



EXECUTIVE ORDER #219

Relating to a Proclamation that the Flag of the United States and the Flag of the State of Wisconsin Be Flown at Half-Staff as a Mark of Respect for Former Wisconsin United States Senator Herb Kohl

WHEREAS, on December 27, 2023, former Wisconsin U.S. Senator Herb Kohl passed away at the age of 88 after a long and distinguished career and life of dedicated public service;

WHEREAS, a Wisconsin son born to immigrants, U.S. Senator Kohl grew up in the Sherman Park neighborhood of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, before going on to graduate from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, attaining a master’s degree in business administration from Harvard University, joining the U.S. Army Reserve, and residing in Milwaukee in the same condominium for more than five decades;

WHEREAS, a little over 20 years after helping cut the ribbon at the opening of his family’s first supermarket and less than a decade after his family opened the first Kohl’s department store, in 1970, U.S. Senator Kohl became president of the Kohl’s Corporation, a successful Wisconsin business that later expanded to 50 supermarkets and several department stores across the Midwest;

WHEREAS, in 1985, when the Milwaukee Bucks were poised to potentially leave Wisconsin, U.S. Senator Kohl bought the Milwaukee Bucks, promising the team would not leave the city or state and later helped deliver on that promise by donating \$100 million to build a new arena to help retain the team and support the greater Milwaukee area and the state of Wisconsin;

WHEREAS, building upon his already-extensive efforts in service of the public and community good, U.S. Senator Kohl answered a call to serve and entered the 1988 U.S. Senate race, winning a competitive Democratic primary before Wisconsinites went on to elect him to serve for four consecutive terms;

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Kohl, who served on the Senate Judiciary and Appropriations Committees and was chairman of the Senate Committee on Aging, is remembered by his former colleagues as an “unshakeable” and “indefatigable” “constant advocate for his home state,” who fought to expand access to and increase federal investments in public education at every level, promote funding teacher education programs, restore investments to prevent student dropouts, and improve technology in classrooms in the 21st Century; make child care more affordable and accessible; support and defend Wisconsin dairy farmers; reduce the costs of dental care, prescription drugs, and healthcare for working families and seniors, including by extending SeniorCare; and bolster child nutrition and family food security programs;

WHEREAS, while U.S. Senator Kohl’s professional accolades, accomplishments, and contributions to the betterment of Wisconsin are unrivaled, his legacy is, perhaps most importantly, defined by his unwavering

dedication to sharing the success of his labors and pursuit of the American Dream with others;

WHEREAS, following his many years in Congress, U.S. Senator Kohl continued his principled and community-focused service through his generous philanthropic enterprises, the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation and Herb Kohl Philanthropies, which continue today to provide financial support for student scholarships, teacher fellowships, and initiatives to enhance economic opportunity and quality of life for Milwaukeeans and Wisconsinites across the state;

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Kohl was known as a gentle, down-to-earth Wisconsinite who led by zealously advocating with a quiet, dedicated humility and will be remembered with sincere loyalty, fondness, and respect by people he employed, the people he faithfully served, and the people whose lives his contributions improved; and

WHEREAS, as the governor of Wisconsin, I am joined by the good people of Wisconsin, U.S. Senator Kohl's former colleagues and friends, the many, many individuals whose lives his service and contributions impacted greatly in mourning his tragic passing.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONY EVERS, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State, hereby order that the flag of the United States and the flag of the State of Wisconsin shall be flown at half-staff at all buildings, grounds, and military installations of the State of Wisconsin, beginning immediately on Thursday, December 28, 2023, and ending at sunset on the date of interment.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twenty-eighth day of December in the year of two thousand twenty-three.

TONY EVERS
Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State