



State of Wisconsin  
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-2840/1  
JAG:amn

## 2023 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 12

May 25, 2023 - Introduced by Representatives PETRYK, O'CONNOR, EMERSON, MURPHY and SUBECK. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1     **Relating to:** honoring the life and public service of Representative Arthur L.  
2         Peterson.

3         Whereas, Representative Arthur L. Peterson was born on June 27, 1926, in  
4         Glyndon, Minnesota, and passed away at the age of 96 on March 23, 2023, in Sun  
5         City, California; and

6         Whereas, Arthur Peterson grew up in small towns throughout the Midwest,  
7         including Birnamwood, Prescott, and Mondovi, Wisconsin, where he became an  
8         Eagle Scout, won statewide honors as a speaker and trombone player, and was an  
9         avid athlete on his high school's football and basketball teams; and

10         Whereas, Arthur Peterson continued his education at Yale University, where  
11         he received an undergraduate degree in 1947, and later received a master's degree  
12         from the University of Southern California and a doctorate degree from the  
13         University of Minnesota; and

14         Whereas, Arthur Peterson enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1944 and was placed in  
15         the officer's training program, ultimately receiving a commission in the U.S. Marine

1 Corps in 1947 and later volunteering for duty during the Korean War, where he  
2 served his country as an infantry company commander and as a captain; and

3 Whereas, Arthur Peterson became one of the nation's youngest state legislators  
4 when he was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1950 at the age of 24; and

5 Whereas, Arthur Peterson served two terms in the Wisconsin State Assembly  
6 and was an instrumental member of the Committee on Veterans' and Military  
7 Affairs; and

8 Whereas, after his tenure in the legislature, Arthur Peterson began a career  
9 that combined his interest in politics and higher education as a professor of political  
10 science at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire and at Ohio Wesleyan University,  
11 and later serving in leadership positions at the American Graduate School of  
12 International Management, Lebanon Valley College, Eckerd College, and the  
13 Wathen Academy; and

14 Whereas, throughout his career in politics and academia, Arthur Peterson  
15 played a central role in various sociopolitical movements, including as chairman of  
16 the Ohio Civil Rights Commission during the early years of the civil rights movement  
17 and as chief-of-staff of the Republican National Committee's rebuilding efforts in  
18 the mid-1960s; and

19 Whereas, despite Arthur Peterson's demanding career in higher education, his  
20 dedication to the political domain never faltered; he served as a representative in the  
21 Montana State Legislature from 2000 to 2002, and at the age of 95, he vied for a seat  
22 in the U.S. Congress; and

23 Whereas, Arthur Peterson was an active churchman, musician, and Freemason  
24 throughout his life, as well as a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and  
25 great-grandfather; now, therefore, be it

1           ***Resolved by the assembly, That*** the members of the Wisconsin Assembly do  
2 hereby honor the life and public service of Representative Arthur L. Peterson and  
3 extend their condolences to his family and friends; and, be it further

4           ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution  
5 to his family.

6

(END)