



2025 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 46

May 9, 2025 - Introduced by Senators DRAKE, CARPENTER, LARSON, WALL, ROYS, DASSLER-ALFHEIM, HESSELBEIN, SMITH, RATCLIFF, WIRCH, SPREITZER, WANGGAARD and L. JOHNSON, cosponsored by Representatives GOODWIN, SINICKI, ARNEY, SPIROS, DOYLE, NEUBAUER, TENORIO, RIVERA-WAGNER, MURSAU, MADISON, BROWN, DESMIDT, STUBBS, VINING, EMERSON, KIRSCH, FITZGERALD, PHELPS, BARE, ORTIZ-VELEZ, MOORE OMOKUNDE, KAUFERT, CLANCY, PALMERI, J. JACOBSON, JOERS, SNODGRASS, HAYWOOD, TAYLOR, PRADO, JOHNSON and SUBECK. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** honoring the life and public service of Representative Frederick P.

2 Kessler.

3 Whereas, Representative Frederick P. Kessler was born on January 11, 1940,
4 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and dedicated his life to the service of his community,
5 state, and nation; and

6 Whereas, Representative Kessler graduated from the University of
7 Wisconsin–Madison and later earned his law degree from the University of
8 Wisconsin Law School, which equipped him with the knowledge and skills to
9 advocate for justice and equity; and

10 Whereas, Representative Kessler began his political career with his election to
11 the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1960, becoming the youngest member to serve at
12 the time, and went on to serve a total of 12 terms in the assembly over multiple
13 decades; and

14 Whereas, Representative Kessler also served as a Milwaukee County judge

1 from 1972 to 1978 and, after statewide court reforms that he helped lead, as
2 Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge from 1978 to 1981 and 1986 to 1988; and

3 Whereas, Representative Kessler was a proud husband to Joan F. Kessler,
4 with whom he shared a life of love and partnership, and a devoted father who
5 balanced his deep commitment to public service with his role as a family man; and

6 Whereas, Representative Kessler's dedication to public service extended
7 beyond the assembly through his work as a mediator and arbitrator, resolving
8 disputes and ensuring fair outcomes for all parties involved; and

9 Whereas, Representative Kessler helped lead the successful effort to create
10 German, French, and Spanish language immersion schools in Milwaukee; and

11 Whereas, Representative Kessler was instrumental in advocating for the
12 redistricting reform that promoted fair representation and the protection of voting
13 rights for all citizens of Wisconsin; and

14 Whereas, Representative Kessler poured his heart and passion into his role as
15 a public servant, championing causes to protect civil rights, support labor unions,
16 reform the judicial system, and uphold the principles of fairness and justice in
17 Wisconsin; and

18 Whereas, Representative Kessler's legacy includes his tireless work to
19 advance social justice, his mentorship of countless young leaders, and his
20 unwavering commitment to the principles of democracy and equality; and

21 Whereas, Representative Kessler's lifelong contributions to the state of
22 Wisconsin have left an indelible mark on the legislature and the communities he
23 served; now, therefore, be it

24 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of

1 the Wisconsin Legislature do hereby honor the distinguished life and public service
2 of Representative Frederick P. Kessler, recognizing his devotion to his family, his
3 community, and the causes he so passionately championed; and, be it further

4 ***Resolved, That*** the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution to
5 Representative Kessler's family as a token of the Wisconsin Legislature's
6 appreciation and respect.

7 (END)