



State of Wisconsin
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-2704/1
JKS:wlj

2023 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 11

May 12, 2023 - Introduced by Representatives KURTZ, NOVAK, SPIROS, CONLEY, MURPHY, SUBECK and OHNSTAD. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** honoring the life and public service of Representative Joanne Duren.

2 Whereas, Joanne Duren was a vocal and independent-minded member of the
3 Wisconsin State Assembly who served her constituents in southwest Wisconsin from
4 the 1971 to 1981 legislative sessions; and

5 Whereas, Joanne Duren was born in Cazenovia, Richland County, Wisconsin,
6 on October 11, 1931, to Frank and Henrietta Duren; and

7 Whereas, after graduating from Madison Business College in 1950, Joanne
8 Duren worked in various secretarial positions before operating her own secretarial
9 business in the late 1960s; and

10 Whereas, working as a secretary in the Wisconsin Legislature, Joanne Duren
11 observed state government firsthand and was inspired to run for office; and

12 Whereas, Joanne Duren won her bid to represent Iowa and Richland Counties
13 in November 1970, becoming the first woman to represent both counties; and

1 Whereas, Joanne Duren advocated for farmers, supporting a proposed
2 constitutional amendment to assess agricultural lands differently for the purposes
3 of imposing property taxes; and

4 Whereas, Joanne Duren also successfully pushed for legislation establishing a
5 state veterinary school and designating the dairy cow as the state's domestic animal;
6 and

7 Whereas, her other efforts included reforming capital gains taxes, limiting
8 smoking in public places, requiring smoke detectors in new residences, and making
9 mobile homes safer; and

10 Whereas, Joanne Duren served in Democratic caucus leadership and chaired
11 various committees, including Tourism and Economic Development and
12 State-Federal Relations; and

13 Whereas, Joanne Duren was fiercely independent, committed to the
14 Democratic Party but willing to break with Democrats on controversial issues; and

15 Whereas, throughout her career, Joanne Duren kept her constituents informed
16 of the activities of the legislature on her Sunday morning *Assembly Reports* radio
17 broadcast; and

18 Whereas, after losing her bid for reelection in November 1982, Joanne Duren
19 served as the Chief Clerk of the Wisconsin State Assembly during the 1983 and 1985
20 legislative sessions; and

21 Whereas, following her career as a public servant in Wisconsin, Joanne Duren
22 moved to Tucson, Arizona, where she enriched her community with volunteer work
23 at her church and other charitable organizations; and

24 Whereas, Joanne Duren passed away on November 26, 2022, at the age of 91;
25 now, therefore, be it

