

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2021-4632, by Representatives Jinkins, Wilcox, Abbarno, Barkis, Bateman, Berg, Bergquist, Berry, Boehnke, Bronoske, Caldier, Callan, Chambers, Chandler, Chapman, Chase, Chopp, Cody, Corry, Davis, Dent, Dolan, Duerr, Dufault, Dye, Entenman, Eslick, Fey, Fitzgibbon, Frame, Gilday, Goehner, Goodman, Graham, Gregerson, Griffey, Hackney, Hansen, Harris, Harris-Talley, Hoff, Jacobsen, J. Johnson, Kirby, Klicker, Klippert, Kloba, Kraft, Kretz, Leavitt, Lekanoff, Lovick, MacEwen, Macri, Maycumber, McCaslin, McEntire, Morgan, Mosbrucker, Orcutt, Ormsby, Ortiz-Self, Orwall, Paul, Peterson, Pollet, Ramel, Ramos, Riccelli, Robertson, Rude, Rule, Ryu, Santos, Schmick, Sells, Senn, Shewmake, Simmons, Slatter, Springer, Steele, Stokesbary, Stonier, Sullivan, Sutherland, Taylor, Thai, Tharinger, Valdez, Vick, Volz, Walen, Walsh, Wicks, Wylie, Ybarra, and Young

1 WHEREAS, Cathy Maynard has served as Speaker's Attorney for
2 longer than anyone can remember; certainly no one remembers hiring
3 her, but everyone agrees she is just part of the House of
4 Representatives, much like the piano on the floor (but considerably
5 more useful); and

6 WHEREAS, As best can be recreated, President Thomas Jefferson
7 sent Lewis and Clark on their famous expedition in 1806 with specific
8 instructions to "explore and discover a wondrous expanse wherein a
9 future state can be formed and in which can be born a parliamentary
10 legend and giant of process and policy for said state, and also be
11 careful of bears"; and

12 WHEREAS, Historians debate the authenticity of this Jefferson
13 quote, but it cannot be debated that Olympia was eventually made the
14 capital of the great State of Washington, and that the first state
15 legislature met in 1889; and

16 WHEREAS, After that first legislature met in 1889, they all
17 agreed that they had no idea what they were really doing, so they
18 decided to just wing it and hope for the best until someone could
19 come and make sense of the hot mess that was their parliamentary
20 process; and

21 WHEREAS, Pretty much nothing happened after that until an
22 auspicious April 1st, commonly known as April Fool's Day, when Cathy
23 Maynard was born, and her parents recall her first words as being "So

1 ordered," with her asking for things and then saying "So ordered,"
2 and her parents would go to fetch them; and

3 WHEREAS, Cathy did some other stuff that doesn't really matter,
4 because what matters is that she eventually started her true calling
5 in the Legislature with That Other Body, serving as a legislative
6 aide, counsel, and staff coordinator in the Senate from 1986-1989;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, In 1989, Cathy realized that her life was going nowhere,
9 and she further realized that it wasn't her (it was Them; she just
10 wasn't really that into Them!), and so she left That Other Body and
11 came to the true beacon of liberty, justice, policy, and much quicker
12 voting: The august House of Representatives; and

13 WHEREAS, There was an inexplicable period where for some strange
14 reason (probably lapse of collective judgment) Cathy was not
15 Speaker's Counsel, serving instead as just a regular (but still
16 awesome!) counsel and then a senior counsel in the House of
17 Representatives; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1999, everyone finally figured out what was wrong and
19 made her Speaker's Attorney, which really worked much better for
20 everyone and ushered in a new era of comity, great policy, stellar
21 referrals, and all around good floor type stuff ever since; and

22 WHEREAS, While there have been other qualified and capable
23 Speaker's Attorneys throughout the history of this illustrious body,
24 only Cathy has been able to quell uprisings, restore order, and even
25 completely defeat motions and amendments with no more than a harsh
26 glance directed at the lead rabble-rouser; and

27 WHEREAS, Her parliamentary feats are renowned far and wide to the
28 point that it is hard to separate myth from truth, and so we may
29 never know whether she once found a bill out of order for being
30 outside its own scope, but it sounds like something she could do for
31 sure; and

32 WHEREAS, Cathy's institutional memory, legislative finesse, and
33 constitutional expertise often led a former Speaker of the House to
34 refer to his attorney as "Mrs. Speaker"; and

35 WHEREAS, Hiring Cathy proved to be the greatest economic
36 development program ever undertaken by the state, with the state
37 economy nearly doubling and companies such as Amazon, Starbucks,
38 Microsoft, and Costco becoming titans on her watch; and

39 WHEREAS, She really has no faults, except that she refuses to
40 drive in the snow, and so it is that a series of drivers has had the

1 honor of picking her up for work and bringing her through the frozen
2 wastes, including the current Speaker of the House (who, in addition
3 to possessing considerable legislative prowess, seems also to be
4 pretty okay at driving in the snow); and

5 WHEREAS, We don't know for sure when the next Rules Committee
6 meeting will be, nor do we know how many pulls everyone will get, and
7 there's no such thing as a "Hold List" (but, if there were, your bill
8 is for sure on it), so just stop asking Cathy about all this because
9 she already knows you want your bill pulled and ran on the floor, so
10 just stop it, stop it right now, okay? We're running a retirement
11 resolution, for crying out loud!; and

12 WHEREAS, Cathy Maynard has afforded the House the highest levels
13 of excellence, loyalty, decorum, and appropriate feistiness during
14 her many capacities as a most distinguished lawyer and supporter of
15 the Legislature; and

16 WHEREAS, Cathy has counseled, mentored, and advised members and
17 staff, both experienced and new, on parliamentary rules, procedures,
18 ethics, and the nuances of lawmaking; and

19 WHEREAS, Cathy has announced that she is retiring this year; we
20 think it has something to do with Peppers closing down, and no one
21 really knows what to do about it because she's certainly earned it,
22 but we're honestly not sure if we can keep having the Legislature
23 without her (we're checking); and

24 WHEREAS, There's both so much more to say and yet nothing left to
25 say about such a great woman, other than we wish she wouldn't retire
26 (please?);

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
28 hereby direct the Chief Clerk to look into Cathy's paperwork and take
29 such steps as may be necessary or advisable to deny her retirement;
30 and

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That whatever must be done to prevail
32 upon Cathy to stay on as Speaker's Attorney for just a couple more
33 decades be done, including getting her some of those Oaxacan carvings
34 she likes so much; and

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That if Cathy cannot be made to stay on
36 and not leave us, then we reluctantly wish her the best and urge
37 everyone to join with us to celebrate and honor the life, legacy,
38 work, service, and general awesomeness of Cathy Maynard.

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