



## 2007 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 48

April 23, 2007 - Introduced by Representative VAN AKKEREN, cosponsored by Senator LEIBHAM. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1       **Relating to:** the life and public service of former Chief Justice Nathan S. Heffernan.

2               Whereas, Nathan S. Heffernan was born on August 6, 1920, in Frederic,  
3       Wisconsin, and died on April 13, 2007, in Madison, Wisconsin; and

4               Whereas, at an early age, Nathan S. Heffernan and his family moved to  
5       Sheboygan, where, in 1938, he graduated from Sheboygan High School; and

6               Whereas, Nathan S. Heffernan earned a bachelor of arts degree from the  
7       University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1942 and a bachelor of laws degree from the  
8       University of Wisconsin Law School in 1946; and

9               Whereas, Nathan S. Heffernan served in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1946; and

10              Whereas, Nathan S. Heffernan married Dorothy Hillemann on April 27, 1946;  
11       and

12              Whereas, after practicing law in Madison and serving as assistant counsel for  
13       the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Mr. Heffernan and his family returned to  
14       Sheboygan; and

1           Whereas, from 1948 to 1959, Nathan S. Heffernan practiced law in Sheboygan,  
2           during which time he was an assistant district attorney in Sheboygan County from  
3           1951 to 1952 and a city attorney of Sheboygan from 1953 to 1959; and

4           Whereas, from 1959 to 1962, Nathan S. Heffernan served as deputy state  
5           attorney general until he was appointed U.S. attorney for the western district of  
6           Wisconsin by President John F. Kennedy in 1962; and

7           Whereas, in 1964, Nathan S. Heffernan was appointed to the Wisconsin  
8           Supreme Court by Governor John Reynolds; and

9           Whereas, during his tenure on the supreme court, Nathan S. Heffernan was  
10          known for his excellent relationship with all of his colleagues, characterized by  
11          fostering consensus and respectful collegiality; and

12          Whereas, concern for individual rights, humanity, and the environment were  
13          hallmarks of his judicial philosophy; and

14          Whereas, disturbed by the excessive delays in resolving cases, Justice  
15          Heffernan was a strong supporter of the 1978 court reorganization that created the  
16          Wisconsin Court of Appeals and merged county and circuit courts; and

17          Whereas, in 1983, Nathan S. Heffernan became chief justice of the supreme  
18          court, a position he held until his retirement in 1995; and

19          Whereas, throughout his tenure, Chief Justice Heffernan promoted equal and  
20          speedy access to justice, fair compensation for the judiciary, and civility with his  
21          colleagues, the circuit courts, and the other branches of government; now, therefore,  
22          be it

23                 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the  
24          Wisconsin legislature commend the devoted public service that Nathan Stewart

1 Heffernan contributed to this state and his community, express their sorrow at his  
2 passing, and extend their condolences to his family and friends; and, be it further

3 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint  
4 resolution to Mr. Heffernan's wife, Dorothy; his daughter, Kathleen Thomas of  
5 Wales, Great Britain; and his sons, Michael Heffernan of Madison and Thomas  
6 Heffernan of Port Wing.

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(END)