SENATE RESOLUTION

8626

By Senators Padden, Billig, Holy, Schoesler, Short, Brown, and Wilson, L.

WHEREAS, Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels was founded in the basement of the Spokane Valley United Methodist Church in 1972, to fight hunger and social isolation among vulnerable adults in the region; and

WHEREAS, The daily works performed by the organization's director, Marta Harrington; assistant director, Mark Laskowski; board of directors; staff; and volunteers prevent vulnerable adults in the community from going hungry; and

WHEREAS, Their team provides the only home delivery meal program that serves all of Spokane County, from Elk and Deer Park on the north to Rockford and Fairfield on the south, Liberty Lake on the east and Medical Lake on the west; and

WHEREAS, Staff and volunteers prepare more than 1,000 fresh-made meals a day, Monday through Friday, served at 12 locations where patrons can enjoy their meals with peers and friends, and delivered to homes between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, Each meal served fulfills a third of the daily nutrition and calorie requirements, and allows vulnerable adults to remain living independently while supplementing their lives with social contact; and

WHEREAS, The organization's collective efforts span 45 delivery routes across all 1,281 square miles of Spokane County, serving over 250,000 meals annually and providing a lifeline that connects vulnerable adults to necessary resources and offers them peace of mind; and

WHEREAS, The organization's strength has been its volunteers and organizers, from cofounder Norma Trefry, who guided its growth from a small church-based organization, to Pam Almeida, who served as executive director for 19 years, under whose leadership the program further grew and prospered; and

WHEREAS, Not a single delivery was missed during the snowstorms of the last month; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels further advocates for vulnerable adults through their annual Champions Week event during the national March for Meals awareness month to advance the efforts and resources impacting their community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate honor the Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels director, Marta Harrington; assistant director, Mark Laskowski; board of directors; staff; and volunteers, for their extraordinary efforts and their devotion to the vulnerable adults of Spokane County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Marta Harrington, Mark Laskowski, and the Greater Spokane County Meals on Wheels board of directors, staff, and volunteers.

I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,

do hereby certify that this is a true and

correct copy of Senate Resolution 8626,

adopted by the Senate

March 11, 2019

BRAD HENDRICKSON

Secretary of the Senate