

SENATE RESOLUTION

8666

By Senators Liiias, McCoy, Nelson, Hobbs, Takko, Pedersen, Keiser, Rolfes, Kuderer, Saldaña, Palumbo, Hunt, Darneille, Conway, Frockt, Carlyle, Mullet, Billig, Hasegawa, Cleveland, Chase, Ranker, Fain, Zeiger, Braun, Warnick, O'Ban, Honeyford, and Wellman

1 WHEREAS, Mike Lowry was the 20th Governor of Washington State,
2 serving from 1993 to 1997; and

3 WHEREAS, Lowry was born and raised in Whitman County Washington,
4 in the town of St. John, and graduated from Washington State
5 University in 1962; and

6 WHEREAS, Lowry began his 19-year political career in 1975 when he
7 was elected to the King County Council, and, in 1979, was elected as
8 a member of U.S. House of Representatives from Washington's 7th
9 district where he served for 10 years; and

10 WHEREAS, While in congress, Lowry sponsored legislation to
11 provide restitution for more than 110,000 Japanese-Americans and
12 Aleuts interned during World War II, which was the first piece of
13 legislation to address this in our nation's history; and

14 WHEREAS, Lowry was a leader in passing the 1984 Washington
15 Wilderness Act, worked to protect our state's maritime habitat, and
16 pushed to require safety equipment on commercial fishing vessels; and

17 WHEREAS, Lowry garnered respect from both political parties with
18 his straight-forward nature, honesty, and willingness to reach across
19 the aisle; and

20 WHEREAS, Lowry was a staunch protector of the environment and
21 went on to found and cochair the Washington Wildlife and Recreation
22 Coalition with Governor Dan Evans; and

1 WHEREAS, Lowry will forever be remembered for his compassion
2 towards the HIV/AIDS epidemic and for being one of the earliest
3 advocates seeking funding to address the crisis; and

4 WHEREAS, Lowry revolutionized our state health care system
5 by tying premiums to a family or an individual's ability to pay,
6 and opening up coverage to low-income and middle-income families
7 across Washington; and

8 WHEREAS, Family, friends, and colleagues will forever have
9 fond memories of Lowry's annual summer shrimp feeds; and

10 WHEREAS, After his retirement from public service, Lowry
11 continued his service to the State of Washington by doing pro
12 bono work for many nonprofit and charitable organizations,
13 including Washington Agricultural Families Assistance, which
14 advocates for building affordable housing for migrant farm
15 workers; and

16 WHEREAS, Mike Lowry is survived by his wife Mary, daughter
17 Diane Lowry Oakes, son-in-law Scott Oakes, grandsons Tyler and
18 Lucas Oakes, sister Suellen Lowry, nephews Keith Vertrees and
19 Matthew Hibschman, and niece Ann Vertrees;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
21 Senate honor former Governor Mike Lowry for a life truly
22 dedicated to public service, during which he exemplified the
23 attributes of courage, fairness, compassion, and forthrightness
24 in service to the citizens of Washington State; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
26 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Mike
27 Lowry's family.

28 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
29 do hereby certify that this is a true and
30 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8666,
31 adopted by the Senate
32 June 13, 2017

33 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
34 Secretary of the Senate