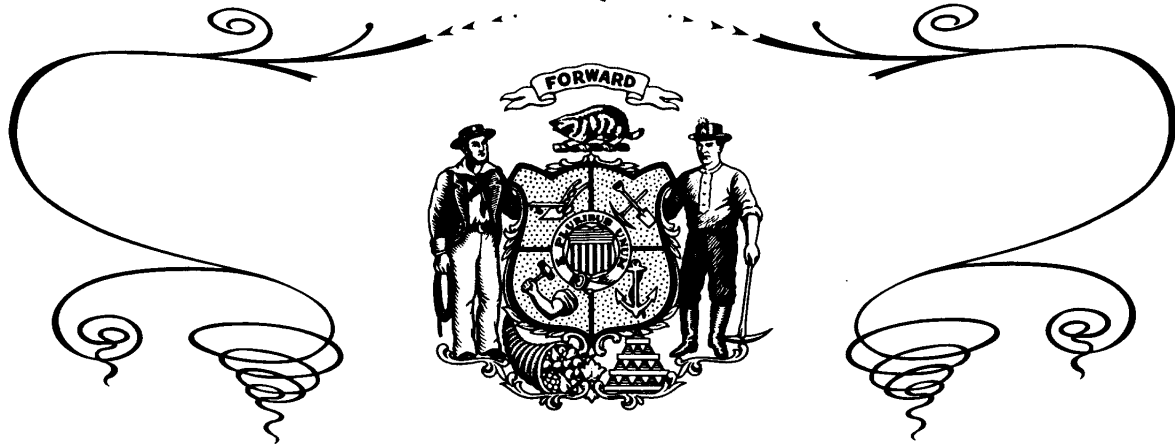


State of Wisconsin



1995 Assembly Joint Resolution 34

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to: the life and public service of Reuben La Fave.

Whereas, Reuben R. La Fave was born in the town of Lena in Oconto County on September 27, 1915, and died in Portage on March 12, 1995; and

Whereas, Reuben La Fave graduated from Oconto High School; and

Whereas, Mr. La Fave served in the Coast Guard Reserve during World War II, was a member of the Oconto County Board for 9 years, was a member of many civic and benevolent organizations, was a social worker and realtor and operated a business in Oconto; and

Whereas, he was elected to the assembly in 1950 and served in that house until 1957 and was a member of the senate from 1957 to 1977; and

Whereas, Mr. La Fave's leadership abilities were recognized by his colleagues in the assembly when he was named assistant floor leader, and he also served as chair of the senate transportation committee; and

Whereas, in his position as chair of the Menominee Indian Committee, Mr. La Fave was a strong advocate for the Menominees and other Indian tribes, and he was instrumental in helping the Menominee Indian Tribe greatly improve its infrastructure; and

Whereas, he was a co-chair of the joint survey committee on retirement systems and of the retirement research council, in which positions he mastered the intricacies of retirement law and policy; and

Whereas, he is recognized as one of Wisconsin's great leaders relative to state public pension plans, and many of his initiatives toward providing equitable benefits and the merger and consolidation of public pension plans were continued or completed after his departure; and

Whereas, from his youth Reuben La Fave had a strong love and respect for the outdoors; and

Whereas, at age 13, he was struck with polio and over several years time built up his physical strength by taking long walks on crutches in the woods along the shore of Lake Michigan; and

Whereas, Reuben La Fave was known for his tenacious and effective devotion to conservation; as evidenced by his service as chair of the Sportsmen’s Conservation Congress, his being named “Mr. Conservation” in 1960, his receipt of the Milwaukee Sentinel’s first annual award for outstanding achievement in conservation in 1953, his receipt of an award for conservation work from the Wisconsin Federation of Women’s Clubs, his service as president of the Northeast Conservation Council, his service as a member and as chair of the assembly conservation committee and his service as a member of the senate conservation committee; and

Whereas, conservation and wildlife organizations sought protected status for the mourning dove for over a decade; and

Whereas, in 1971, Reuben La Fave authored the legislation resulting in deleting the mourning dove from the definition of game bird and making it the Wisconsin state symbol of peace; and

Whereas, in 1972 he was honored by nearly 1,000 persons in Marinette at an appreciation dinner for his 25 years of public service; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the members of the Wisconsin legislature salute Reuben La Fave’s many decades of effective and devoted public service, in particular his advancement of the cause of conservation, express their sorrow at his death and extend their condolences to his family and friends; and, be it further

Resolved, That the assembly chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint resolution to Mr. La Fave’s wife, Grace, and to his son, Gary.

Senator Brian D. Rude
President of the Senate

Representative David T. Prosser, Jr.
Speaker of the Assembly

Date

Charles R. Sanders
Assistant Chief Clerk