
4	which he was appointed by Governor Martin Schreiber as Wisconsin's first secretary
5	of Industry, Labor and Human Relations in 1977; and
6	Whereas, Mr. Rice left state service in 1980 and returned with his family to
7	Sparta to practice law at the firm Rice & Abbott until 1995, and then continued his
8	practice with Arndt, Buswell & Thorn until the age of 86; and
9	Whereas, Mr. Rice remained a leader in the community and served as president
10	of Sparta-Tomah Broadcasting Company, which owns WCOW-FM and WKLJ-AM
11	in Sparta and WFBZ-FM in Winona, Minnesota. He was president of Monroe
12	County Publishers, which owns and prints the Monroe County Democrat; and
13	Whereas, Mr. Rice was a devoted husband and friend to Babette and father to
14	David; now, therefore, be it
15	Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the members of the
16	Wisconsin legislature commend the distinguished career and public service of
17	Zelotes S. Rice, express their sorrow at his death, and extend their condolences to his
18	family and friends; and, be it further
19	<b>Resolved, That</b> the assembly chief clerk shall provide copies of this resolution
20	to Zel Rice's widow, Babette Rice, and his son, David.
21	(END)