

State of Misconsin 2013 - 2014 LEGISLATURE



## **2013 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 64**

January 22, 2014 – Introduced by Senators KEDZIE, GROTHMAN, VINEHOUT, MILLER, LASSA, SCHULTZ, T. CULLEN, LAZICH, HARSDORF, LEHMAN and TIFFANY, cosponsored by Representatives WEATHERSTON, JACQUE, KLEEFISCH, KAHL, SMITH, STROEBEL, TRANEL, GOYKE, THIESFELDT, DANOU, PETRYK, A. OTT, BIES, POPE, TITTL, MASON, MURTHA, BALLWEG, MARKLEIN, PETERSEN, OHNSTAD, HINTZ, PRIDEMORE, KNODL, MURSAU, KRUG, JORGENSEN, RODRIGUEZ, BERNIER, WACHS and BERCEAU. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1	<b>Relating to:</b> commending the Iron Brigade.
2	Whereas, the courageous soldiers of the Iron Brigade fought in the Union Army
3	in the Civil War of 1861–1865; and
4	Whereas, General Rufus King brought together the infantry regiments known
5	as the Iron Brigade and commanded them at the start of the Civil War; and
6	Whereas, the majority of the Iron Brigade was composed of young men from
7	Wisconsin; and
8	Whereas, also known as the "Black Hats," the Iron Brigade served in almost
9	every major battle of the Civil War; and
10	Whereas, William F. Fox, the Civil War's premier casualty statistician, stated
11	that the records show that, during the Civil War, the Iron Brigade faced enemy fire
12	most often and for the longest periods; and
13	Whereas, of the 672 infantry brigades in the Union Army, the Iron Brigade
14	experienced the highest rate of casualties; and

2013 – 2014 Legislature – 2 –

1	Whereas, at the Battle of South Mountain, the Iron Brigade used the leapfrog
2	tactic, which is still widely used by the military today; and
3	Whereas, the Iron Brigade was instrumental in helping the Union win the
4	Battle of Gettysburg, which was the real turning point of the Civil War; and
5	Whereas, 61 percent of the Iron Brigade's casualties were sustained at
6	Gettysburg, with the 2nd Wisconsin Infantry suffering 77 percent of its casualties
7	at Gettysburg; and
8	Whereas, the 6th Wisconsin Infantry is remembered for its famous charge on
9	an unfinished railroad cut north and west of Gettysburg, where, led by Colonel Rufus
10	R. Dawes, the infantry bravely moved forward amid hidden enemy fire, captured the
11	flag of the 2nd Mississippi, and took hundreds of Confederate soldiers prisoner; and
12	Whereas, in total, nearly 12,000 of these Iron Brigade soldiers sacrificed their
13	lives, and thousands more were wounded; and
14	Whereas, the eminent historian T. Harry Williams stated that the Iron Brigade
15	was "probably the best fighting brigade in the army"; and
16	Whereas, the Iron Brigade played a significant role in helping the Union Army
17	win the Civil War; now, therefore, be it
18	<b>Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That</b> the members of the
19	Wisconsin legislature join all Wisconsin residents in honoring the members of the
20	Iron Brigade for their bravery, strength, and courage and their countless
21	contributions to the preservation of our great nation.
22	(END)