



2019 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 58

August 8, 2019 - Introduced by Senators WANGGAARD and WIRCH, cosponsored by Representatives OHNSTAD, KERKMAN, MCGUIRE and NEUBAUER. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** honoring the lives of the individuals involved in the May 3rd explosion
2 and fire at AB Specialty Silicones, as well as their heroic efforts to look out for
3 one another during this devastating event.

4 Whereas, AB Specialty Silicones is an industrial silicone manufacturing
5 company located in Waukegan, Illinois, with employees from the surrounding area
6 of both northeastern Illinois and southeastern Wisconsin; and

7 Whereas, on the evening of Friday, May 3, 2019, there was a massive,
8 catastrophic explosion and fire at the facility that resulted in the loss of four lives of
9 those who were working at the plant and caused injuries to both other employees and
10 first responders; and

11 Whereas, Jeff Cummings, 57, of Kenosha, Wisconsin, was killed in the
12 explosion; and

13 Whereas, Mr. Cummings is survived by his wife, Denise; son, Dustin; and his
14 granddaughter, Arya, as well as other family members and friends. He was a
15 production supervisor with seven years of experience at the facility, and, according

1 to several accounts, he heroically returned into the plant in the midst of the blasts
2 to attempt to rescue his colleagues who remained inside; and

3 Whereas, Byron Biehn, 53, of Brighton Township, Wisconsin, passed away in
4 the explosion; and

5 Whereas, Mr. Biehn is survived by his wife, Dian, and their children Helena,
6 Byron Carl, and Mathias, as well as other family members and friends. He was a
7 production supervisor with nine years of experience with the company, including
8 serving as one of the company's first employees, and he was instrumental to the
9 company's growth; and

10 Whereas, Allen Stevens, 29, of Salem, Wisconsin, did not survive injuries due
11 to the explosion; and

12 Whereas, Mr. Stevens is survived by his wife, Jennifer, as well as other family
13 members and friends. He was a chemical operator who had been with the company
14 for the past two years and known for his good humor, intellect, and smile; and

15 Whereas, Daniel Nicklas, 24, of Beach Park, Illinois, died as a result of the
16 explosion; and

17 Whereas, Mr. Nicklas is survived by his fiancé, Kyrstan Bower, as well as other
18 family members and friends. He was a quality control chemist and had made a true
19 impact on those around him in his eight months with the company; and

20 Whereas, our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of those involved in
21 this tragedy; now, therefore, be it

22 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the
23 Wisconsin Legislature honor the lives of these individuals, as well as their heroic
24 efforts to look out for one another during this devastating event.

25

(END)