

SENATE RESOLUTION
2001-8604

By Senators West, Roach, Honeyford, Horn, Haugen, McAuliffe, Franklin, Benton, Snyder, Hale, Zarelli, Stevens, Parlette, Long, Winsley, Sheahan, Hewitt, Oke, Swecker, Hochstatter, Morton, Finkbeiner, Rossi, Carlson, Fraser, Brown, Constantine, Costa, Deccio, Eide, Fairley, Gardner, Hargrove, Jacobsen, Johnson, Kastama, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McCaslin, McDonald, Patterson, Prentice, Rasmussen, Regala, Sheldon, B., Sheldon, T., Shin, Spanel, and Thibaudeau

WHEREAS, Senator George L. Sellar served with distinction in the Washington State Senate, representing the people of the Twelfth Legislative District from 1972 through 2000, where he had a tremendous impact in shaping public policy and touching the lives of those with whom he came into contact; and

WHEREAS, George L. Sellar was born in Chicago, Illinois, on January 23, 1929, growing up during the Great Depression and living through the Second World War for his formative years, developing a firm character and even-tempered personality which would serve him well in his life and political career; and

WHEREAS, George L. Sellar settled in East Wenatchee and added to his considerable life experience by attending Wenatchee Valley College and later the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government; and

WHEREAS, Senator George L. Sellar has served the Senate in a variety of capacities, including Majority and Minority Caucus Chair, Minority Leader, Chairman of the Ethics Committee, Chairman of the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee, and Ranking Member of the Local Government Committee; and

WHEREAS, Senator George L. Sellar always considered education a top priority and was a persuasive advocate for expanding access to education through technology, helping to implement statewide telecommunications network links to the various state universities, colleges, and public schools; and

WHEREAS, Senator George L. Sellar's commitment to education earned him the Outstanding Alumni Award— from Wenatchee Valley College, as well as a scholarship in his name, the George Sellar Scholarship Endowment Fund,— which pays the annual tuition for one student at Wenatchee Valley College each year; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the Transportation Committee, Senator George L. Sellar fought hard to ensure fairness for eastern Washington families and businesses that rely on a solid transportation system to move them and freight around the state; and

WHEREAS, George L. Sellar's commitment to agriculture and transportation culminated in the creation of the Apples on Amtrak— proposal, under which Amtrak added refrigerated rail cars to its cross-country passenger runs to transport apples from the Wenatchee area to the rest of the nation on freight cars known as the George Sellar Express—; and

WHEREAS, For his years of service in transportation, the South Wenatchee Bridge on State

sponsoring legislation to create a tourism task force and establish a new process to allocate future funding to boost tourism on the basis of current successes, thereby rewarding those efforts which work the best to encourage tourism; and

WHEREAS, As a champion of health, at a time when Washington's health insurance appeared headed for crisis, Senator George L. Sellar had the courage to co-sponsor legislation creating Washington's Basic Health Plan, a subsidized health insurance program for low-income families; and

WHEREAS, Senator George L. Sellar's tireless dedication to the Washington State Legislature and the people of Washington State has earned him the respect of legislators, state leaders, citizens, and staff, prompting one legislative leader to comment that he was one of the most honest and loyal people I've ever served with,- and one of the most respected men in the Legislature-; and

WHEREAS, Senator George L. Sellar's ability to put aside partisan differences and work with legislators and officials from both parties, both houses of the Legislature, various agencies and the press, earned him a coveted reputation as a fair and conscientious lawmaker, prompting another state leader to observe that, Senator Sellar may walk with kings, but he will never forget the needs of the common man-; and

WHEREAS, After a distinguished career of public service and a full and rewarding personal life, George L. Sellar retired from the Senate after twenty-nine years, seeking rest and recuperation at his home in East Wenatchee with his wonderful wife, Alma; and

WHEREAS, Following a protracted battle with cancer, George L. Sellar quietly passed away in Wenatchee on December 29, 2000, leaving an empty seat on the Senate floor which the remaining and future members will be hard-pressed to fill; and

WHEREAS, Senator George L. Sellar is survived by his wife, his daughter, his four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, to whom this body extends its most heartfelt condolences; and

WHEREAS, While the loss of Senator George L. Sellar will always be felt, his example and character will continue to permeate the Senate, and his memory shall serve as an example to which all public servants must aspire;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate mourns the loss of this great man, but will cherish his memory and extends its thanks to him for his service to our state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Alma Sellar in East Wenatchee.

*I, Tony M. Cook, Secretary of the Senate,
do hereby certify that this is a true and
correct copy of Senate Resolution 2001-8604,
adopted by the Senate January 17, 2001.*

TONY M. COOK
Secretary of the Senate