



2005 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 83

February 27, 2006 - Introduced by Representatives MUSSER, SHERMAN, BIES, McCORMICK and PETTIS, cosponsored by Senators BROWN, ZIEN and COGGS. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** the life and public service of James H. Schlender.

2 Whereas, James H. Schlender, Sr., was born March 5, 1947, was a member of
3 the Lynx clan of the Lac Courte Oreilles band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians,
4 and was also known by his Ojibwe name, Zaagajiiwe, meaning “man cresting the
5 hill”; and

6 Whereas, Mr. Schlender grew up in Milwaukee and on the Lac Courte Oreilles
7 reservation; and

8 Whereas, Mr. Schlender earned a bachelor of arts degree with honors from the
9 University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee in 1974 and a juris doctor degree from the
10 University of Wisconsin Law School in 1978; and

11 Whereas, Mr. Schlender served the Lac Courte Oreilles band as tribal attorney
12 from 1978 to 1981 and was elected to the Tribal Governing Board for 4 consecutive
13 terms from 1981 to 1987 serving as vice chairman and secretary/treasurer; and

14 Whereas, Mr. Schlender played a leading role in litigation and negotiations
15 regarding hunting, fishing, and gathering rights retained by the Chippewa in

1 treaties with the United States, as tribal attorney and later as the first chair of the
2 Voigt Intertribal Task Force; and

3 Whereas, Mr. Schlender served as executive administrator of the Great Lakes
4 Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission from 1986 to 2005, in which capacity he
5 negotiated with the department of natural resources the implementation of court
6 rulings regarding tribal natural resources rights; and

7 Whereas, Mr. Schlender was a moderating influence in resolving conflicts with
8 the state and with private citizens surrounding the exercise of those rights; and

9 Whereas, Mr. Schlender worked closely with state officials to forge cooperative
10 programs by which the department of natural resources and the Great Lakes Indian
11 Fish and Wildlife Commission manage natural resources and conduct law
12 enforcement in the ceded territories; and

13 Whereas, Mr. Schlender was instrumental in building the Great Lakes Indian
14 Fish and Wildlife Commission into a highly professional agency providing biological,
15 regulatory, legal, and other services to the Chippewa bands; and

16 Whereas, Mr. Schlender ensured that the commission acknowledged its unique
17 tribal identity by infusing Ojibwe culture and values into all aspects of its work; and

18 Whereas, Mr. Schlender served from 1982 to 1989 as vice chair of the joint
19 legislative council’s American Indian study committee and as chair of 3 separate
20 subcommittees of that committee; and

21 Whereas, Mr. Schlender served on the Wisconsin Supreme Court’s board of bar
22 examiners, the Wisconsin Supreme Court’s appointment selection committee, the
23 board of directors of the Indian law section of the Wisconsin State Bar, and the board
24 of directors of the Environmental Health Laboratory of the Lake Superior Research
25 Institute, University of Wisconsin–Superior; and

1 Whereas, Mr. Schlender was the first recipient of the Wisconsin Law
2 Foundation's Belle Case LaFollette Award for Contributions to the Advancements of
3 the Profession in 1992, earned a Bush Foundation Fellowship in 1992 for continuing
4 legal education, and was named Tribal Leader of the Year in 2001 by the Native
5 American Fish and Wildlife Society; and

6 Whereas, Mr. Schlender was a frequent presenter to diverse audiences on
7 principles of Indian law, tribal sovereignty, and the rights retained by American
8 Indian nations in treaties with the United States; and

9 Whereas, Mr. Schlender was a tireless advocate for the rights of American
10 Indian nations and the exercise of tribal sovereignty, cresting many hills in his
11 service to the Lake Superior Chippewa bands and the 3 states in which they are
12 located; and

13 Whereas, Mr. Schlender suffered an untimely death on August 30, 2005, at the
14 age of 58; now, therefore, be it

15 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
16 Wisconsin legislature commend the life and public service of James H. Schlender,
17 also known as Zaagajiiwe; and, be it further

18 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution
19 to Mr. Schlender's wife, Agnes Fleming, of Lac Courte Oreilles, and their children,
20 Tammy Barber and Valerie Tribble, of Lac Courte Oreilles; James Schlender, Jr., of
21 Madison, Wisconsin; Mary Tribble, Justin Schlender, and Melissa Crow, of Lac
22 Courte Oreilles; Jason Schlender, of Red Cliff, Wisconsin; and Jenny and Margaret
23 Schlender, of Lac Courte Oreilles.

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(END)