

State of Misconsin 2021 - 2022 LEGISLATURE

2021 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 108

February 11, 2022 - Introduced by Senators Ballweg, Carpenter, Marklein and Testin, cosponsored by Representatives Petersen, Dittrich, Drake, Hintz, Krug, Macco, Murphy, Mursau, Sinicki, Thiesfeldt, Vos and Vruwink. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1	Relating to: honoring the life and public service of Senator Joseph Leean.
2	Whereas, Senator Joseph "Joe" Leean, a public servant and dedicated husband,
3	father, and grandfather, passed away on February 2, 2022; and
4	Whereas, Senator Leean was born to Sidney and Marie Leean on March 10,
5	1942, and was raised in Iola, Wisconsin, graduating from Iola High School as
6	salutatorian in 1960; and
7	Whereas, Senator Leean earned his bachelor's degree from Augustana College
8	in 1964 and went on to do graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison
9	and Western Michigan University. Shortly thereafter, he began teaching high school
10	math and physics in Waupaca; and
11	Whereas, Senator Leean spent his summers working at Ding's Dock until he
12	purchased the business in 1973; he later purchased and renovated the boat now
13	known as <i>Chief Waupaca</i> , fulfilling his dream of bringing a unique tour boat to the
14	Waupaca Chain O' Lakes; and

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Whereas, Senator Leean embarked upon many other business ventures,
including expanding the Ponderosa into Fort Waupaca, creating a petting zoo
themed park, and cofounding Shepherd of the Lakes Church with other business
leaders in his community; and
Whereas, for over 20 years, Senator Leean served as president of the Chain O'
Lakes Sanitary District, which developed the sewer system that has kept the lakes
he loved crystal clear; and
Whereas, after a long career in business, in 1984, Senator Leean was elected
to represent the people of the 14th Senate District, which he went on to serve for 10
years, until 1995; and
Whereas, during his tenure in the legislature, Senator Leean served with
expertise on various committees, including the Joint Committee on Finance, which
he co-chaired for several years; and
Whereas, Senator Leean left elected office to serve as secretary of the Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services for six years, during which time he was
instrumental in the creation of BadgerCare; and
Whereas, Senator Leean subsequently served as a consultant to U.S.
Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson in
Washington, D.C.; and
Whereas, after 20 years in public service, Senator Leean spent the next two
decades traveling, spending time with his family, building things in his workshop,
and taking evening dinner cruises with his wife and family on the Senate Chambers
paddle wheel boat; and

1 Whereas, Senator Leean is survived by his beloved wife, Virginia "Ginny," three $\mathbf{2}$ daughters, and seven grandchildren; he will be remembered fondly as a loving 3 husband, father, grandfather, and community member; now, therefore, be it **Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That** the members of the 4 $\mathbf{5}$ Wisconsin State Legislature mourn the passing of Senator Joe Leean and extend 6 their condolences to his family and friends; and, be it further 7 **Resolved**, That the senate chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint 8 resolution to Senator Leean's family; and, be it further 9 **Resolved**, That flags across Wisconsin shall fly at half-staff on February 16, 10 2022, in honor of the celebration of his life.

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(END)