

SENATE RESOLUTION

8669

By Senators Hunt, Rossi, Frockt, Warnick, Conway, Miloscia, Carlyle, Fortunato, Ranker, Baumgartner, Darneille, Cleveland, Angel, Chase, Nelson, Mullet, McCoy, Zeiger, Hobbs, King, Takko, O'Ban, Pedersen, Keiser, Sheldon, Bailey, Rolfes, Rivers, Kuderer, Saldaña, Schoesler, Palumbo, Wilson, Hasegawa, Fain, Hawkins, Billig, Ericksen, Braun, Short, Brown, Pearson, Walsh, Becker, and Honeyford

1 WHEREAS, Marty Brown of Olympia, Washington is retiring after an
2 illustrious and unparalleled 40-year career in public service; and

3 WHEREAS, Martin Henry Brown was born in Iowa Falls, Iowa, on May
4 20, 1952, to Velma and Henry Brown; and

5 WHEREAS, Marty entered a life of public service and involvement
6 at an early age as the son of a high school teacher and an
7 electrician who both served as party precinct captains; and

8 WHEREAS, Marty further caught the political bug when he had the
9 opportunity to meet Senator George McGovern after being bitten by a
10 dog while doorbelling for the candidate; and

11 WHEREAS, Marty is an alumnus of Ellsworth Community College and
12 the University of Iowa, where he served as a resident advisor and was
13 a member of the skydiving club; and

14 WHEREAS, Marty has always been an avid supporter of the Iowa
15 ~~Jayhawks~~ Hawkeyes, known to wax poetic over the wrestling dominance
16 of Dan Gable and the coaching acumen of Hayden Fry and Dr. Tom Davis;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, After working a short time with the Iowa Legislature,
19 Marty left the snowy plains of Iowa to attend and eventually graduate
20 from law school at the University of Puget Sound; and

21 WHEREAS, During law school, Marty began working as senate
22 committee staff, spending so much time in Olympia that he unwittingly

1 met one of his professors for the first time midway through the term
2 playing a pickup basketball game; and

3 WHEREAS, Marty began his career as senate committee staff in
4 1978, narrowly missing out on PERS 1 eligibility; and

5 WHEREAS, Marty helped the senate members and staff weather
6 tumultuous times in 1981 when the majority switched early in the
7 legislative session; and

8 WHEREAS, Marty progressed to Senate Democratic Caucus Attorney,
9 Senate Democratic Staff Director, coach of the infamous Raucous
10 Caucus softball team, and ultimately Secretary of the Senate from
11 1993 to 1997; and

12 WHEREAS, Marty was one of many who became an expert volunteer at
13 the Sign Shop; and

14 WHEREAS, Marty was taught by his cherished friend and mentor,
15 Senator Sid Snyder, that a good story can be told over and over; and

16 WHEREAS, Marty's rule of response has always been, "If the person
17 asks once, ignore it; twice, remember it; and take it seriously the
18 third time."; and

19 WHEREAS, Marty himself has learned a story or two in his years of
20 public service, and he tells both of them over and over again; and

21 WHEREAS, Marty was appointed Director of Legislative Affairs by
22 Governor Gary Locke, and later served as Deputy Chief of Staff and
23 Director of the Office of Financial Management; and

24 WHEREAS, Under Governor Christine Gregoire, Marty once again
25 served as Director of Legislative Affairs and Director of the Office
26 of Financial Management; and

27 WHEREAS, While working at his current position as the Executive
28 Director of the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges,
29 Marty helped the system win several coveted grants and awards that
30 moved Washington State community and technical colleges into the
31 national spotlight; and

32 WHEREAS, Marty's commitment to improving higher education in
33 Washington State facilitated the creation of several valuable applied
34 degree programs, creating new career opportunities for thousands of
35 students; and

36 WHEREAS, Marty is a well-respected leader and negotiator who
37 managed and guided important and challenging policy initiatives
38 throughout his career, particularly during tough financial times,
39 while maintaining a calm demeanor, sharp sense of humor, and respect
40 for all; and

1 WHEREAS, Marty earned a reputation far and wide that if "you
2 wanted to get something done in Olympia, you went to see Marty
3 Brown"; and

4 WHEREAS, Marty is known for being very decisive and never letting
5 moss grow under his feet and for responding to long emails and
6 complicated questions with short answers like Yes, No, Thnx, and Call
7 me; and

8 WHEREAS, All those who have had the misfortune to follow in
9 Marty's footsteps in the Senate, Governor's Office, and Office of
10 Financial Management have been chagrined that he excelled and set the
11 bar so high in each of the positions he held; and

12 WHEREAS, Throughout Marty's career in state government, countless
13 individuals have sought and relied upon his unfailingly good advice,
14 sound judgment, and considerable expertise, including parliamentary
15 questions; and

16 WHEREAS, Marty has been a loyal and trusted friend and mentor to
17 so many; and

18 WHEREAS, Marty has been married to his beloved wife Kate, who
19 works for the Office of Financial Management, for nearly 35 years;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Marty and Kate raised two talented and upstanding sons,
22 Sam and Max, who have followed them into public service, one of whom
23 works for us on senate committee staff; and

24 WHEREAS, Marty will no doubt be spending ample time in retirement
25 with his five lovely and energetic grandchildren, Maddox, Thomas,
26 Ryder, Rowan, and David, who affectionately know him as "Bah"; and

27 WHEREAS, Marty is a dedicated and passionate volunteer youth
28 sports coach, teaching his children, grandchildren, and others the
29 values of teamwork, selflessness, fair play, and humility through
30 baseball and basketball;

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
32 thank and commend Mr. Marty Brown for his many years of outstanding
33 public service and wish him all the best in retirement; and

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
35 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Marty
36 Brown, his family, and the members of the State Board of Community
37 and Technical Colleges.

--- END ---