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2023 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 131

February 26, 2024 - Introduced by Senators Wanggaard and L. Johnson, cosponsored by Representatives Haywood and Drake. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

Relating to: honoring the service of former Wisconsin State Senator Lena C. Taylor. 1 2 Whereas, Lena C. Taylor, a distinguished public servant, was elected to the 3 Wisconsin Assembly in a special election in 2003 and the state senate in 2004, where 4 she served until 2024 before being appointed as a Wisconsin circuit court judge for 5 Milwaukee County; and 6 Whereas, Lena C. Taylor is a graduate of Rufus King High School and the 7 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she became a member of the Alpha 8 Kappa Alpha sorority; and 9 Whereas, Senator Taylor earned her juris doctor from Southern Illinois 10 University School of Law in 1993; and Whereas, Lena C. Taylor, after graduating from law school, worked as a public 11 12 defender representing low-income and underrepresented citizens in Milwaukee and 13 ultimately opened a general practice firm on the north side of Milwaukee, Taylor and 14 Associates Law Office, in 1996; and

1 Whereas, in 2004, Lena C. Taylor succeeded Congresswoman Gwen Moore in Wisconsin's 4th Senate District: and 2 3 Whereas, Senator Taylor served several terms on the Joint Committee on 4 Finance, including one term as cochair, becoming the first Black woman to hold the 5 position; and 6 Whereas, Senator Taylor also served as the chair of the Senate Committee on 7 Judiciary and Corrections in the 2007-08 legislative session, where she worked 8 tirelessly for state criminal justice reform; and 9 Whereas, Senator Taylor also served on other senate standing committees 10 during her time in the legislature, including Agriculture, Small Business, and 11 Tourism; Judiciary and Public Safety; Utilities and Housing; Insurance, Financial 12 Services, Government Oversight, and Courts; and Insurance, Licensing, and Forestry; and 13 14 Whereas, Senator Taylor served on multiple joint legislative committees, such 15 as Joint Legislative Council, the Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties, the 16 Law Revision Committee, the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions, and the Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations; and 17 18 Whereas, Senator Taylor was also a part of several study committees, serving as the vice-chair of the Study Committee on Child Placement and Support and the 19 20 Study Committee on the Investment and Use of School Trust Funds and as a member 21of the Study Committee on Increasing Offender Employment Opportunities; and 22 Whereas, Lena C. Taylor is known by her colleagues for working with both 23 Democrats and Republicans to pass important legislation to improve the lives of 24 members of her community and constituency; and

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Whereas, Senator Taylor has worked tirelessly to give a voice to the Black community and is a member of many groups seeking to improve the lives of Black Americans, such as the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the members of the Wisconsin State Legislature extend their gratitude to Judge Lena C. Taylor for her work promoting the values of inclusivity, social justice, and civil rights that she championed throughout her remarkable career and wish her continued success in

11 (END)

her new role as Wisconsin circuit court judge.