



2025 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 71

June 17, 2025 - Introduced by Senators JACQUE, PFAFF, KEYESKI, WIRCH, SPREITZER and RATCLIFF, cosponsored by Representatives TRANEL, NOVAK, KREIBICH, O'CONNOR, GUNDRUM, MURSAU, MURPHY, PENTERMAN, SINICKI, MIRESE, GOODWIN and PALMERI. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** honoring Jerry Apps for his contributions to Wisconsin's heritage.

2 Whereas, Jerry Apps became an active member of the Waushara County 4-H
3 club at age 10 and has remained an advocate of 4-H throughout his life; and

4 Whereas, Jerry Apps began his professional career as a county extension
5 agent in Green Lake and Brown Counties, advising farm families and youth and
6 serving as a fair organizer and judge; and

7 Whereas, Jerry Apps taught thousands of students as a professor at the
8 University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture; and

9 Whereas, Jerry Apps has written more than 50 books on Wisconsin history
10 and rural life, exploring topics such as barns, cheesemaking, gardening, fishing,
11 conservation, horse-powered farming, one-room schools, and country winters; and

12 Whereas, Jerry Apps has researched and published 23 books with the
13 Wisconsin Historical Society Press, including the definitive *Wisconsin Agriculture:
14 A History*, documenting in depth our state's agricultural past, present, and future,

1 as well as *Old Farm: A History*, which has won more than a dozen regional and
2 national awards; and

3 Whereas, Jerry Apps has written engaging and informative books for young
4 readers that are enjoyed by schoolchildren in classrooms across Wisconsin; and

5 Whereas, Jerry Apps has informed, entertained, and inspired countless
6 residents of Wisconsin and the world through his newspaper columns, articles,
7 books, and television and radio appearances; and

8 Whereas, Jerry Apps is exceedingly generous with his knowledge and craft,
9 teaching classes and workshops for aspiring writers and encouraging them to
10 preserve and share their own stories; and

11 Whereas, Jerry Apps has earned dozens of writing awards; received the
12 Distinguished Service Award from the UW–Madison College of Agricultural and
13 Life Sciences; was named a fellow of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and
14 Letters; and was inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fame; and

15 Whereas, Jerry Apps has created seven documentaries on rural life with PBS
16 Wisconsin and won a regional Emmy Award for the documentary *A Farm Winter*,
17 and two Eric Sevareid Awards for Merit for *The Land and Food and Memories*; and

18 Whereas, Jerry Apps stands alongside the great Wisconsin naturalist and
19 environmental thinkers Aldo Leopold, John Muir, Sigurd Olson, Increase Lapham,
20 and Gaylord Nelson; and

21 Whereas, Jerry Apps has shown unwavering dedication to preserving
22 Wisconsin's agricultural heritage and strengthening our bonds to our past and to
23 one another; now, therefore, be it

24 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the Wisconsin

1 Legislature honors Jerry Apps for his numerous, unique, and impactful
2 contributions to Wisconsin's heritage.

3 (END)