LRB-2865/1 CGR:kjf:rs



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2009 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 53

May 12, 2009 - Introduced by Representatives Soletski, Nelson, Zipperer, Montgomery, Roth, Hintz, Bernard Schaber, Van Roy, Turner, Cullen. KERKMAN, MILROY, GRIGSBY, A. OTT and ZIGMUNT, cosponsored by Senators HANSEN, COWLES, RISSER and TAYLOR. Referred to Committee on Rules.

Relating to: the life and public service of former Congressman Reverend Robert J.

2 Cornell. 3 Whereas, Father Robert J. Cornell was born on December 16, 1919, in Gladstone, Michigan, and died on May 10, 2009, in De Pere, Wisconsin; and 4 5 Whereas, in 1928 the Cornell family moved to Green Bay, Wisconsin, where 6 Robert became a member of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral parish and was very active 7 in parish affairs; and 8 Whereas, in 1937, he was named the outstanding Catholic boy of Green Bay; 9 and 10 Whereas, Robert J. Cornell joined the Norbertine Order in 1938 and was 11 ordained a priest in the Norbertine Order on June 17, 1944; and 12 Whereas, he received his B.A. degree from St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin, in 1941, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from The Catholic University of 13 14 America in Washington, D.C., in 1957; and

Whereas, Father Cornell's academic assignments included serving on the
faculty at St. Norbert High School and later at Abbot Pennings High School in De
Pere, Wisconsin, and Southeast Catholic High School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
where he was also vice principal; and
Whereas, Father Cornell was a professor of history and government at St.
Norbert College throughout most of his long teaching career and was the Dean of
Students at the college for five years; and
Whereas, Father Cornell taught history at The Catholic University in
Washington, D.C., and in San Antonio, Texas; and
Whereas, Father Cornell was chairman of the 8th Congressional District and
was a member of the State Administrative Committee of the Democratic Party of
Wisconsin from 1969 to 1974; and
Whereas, Father Cornell was elected to the 94th Congress and 95th Congress,
serving from January 3, 1975 to January 3, 1979, as the U.S. representative from the
8th Congressional District of Wisconsin; and
Whereas, while serving in Congress, most of Father Cornell's congressional
salary was used for internships in his Washington, D.C., office for residents of
northeast Wisconsin and for student aid at all schools of higher education in the 8th
Congressional District; and
Whereas, his influence and community involvement was not limited to the
classroom and politics: Father Cornell directed activities for the youth of the area,
especially rock concerts with nationally famous entertainers, and later he handled
country and rock shows in Green Bay with the proceeds being used for scholarships
for St. Norbert College students and graduates: and

1	Whereas, in his later years, Father Cornell served as chaplain at Nicolet
2	Terrace in De Pere; and
3	Whereas, Father Cornell is the author of the standard work on the role of
4	Theodore Roosevelt in the great anthracite coal strike of 1902, and his political
5	memoirs, "Is There a Priest in the House?", as well numerous articles on historical
6	and educational topics for encyclopedias and magazines; and
7	Whereas, Father Cornell co-authored a book on the history of St. Norbert
8	College as part of the Centennial celebration in 1998; and
9	Whereas, Father Cornell was included among "45 Who Made a Difference" in
10	the first century and one-half of Wisconsin Catholic history in 1998; and
11	Whereas, Father Cornell was a member of the board of trustees of Gallaudet
12	College, a member of the Wisconsin Supreme Court Commission on Judical Ethics,
13	and founding member of Labor Historians and listed as a Distinguished Member of
14	the Organization of American Historians; now, therefore, be it
15	Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the members of the
16	Wisconsin legislature find it fitting to commend the devoted public service that
17	Father Robert J. Cornell contributed to this state and his community and recognize
18	his accomplishments as a priest, legislator, and a citizen; and, be it further
19	Resolved, That the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
20	resolution to Father Cornell's niece, Patti Heil of Centennial, Colorado; nephew,
21	William Cornell of Arlington, Virginia; and St. Norbert College in De Pere,
22	Wisconsin.
23	(END)