



2019 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 101

November 5, 2019 - Introduced by Representatives AUGUST, NYGREN, THIESFELDT, MILROY, TAUCHEN, VRUWINK, DITTRICH, STEFFEN, WICHGERS, MURSAU, TITTL, SINICKI, WITTKE, KERKMAN and SUBECK, cosponsored by Senators FEYEN and COWLES. Referred to Committee on Rules.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1 **Relating to:** recognizing the Jaycees' ongoing commitment to community
2 involvement and commending the organization upon its 100th anniversary of
3 its founding.

4 Whereas, the Jaycees movement began in October 1915, as Henry Giessenbier
5 Jr. created the Young Men's Progressive Civic Association in St. Louis as a way for
6 local youth to be more active in their community; and

7 Whereas, the Jaycees officially started during a two-day conference in St. Louis
8 in January 1920. The conference brought together 3,000 young adults from over 29
9 national organizations, and the organization was initially known as the U.S. Junior
10 Chamber of Commerce. Henry Giessenbier Jr. was elected the first president of the
11 new organization; and

12 Whereas, in 1923, the Jaycees became an international organization with the
13 creation of a branch in Canada, the first chapter created outside the United States.
14 Over the next five years, multiple chapters were started in England, marking the
15 first time the organization spread outside North America. By 1943, the movement

1 had spread through Central America, and a year later the first international
2 conference was held; and

3 Whereas, over the years, the Jaycees have played a prominent role in a number
4 of national causes: the development of the U.S. Airmail Service, the first Get Out the
5 Vote campaign, the formation of the National Wildlife Foundation, Operation
6 Threshold, which is aimed at reducing alcohol abuse, the distribution of over 7
7 million doses of the rubella measles vaccine, the Jaycees Against Youth Smoking
8 program, and the Jaycee KidCare I.D. Program, which assists in locating missing
9 children; and

10 Whereas, since its inception, the Jaycees have had over 11 million members in
11 the United States and 20 million worldwide. Members include Presidents Ronald
12 Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, Gerald Ford, and Richard Nixon; Vice
13 Presidents Al Gore, Hubert Humphrey, and Walter Mondale; Chief Justice of the
14 U.S. Supreme Court Warren Burger; and Elvis Presley, Larry Bird, and Bill Gates;
15 and

16 Whereas, in Wisconsin, the Jaycees have shown their commitment to their
17 communities through a number of worthwhile projects including the La Crosse
18 Thunder Ride for Juvenile Diabetes, the Lake Geneva Walk to End Alzheimer's, the
19 Fourth of July Fireworks in Appleton, and the construction of many parks,
20 playgrounds, and elderly housing; and

21 Whereas, today, the Jaycees are made up of active citizens between the ages of
22 18 and 40 who are dedicated to the future of their communities and the world as a
23 whole. Membership is over 200,000 individuals worldwide, as the Jaycees have
24 expanded to over 5,000 local organizations and 123 nations; now, therefore, be it

1 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the legislature, in
2 recognition of the Jaycees' ongoing commitment to community involvement through
3 the enhancement of the leadership skills, knowledge, and understanding of young
4 adults, does hereby commend the organization upon its 100th anniversary of its
5 founding.

6

(END)