

# THE STATE OF WISCONSIN



## CITATION OF COMMENDATION

### KNOW YOU BY THESE PRESENTS:

*WHEREAS, Arlen Christenson was born and raised in the farmland and forests of Amery, Wisconsin, and served in the U.S. Navy between 1952 and 1954, graduated from the University of Wisconsin - River Falls (UWRF) and the University of Wisconsin Law School, and became a highly respected professor at the UW-Law School, specializing in environmental, land use, local government, and administrative law from 1963 until 2000, when he was granted emeritus status; and*

*WHEREAS, he held a range of leadership positions serving as Wisconsin's Deputy Attorney General from 1966-1968 and Executive Assistant Attorney General from 1968-1969, and at the University of Wisconsin-Madison serving as Assistant to the Chancellor (Legal Advisor) from 1969-1971, Associate Dean of the Law School from 1972-1974, and Co-Director of the Center for Public Representation from 1974-75 and in 1977; and*

*WHEREAS, Arlen played a central role in shaping the state Public Intervenor's Office during its most formative and effective years, receiving bipartisan support for his appointments to advise the office from 1975 until 1995, during which time he authored a report for the Center for Public Representation on the Public Intervenor, which convinced Attorney General Bronson La Follette in 1975 to implement several of his recommendations to empower the attorneys' abilities to protect public rights in natural resources; and*

*WHEREAS, Arlen was founding board President of Midwest Environmental Advocates, helping grow Wisconsin's first non-profit environmental law center into a powerhouse over the course of two decades, and he was also a founding board member of 1,000 Friends of Wisconsin when they launched in 1989; and*

*WHEREAS, Arlen was listed in Who's Who of Outstanding Young Men in America in 1972, and he received the Wisconsin Idea Award for applying academic research to natural resource policy development and implementation in 1994, the Wisconsin Stewardship Network Award, and the Lifetime Alumni Achievement Award from UWRF in 2018; and*

*WHEREAS, his legacy will live on in the countless law students and lawyers throughout the country who benefited from his classroom teaching and supervision of their clinical work with the Public Intervenor's Office and Midwest Environmental Advocates and who are carrying the torch forward to advance public rights in natural resources; and*

*WHEREAS, Arlen Christenson has been named a 2022 inductee to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame; now*

*THEREFORE, the members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, on the motion of Representative Katrina Shankland, do hereby honor Arlen Christenson for his outstanding service and commitment to conservation and thank him for his inspiring leadership and dedication to environmental stewardship.*

*Katrina Shankland*  
Representative Katrina Shankland  
71<sup>st</sup> Assembly District

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

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