



2003 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 69

February 19, 2004 – Introduced by Representatives WEBER, VAN ROY, KRAWCZYK, GARD, MONTGOMERY, F. LASEE and BIES, cosponsored by Senators COWLES, HANSEN and A. LASEE. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming February 27, 2004, Green Bay Day in Wisconsin.

2 Whereas, Jean Nicolet discovered the Green Bay area in 1634, just 14 years
3 after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, making it the oldest settlement in
4 Wisconsin; and

5 Whereas, Nicolet named the bay “La Baie Verte” because of its greenish color,
6 but first it was La Baie des Puants — the Bay of the Stinking Water; and

7 Whereas, when Nicolet arrived, the area’s inhabitants were the Winnebagos,
8 a Sioux-speaking tribe; and

9 Whereas, it was with the Winnebagos that Nicolet spent the winter, exploring
10 the waterway beyond La Baie, and forming alliances important to commerce, before
11 returning to Quebec in 1635; and

12 Whereas, after Nicolet’s departure from the region, no extended stays were
13 made at La Baie until Pere Claude Allouez established St. Francis Xavier Mission
14 at Rapides Des Peres in 1671; and

1 Whereas, the French made no attempt to populate the area before they were
2 driven out by the English in 1763 due to an ambush of British General Braddock and
3 George Washington by Charles de Langlade who was a half-French Ottawa war
4 chief; and

5 Whereas, de Langlade, who is called the “Father of Wisconsin,” and his family
6 became the first permanent settlers in Wisconsin when they moved to Green Bay in
7 1765 and Green Bay remained a British stronghold until after the war of 1812; and

8 Whereas, in the 1850’s, immigrants from Belgium, Germany, Scandinavia,
9 Ireland, and Holland settled in the area due to the cheap land and good soil; and

10 Whereas, on February 27, 1854, the legislature incorporated Green Bay as a
11 city, making it the 9th city of the State of Wisconsin with William C. E. Thomas as
12 its first mayor; and

13 Whereas, in the 1860’s, the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad linked the area
14 to other parts of the state, greatly enhancing business opportunities, and Green Bay
15 became an international port with domestic and international trade; and

16 Whereas, on April 16, 1895, the city of Fort Howard and the city of Green Bay
17 were consolidated to form one city, the city of Green Bay; and

18 Whereas, in 1895 the first paper mill in Green Bay was built, giving birth to the
19 city’s largest local industry, which remains the city’s largest employer to this day; and

20 Whereas, in the 1920’s, Green Bay’s meat-packing industry provided a name
21 for a company-sponsored “sandlot” football team, and the Green Bay Packers soon
22 became one of 2 charter teams of the National Football League; and

23 Whereas, the Green Bay Packers is the only NFL team that is a publicly owned
24 corporation, and its heritage and tradition along with many successes on the gridiron

1 have brought invaluable name recognition across the world to the Green Bay area;
2 and

3 Whereas, Green Bay has received many accolades, such as receiving in 1999 an
4 All-America City Award by the National Civic League, and being named by Industry
5 Week as one of its “world class communities,” ranking it 21st in overall
6 manufacturing performance of all cities, and 6th in job creation for cities under
7 250,000; and

8 Whereas, the people of Green Bay are today, like their ancestors, progressive
9 thinking, hard-working people committed to their families, their faith, their work,
10 and their community; and

11 Whereas on Friday, February 27, 2004, Green Bay will celebrate the
12 sesquicentennial anniversary of the official chartering of the city of Green Bay; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
15 Wisconsin legislature congratulate the city of Green Bay on its 150th anniversary
16 and proclaim February 27, 2004, Green Bay Day in Wisconsin; and, be it further

17 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall transmit a copy of this joint
18 resolution to the mayor of Green Bay.

19 (END)