



## 2023 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 88

November 9, 2023 - Introduced by Senator JACQUE. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

**Relating to:** honoring the legacy of Old Abe, Wisconsin's Civil War eagle.

Whereas, Old Abe became an iconic symbol of the Civil War as he fought alongside the soldiers of the Eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment; and

Whereas, in the hopes of making him a cherished mascot for the regiment, Lieutenant James McGuire purchased Old Abe for \$2.50 from Captain John E. Perkins; and

Whereas, during his three-year enlistment, Old Abe fearlessly participated in over 30 battles throughout the war, including the Battle of Vicksburg, the Siege of Vicksburg, and the Battle of Jackson; and

Whereas, Old Abe served as a trusted guardian for his fellow soldiers, using his keen sense of danger to more than once alert the regiment of potential Confederate ambushes; and

Whereas, Old Abe's fierce reputation earned him the nickname "Yankee

Buzzard” among Confederate soldiers, who despised him to such an extent that bounties were placed on his life; and

Whereas, on March 26, 1881, Old Abe passed away after almost 20 years of life, leaving behind a profound legacy of courage, boldness, and ferocity that was written about in history books and inspired future generations of Americans, including President Theodore Roosevelt; and

Whereas, Old Abe is memorialized in a magnificent six foot tall statue soaring atop a 47.5 foot granite column in Vicksburg, Mississippi, reminding all of his enduring significance and devotion to duty; and

Whereas, Old Abe’s legacy extends to additional wars, as he was further memorialized on the shoulder patch of the illustrious 101st Airborne Division in World Wars I and II; now, therefore, be it

***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the Wisconsin Legislature recognizes and commemorates Old Abe, Wisconsin’s Civil War eagle, for his invaluable service to the Eighth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment and his lasting legacy as a symbol of valor, patriotism, and vigilance.

**(END)**