



2013 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 69

February 13, 2014 – Introduced by Senator JAUCH, cosponsored by Representatives BEWLEY and MILROY. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** honoring the life of Leo H. LaFernier Sr.

2 Whereas, Leo H. LaFernier was born May 9, 1933, in Red Cliff, Wisconsin, and
3 passed away on January 13, 2014, at the age of 80; and

4 Whereas, Leo LaFernier grew up on the Red Cliff Reservation, attended school
5 at St. Francis, and hunted and fished for subsistence; and

6 Whereas, Leo deeply respected nature and carried that respect and spirituality
7 with him in his advocacy for native people, native rights, and natural resources; and

8 Whereas, Leo served in the U.S. Air Force in 1950, sailed on ore boats, worked
9 in the oil industry, and, while working for Chicago Landscaping from 1959 to 1973,
10 started the Chicago Indian Village; and

11 Whereas, Leo returned to Red Cliff with his family in 1973, he was elected to
12 the Tribal Council in 1980, and in 1983 he was elected vice chair of the Red Cliff Band
13 of Lake Superior Chippewa, a position he held until 1998; and

14 Whereas, in 1989 Leo traveled to Germany as an ambassador with other tribal
15 members to teach Native American culture; and

1 Whereas, in 1985 Leo helped found the Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITF) and
2 was the representative for the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa on VITF
3 until his death; and

4 Whereas, during Leo's nearly 30 years serving on VITF he was instrumental in
5 securing affirmation and implementation of many court cases and
6 intergovernmental agreements, including providing testimony in *Lac Courte*
7 *Oreilles v. Wisconsin* in 1990; and

8 Whereas, Leo was a leader in efforts to protect natural resources and
9 ecosystems of ceded territory, including efforts to assess the potential impacts of
10 radioactive waste storage in the ceded territory and to create the Red Cliff Tribal
11 Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Committee in 2005; and

12 Whereas, "Uncle Leo," as he was affectionately known, was a leader, mentor,
13 and advisor to his colleagues and was an ogichidaa, protector of the community; and

14 Whereas, Leo H. LaFERNIER was the loving husband of Shirley until her passing
15 in 2011 and the beloved father of Lois, Debra, Leo Jr., Theresa, Eugene, Richard,
16 Sherri, Gerri, Misty, and Cindy; now, therefore, be it

17 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the
18 Wisconsin legislature commend the life and service of Leo H. LaFERNIER Sr., mourn
19 his passing, and extend their condolences to his family and friends.

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(END)