

## **2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 136**

April 22, 2010 – Introduced by Representatives Mason, Shilling, Turner, Berceau, Milroy, Hebl, Sinicki, Toles, Hixson, Bernard Schaber, Hraychuck, Young, Hubler and Nelson, cosponsored by Senators Taylor, Miller, Jauch, Hansen, Kreitlow, Sullivan, Risser and Lehman. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1	Relating to: commemorating the 40th Earth Day celebration.
2	Whereas, Gaylord Nelson, a former United States Senator from Wisconsin, was
3	born and raised in Clear Lake, Wisconsin, in Polk County and is recognized as one
4	of the leading environmentalists of the 20th century who worked to create a new era
5	of international awareness of the environment; and
6	Whereas, Gaylord Nelson served in the Wisconsin state senate from 1949 to
7	1959, as governor of the state of Wisconsin from 1959 to 1963, and in the United
8	States Senate from 1963 to 1981, truly representing the progressive values learned
9	as a boy from Clear Lake; and
10	Whereas, Gaylord Nelson created and passed legislation to ban phosphates in
11	household detergents and to ban the use of dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT)
12	and legislation that created the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and the St.
13	Croix Wild and Scenic Riverway and protected other important Wisconsin and
14	national treasures and worked tirelessly to ensure clean water and clean air for all
15	Americans; and

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Whereas, Gaylord Nelson celebrated and founded the first Earth Day, on April
 22, 1970, which was by far the largest celebration and environmental grassroots
 event in history at that time; and

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Whereas, Gaylord Nelson led an unparalleled period of legislative and grassroots activity in the country that spurred the passage of over 25 pieces of environmental legislation from 1970 to 1980, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the National Environmental Education Act; and

8 Whereas, environmental leadership was not Gaylord Nelson's only calling as 9 he fought for civil rights, challenged drug companies and tire manufacturers to 10 protect consumers, enlisted for the War on Poverty, and took a stand against Senator 11 Joe McCarthy, the House Un-American Activities Committee, and the Nixon White 12 House to defend and protect civil liberties; and

Whereas, in 1995, Gaylord Nelson was awarded the highest honor accorded
civilians in the United States, the Presidential Medal of Freedom; now, therefore, be
it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the legislature of
 the state of Wisconsin honors the life and work of a great Wisconsin citizen, Senator
 Gaylord Nelson, and celebrates with thankfulness his legacy and the 40th Earth Day
 celebration on April 22, 2010.

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(END)