



## 2009 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 80

April 21, 2010 – Introduced by Senator DECKER, cosponsored by Representative SEIDEL. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1     **Relating to:** the years of public service of Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Barbara  
2           Lawton.

3           Whereas, Barbara Lawton was born in Wisconsin, graduated from Waterford  
4     Union High School and Lawrence University, and earned a master's degree in  
5     Spanish from UW-Madison. In 2008, she received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws  
6     from Lawrence University and an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from the  
7     Milwaukee Institute of Arts and Design. She took office as Wisconsin's 43rd  
8     lieutenant governor on January 3, 2003, and was re-elected in 2006; and

9           Whereas, Lawton's route to becoming Wisconsin's first woman elected  
10    lieutenant governor was built upon a foundation of public service. As a founder of  
11    the Greater Green Bay Area Community Foundation and the Multicultural Center,  
12    as an advisor to Entrepreneurs of Color, in service on various boards, including that  
13    of the Northeast Wisconsin Technical College Foundation, she is firmly grounded in  
14    community; and

1           Whereas, Lawton has focused her efforts as lieutenant governor on economic  
2 development and has been called “Wisconsin’s green leader” for her Green Economy  
3 Agenda, prompting Madison’s WISC-TV editorial board to dub her “one of our best.”  
4 Her efforts earned her an invitation to work with Oxfam America and the Nobel  
5 Women’s Initiative on their women and global climate change projects; and

6           Whereas, Lawton recently completed her tenure as chair of the National  
7 Lieutenant Governors Association and leads a multiagency project to expand access  
8 to opportunity in Wisconsin for disadvantaged and minority-owned and  
9 women-owned businesses. She is also honorary chair of Wisconsin United for  
10 Mental Health and led a task force on women and depression; and

11           Whereas, Lawton serves on the National Leadership Council for the American  
12 Association of Colleges and Universities, leading Wisconsin’s pilot of their ten-year  
13 national campaign to champion the deep public value of higher education for  
14 individual students and for a nation dependent on economic creativity; and

15           Whereas, as chair of the Wisconsin Arts Board, Lawton led the agency to move  
16 Wisconsin’s creative economy forward through development of a strong arts and  
17 culture industry in every part of the state and her leadership and the work of the Arts  
18 Board were recognized with three consecutive invitations to the National Arts Policy  
19 Roundtable; and

20           Whereas, Lawton has served the people of Wisconsin with great dignity and  
21 distinction, and her actions on the important issues of the day reflect her confidence  
22 in the people of Wisconsin as the state’s greatest resource; now, therefore, be it

23           ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the  
24 Wisconsin legislature honor Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton and

1 her family, including husband Cal, son Joseph, and daughter Amanda, for her years  
2 of dedicated and passionate service on behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin.

3 (END)