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State of Misconsin 2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3889/1 CMH:kjf

2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 72

August 3, 2017 – Introduced by Senators Testin, Tiffany, Shilling, Cowles, Petrowski, Moulton, Olsen, Carpenter, Johnson, Nass, Risser, Wirch, Marklein and Vinehout, cosponsored by Representatives Shankland, Barca, Krug, VanderMeer, Kulp, Ballweg, Ripp, Mursau, Spiros, Edming, Snyder, Allen, Anderson, Berceau, Considine, Hintz, Jarchow, Kuglitsch, Murphy, Pope, Sargent, Sinicki, Spreitzer, Tauchen, Vruwink, Wachs and Zepnick. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

2	Whereas, former Congressman and Secretary of Defense Melvin Robert Laird
3	was born on September 1, 1922, and died on November 16, 2016; and
4	Whereas, Melvin Laird was born to Melvin R. Laird Sr. and Helen (Connor)
5	Laird, was raised and attended school in Marshfield, and graduated from Carleton
6	College in Minnesota; and
7	Whereas, Mr. Laird served in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1946, serving in the
8	Pacific Fleet with Task Forces 38 and 58, and while serving, he received a Purple
9	Heart and other awards; and
10	Whereas, after leaving the Navy, Mr. Laird continued to pursue a life of public
11	service, first being elected in 1946 to succeed his father in the Wisconsin State
12	Senate, then being elected in 1952 to represent Wisconsin's 7th District in the House
13	of Representatives, which included the areas of Marshfield, Wausau, Wisconsin
14	Rapids, and Stevens Point; and

Relating to: the life and public service of Melvin Robert Laird.

Whereas, as a Congressman, Mr. Laird was reelected eight consecutive times,
developing a reputation as a key member on medical and health issues, and
sponsoring legislation for major expansions of the National Institutes of Health and
the Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta, in addition to supporting cancer
research centers around the country; and
Whereas, Mr. Laird was selected by President Richard M. Nixon to serve as the
Secretary of Defense, a role in which he confronted American challenges in Vietnam
through the development of "Vietnamization," a program to train and equip South
Vietnam's forces for combat while reducing U.S. combat troops; and
Whereas, as Secretary of Defense, Mr. Laird worked to decentralize
decision-making, to reduce the defense budget, to transition to an all-volunteer
military by ending the draft, and to maintain U.S. technological superiority with
weapons like the B-1, Trident, and cruise missiles; and
Whereas, after serving his term as Secretary of Defense, Mr. Laird wrote for
Reader's Digest and other publications, and in 1974 was awarded the Presidential
Medal of Freedom by President Ford; and
Whereas, Mr. Laird is survived by his wife Carole, son David, daughter Alison
Laird-Large, son John, stepdaughter Kimberly Dalgleish, four grandsons, and one
step-granddaughter; now, therefore, be it
Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the members of the
Wisconsin legislature salute Melvin Laird's public service and honor his tremendous
achievements and service to his country; and, be it further
Resolved. That the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint

(END)

resolution to his family.