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2001 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 36

February 22, 2001 – Introduced by Representatives Lippert, Ladwig, Starzyk, Vrakas, Jensen, Wasserman, Underheim, McCormick, Gunderson, Ryba, Wade, Rhoades, Shilling, Gronemus, Hebl, Hoven, Ward, Ziegelbauer, Kedzie, Pettis, Duff, Leibham, Olsen, Sinicki, Plouff, Riley, Huebsch, Miller, Freese, Hahn, Pocan, Albers, Kestell, Powers, Krawczyk, Johnsrud, Townsend, Petrowski, Schneider, Plale, Musser, Bock, Coggs, Turner, Urban, Ainsworth, Walker, Berceau, Balow, Gundrum, Jeskewitz, Seratti, Ott and J. Lehman, cosponsored by Senators Erpenbach, Panzer, Darling, Zien, Cowles, Risser, Rosenzweig, Lazich, A. Lasee, Breske, Roessler, Huelsman, Schultz, S. Fitzgerald, Plache, Grobschmidt, Burke, George, Wirch and Harsdorf. Referred to Committee on Rules.

Relating to: honoring and commending the devoted public service of Sue Ann 1 $\mathbf{2}$ Thompson. 3 Whereas, Sue Ann Thompson earned her bachelor's degree from Viterbo 4 College in La Crosse and postgraduate credits from the University of 5 Wisconsin-Madison; and 6 Whereas, Sue Ann Thompson and Governor Tommy G. Thompson have been 7 married since 1968 and have 2 daughters and a son, as well as grandchildren; and 8 Whereas, Sue Ann Thompson served an unprecedented 14 years as Wisconsin's 9 first lady working on issues that promote and enhance the diverse culture and strong 10 values that embody the state of Wisconsin; and 11 Whereas, she spent 34 years in the noble profession of schoolteacher, serving 12 not only her classes but the community, by working with children and adults who 13 strive to learn to read; and Whereas, she served diligently as a member of the Wisconsin Literacy Council 14

and the Governor's Commission on Schools for the 21st Century; and

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Whereas, Sue Ann Thompson has served as chair of the National Governor's Association Spouses Program, president of the Executive Residence Foundation, and as a member of the Ronald McDonald House Board of Trustees, the Viterbo College Board of Directors, the Wisconsin Women Government's Board of Directors, the American Players Theatre Advisory Board, and the Juneau County Parent Mentoring Advisory Board; and

Whereas, she has served as the president of Very Special Arts, an international organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of the disabled through music, dance, and the arts, and is a representative on the Very Special Arts National Board of Directors; and

Whereas, Sue Ann Thompson has had the courage to publicly discuss her own treatment for breast cancer as a way of bringing women's health issues to public attention, has promoted cancer awareness among women, and has become an inspiration to others who have survived cancer treatment; and

Whereas, she created and works extensively with the Wisconsin Women's Health Initiative, whose mission is to promote awareness of diseases that afflict women through education, prevention, and outreach, and to provide funding for research and opportunities for women in the medical field; and

Whereas, Sue Ann Thompson also serves as honorary chair of Wisconsin Women's Health Initiative and is active with the Wisconsin Women's Cancer Control Program; and

Whereas, she has received several awards for her work as an educator and promoter of women's health issues, including the Health Education Center's Wisconsin's Health is Power Award in 1997 and the Action for Cancer Awareness Award from Congressional Families for Cancer Awareness in 1998; and

Whereas, Sue Ann Thompson has established the Wisconsin Women's Health
Foundation to focus not only on cancer, but also on the general health, education, and
well-being of women in this state; and

Whereas, the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation offers educational programs on pertinent health programs for women of specific age groups, conducts studies, and gathers data on the state of women's health in this state and makes recommendations on changing lifestyles for reasons of health, provides scholarships and financial assistance to medical professionals and others specializing in women's health, and provides assistance to help poor women attend classes and conferences on health care; and

Whereas, she has campaigned continuously to end health care disparities between men and women, improve access to high-quality health care for women, increase medical research focused on women, and provide health insurance that covers primary care; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the members of the Wisconsin legislature honor and commend Sue Ann Thompson for devoted public service and her contributions to and advocacy for women's health care; and, be it further

Resolved, That the senate chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint resolution to her husband, Governor Tommy G. Thompson; her daughters, Tommi and Kelli; and to her son, Jason.

(END)