

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2015-4602, by Representative Zeiger

1           WHEREAS, Daniel J. Evans, whose great-grandfather settled in Port  
2 Gamble, Kitsap County, in 1859, summited his first peak at the age of  
3 12, and that climb of Silver Peak near Snoqualmie Pass made an  
4 indelible impression on the young Boy Scout from Seattle; and

5           WHEREAS, Dan Evans earned the rank of Eagle Scout and graduated  
6 from Roosevelt High School in 1943 before serving in the United  
7 States Navy from that year to 1946, achieving the rank of ensign,  
8 then earned bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from  
9 the University of Washington; and

10           WHEREAS, Dan Evans returned to the Navy as a lieutenant when the  
11 Korean War began in 1951, eventually serving as an admiral's aide at  
12 the peace negotiations at Panmunjom, where the cease-fire between the  
13 Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea was  
14 signed in 1953; and

15           WHEREAS, On November 6, 1956, voters in the 43rd Legislative  
16 District elected the then 31 year old Dan Evans to represent them in  
17 the Washington State House of Representatives; and

18           WHEREAS, Representative Evans, whose maternal grandfather  
19 represented Spokane in the Washington State Senate in 1893, was named  
20 the outstanding freshman legislator of 1957, and went on to be  
21 reelected three more times to the House of Representatives; and

22           WHEREAS, Representative Evans became House Minority Leader after  
23 four years as a legislator, and participated in the creation of a

1 coalition of members of both parties that installed new leadership in  
2 the House of Representatives during the 1963 legislative session; and  
3 WHEREAS, On November 3, 1964, the people of Washington elected  
4 Representative Evans to be the 16th governor of Washington; making  
5 him the youngest governor in state history, at age 39, and making his  
6 wife, Nancy Bell Evans, a native of Spokane, the youngest first lady  
7 at age 31; and  
8 WHEREAS, During his unprecedented three consecutive terms as the  
9 state's chief executive, Governor Dan Evans founded the first state-  
10 level ecology department in the United States, providing a blueprint  
11 for President Nixon's Environmental Protection Agency; and cofounded  
12 the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition; and  
13 WHEREAS, Governor Evans directed the creation of councils  
14 advancing the status of women and addressing issues relating to  
15 Native Americans and Asian-Americans, energy policy, thermal power  
16 plant siting, mental health services, and the prevention of drug  
17 abuse; and  
18 WHEREAS, It was Governor Evans who directed the creation of the  
19 office of community development, and the council on higher education,  
20 and championed the creation of the state's community college system;  
21 and  
22 WHEREAS, Governor Evans signed legislation making special  
23 education mandatory in Washington, and promoted the employment of  
24 people with disabilities, encouraging the removal of barriers to  
25 mobility; and  
26 WHEREAS, Governor Evans became President Evans after his third  
27 term as governor, when in 1977 he became president of The Evergreen  
28 State College in Olympia; and  
29 WHEREAS, President Evans became United States Senator Evans in  
30 1983 when he was appointed and then elected senator; and  
31 WHEREAS, Senator Evans' accomplishments included the 1984  
32 Washington Wilderness Act, which established 19 new wilderness areas,  
33 the Washington Park Wilderness Act of 1988, which created wilderness  
34 areas within Mount Rainier and Olympic and North Cascades National  
35 Parks, and extended protection to a favorite alpine lake in the  
36 Olympic Mountains called Lake of the Angels; and  
37 WHEREAS, After leaving public office in 1988, he remained active  
38 in our state's public and private sectors, including 12 years as a  
39 regent for his alma mater, the University of Washington; and

1       WHEREAS, His contributions to the people of Washington continue  
2 to this day, through his service as a long time member of the  
3 advisory board for the William D. Ruckelshaus Center; and

4       WHEREAS, First Lady Nancy Bell Evans also distinguished herself  
5 through her major public service contributions, including serving on  
6 the Board of Trustees of her alma mater Whitman College, and her  
7 leadership in achieving a major restoration of the Governor's Mansion  
8 and creation of the Governor's Mansion Foundation, which continues to  
9 care for and add to the historical resources of the Mansion; and

10       WHEREAS, Dan Evans has been recognized by the University of  
11 Washington, which named its School of Public Affairs for him, where  
12 the governor and Nancy serve on the advisory board; and

13       WHEREAS, Dan Evans has been recognized by The Evergreen State  
14 College, which named its library for him; and

15       WHEREAS, A man once referred to as "Old Gluefoot" for his ability  
16 to avoid mingling in a roomful of people is described today as "a  
17 master at uniting the uncommon"; and

18       WHEREAS, As governor, Dan Evans earned the nickname "Straight  
19 Arrow" for his honesty, and was later recognized by the University of  
20 Michigan as one of the Ten Outstanding Governors in the 20th Century;  
21 and

22       WHEREAS, Dan Evans, who once said he "would rather cross the  
23 aisle than cross the people," is one of the most popular and  
24 respected public servants in Washington history;

25       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That in commemoration of the 50th  
26 anniversary of Dan Evans' inaugural installation as Governor, the  
27 Washington State House of Representatives congratulate Senator and  
28 Governor Dan Evans for his service to the people of Washington and to  
29 the United States of America; and

30       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
31 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of  
32 Representatives to the Honorable Daniel J. Evans, in recognition and  
33 appreciation of his commitment to the people of Washington and the  
34 great state in which they live.

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