



## 2015 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 11

February 5, 2015 - Introduced by Senators HANSEN, COWLES, WIRCH, ROTH, SHILLING, ERPENBACH, MILLER, CARPENTER, VINEHOUT, MARKLEIN, LASSA and OLSEN, cosponsored by Representatives GENRICH, MACCO, KAHL, SPIROS, MASON, DANOU, VORPAGEL, MILROY, STEFFEN, SINICKI, POPE, A. OTT, OHNSTAD, BERCEAU, JORGENSEN and SUBECK. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1     **Relating to:** the life and public service of Jerry Van Sistine.

2             Whereas, former state senator Jerry Van Sistine was born on August 16, 1926,  
3     in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and died on January 20, 2015, at the age of 88 after a long  
4     battle with Alzheimer's disease; and

5             Whereas, Jerry graduated from West De Pere High School, served his country  
6     for three years during World War II in the United States Navy, and then enrolled at  
7     the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, where he earned a Bachelor of Science  
8     degree; and

9             Whereas, Jerry married Joan Kaufman, who preceded him in death in 1985,  
10     and then later married Karen Bauknecht, who provided constant care and support  
11     through his journey with Alzheimer's; and

12             Whereas, Jerry taught school for two years and then entered the construction  
13     business, where he was a foreman for 25 years with Selmer Construction; and

1           Whereas, while at Selmer Construction, Jerry became involved in a local zoning  
2 issue and decided to run for the office of Ashwaubenon town supervisor, which led  
3 to a distinguished career in public service that spanned more than 30 years; and

4           Whereas, Jerry represented the 30th Senate district as a Democrat from 1976  
5 to 1992, was elected the Senate's assistant majority leader, and was known for his  
6 ability to compromise and work with people on both sides of the issues; and

7           Whereas, after losing his Senate seat in 1992, Jerry returned to Ashwaubenon  
8 and remained active in local politics and community groups such as Syble Hopp  
9 School and Miracle League Baseball, and he participated in the Legacies Arts  
10 Project, which empowers individuals with memory impairment to express  
11 themselves through creative means; and

12           Whereas, Jerry also enjoyed spending time with his dog Drake, playing bingo,  
13 and cheering for the Packers and the Brewers; now, therefore, be it

14           *Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That* the members of the  
15 Wisconsin legislature do commend Jerry Van Sistine for his devoted public service  
16 and his many contributions to his community, express their sorrow at his death, and  
17 extend their condolences to his family and friends; and

18           *Be it further resolved, That* the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this  
19 joint resolution to Jerry's widow, Karen, and to each of his three children.

20

(END)