



## 2015 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 108

February 17, 2016 – Introduced by Senators L. TAYLOR, BEWLEY, C. LARSON, MILLER, RISSER and VINEHOUT, cosponsored by Representatives YOUNG, BARNES, BERCEAU, GOYKE, JORGENSEN, KAHL, KESSLER, MASON, MILROY, OHNSTAD, POPE, SINICKI, SPREITZER, SUBECK and ZEPNICK. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1     **Relating to:** proclaiming July 18, 2016, as Nelson Mandela Day in Wisconsin.

2             Whereas, Nelson Mandela, celebrated political leader of the anti-apartheid  
3 movement in South Africa, passed away on December 5, 2013, at the age of 95; and

4             Whereas, Nelson Mandela was an adamant fighter for political, social, and  
5 economic equality; Mandela envisioned a democratic and free society and was willing  
6 to relentlessly fight for that ideal, even if it cost him the ultimate price, his life; and

7             Whereas, on October 9, 1963, Nelson Mandela, along with ten others, were on  
8 trial for 221 acts of sabotage initiated to overthrow the apartheid system, which came  
9 to be known as the Rivonia Trial; Mandela faced the death penalty, and even under  
10 the threat of the death penalty, Nelson Mandela stood by his stance against  
11 apartheid, and said he would die for his cause: “I have fought against white  
12 domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal  
13 of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and  
14 with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But  
15 if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die;” and

1           Whereas, Nelson Mandela joined the African National Congress in 1944 when  
2 he helped to form the ANC Youth League, a youth organization committed to fighting  
3 segregation within South Africa during the time of apartheid, and, despite frequent  
4 breaks and political distractions throughout his schooling, Mandela eventually  
5 earned his degree to practice law; and

6           Whereas, Nelson Mandela inspired hope and commitment to an ideal of ending  
7 white minority rule in South Africa; with each night spent in a prison cell, with each  
8 oppressive action he endured, and with each opportunity he was denied, he  
9 persevered, and his dedication culminated in him securing the first democratic  
10 presidential election in the history of South Africa; and

11           Whereas, Mandela’s philanthropic work with the Nelson Mandela Children’s  
12 Fund, the Nelson Mandela Foundation, and the Mandela Rhodes Foundation  
13 positively impacted countless lives; and

14           Whereas, throughout Mandela’s life, he never resorted to “answering racism  
15 with racism;” rather, he fought for the future of a country in which all peoples could  
16 live in equality; and

17           Whereas, Nelson Mandela led a life not plagued by the fear of what could  
18 happen if he failed in his fight for equality, but rather consumed by the hope that one  
19 day his vision would become a reality in the country he called home; and

20           Whereas, thanks to his unparalleled persistence, leadership, and commitment  
21 to his country’s future, apartheid came to an end in South Africa; now, therefore, be  
22 it

23           ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the  
24 Wisconsin legislature honor the life and public service of Nelson R. Mandela, pass  
25 on their condolences to the people of South Africa and his friends and family, mourn

1 his passing, and thank him for leaving his impact on the world and bettering the lives  
2 of countless others; and, be it further

3 ***Resolved, That*** the legislature proclaims July 18, 2016, as Nelson Mandela  
4 Day in Wisconsin.

5 (END)