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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8019

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2016 Regular Session

By Senators Conway, Dammeier, Hobbs, Darneille, King, O'Ban, Roach,  
and Hasegawa

Read first time 01/22/16. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            TO THE HONORABLE LYNN PETERSON, SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, AND  
2 TO THE WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, AND TO THE  
3 WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

4            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
5 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,  
6 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

7            WHEREAS, Philip Martin Lelli's work and commitment to the Port of  
8 Tacoma helped transform the port into the fifth largest container  
9 port in North America, to the benefit of the port, its employees,  
10 surrounding businesses, the city of Tacoma, Pierce County, and the  
11 State of Washington; and

12           WHEREAS, Philip Martin Lelli was a longshoreman, union activist,  
13 local philanthropist, and past president of the International  
14 Longshore Warehouse Union Local 23 in Tacoma, a position he was  
15 reelected to an unprecedented seventeen times; and

16           WHEREAS, Philip Martin Lelli worked with fellow union members,  
17 business leaders, and Republican and Democratic legislators alike in  
18 a collaborative manner with the goal of making the Port of Tacoma one  
19 of the greatest shipping ports in the nation; and

20           WHEREAS, Philip Martin Lelli helped revolutionize Tacoma's  
21 waterfront by advocating for greater labor force efficiency and  
22 technical innovation on the docks; and

1       WHEREAS, Philip Martin Lelli played a critical role in the late  
2 1960s when the Port of Tacoma transitioned away from manual cargo  
3 unloading to the modern shipping container and crane system we see  
4 today; and

5       WHEREAS, For the first time in Puget Sound history a port  
6 executive and union president teamed up when Philip Martin Lelli and  
7 E.L. Roy Perry, the Chief Executive Officer of the Port of Tacoma,  
8 joined forces to attract more business to the Port of Tacoma; and

9       WHEREAS, Together, Philip Martin Lelli and E.L. Roy Perry  
10 traveled around the world promising fast and efficient service and  
11 successfully attracted and recruited huge shipping lines to the Port  
12 of Tacoma, including Totem Ocean Express, SeaLand, and Maersk; and

13       WHEREAS, Philip Martin Lelli was appointed commissioner to the  
14 Port of Tacoma in 1993 and served as the president of the Tacoma  
15 Propeller Club where in 1982 he was awarded its highest accolade, the  
16 title of Master Mariner, for his ability to recruit new business to  
17 the Port of Tacoma; and

18       WHEREAS, The Seattle Propeller Club honored Philip Martin Lelli  
19 with the Puget Sound Maritime Man of the Year Award in 1987; and

20       WHEREAS, Philip Martin Lelli was well known for his generosity  
21 and service to his community through his work with the Hospitality  
22 Kitchen at St. Leo's School, as well as his support of the Hispanic  
23 Food Bank and the Lake Tapps Food Bank in Pierce County;

24       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
25 Washington State Transportation Commission commence proceedings to  
26 name state route number 509 in Pierce County between the junction  
27 with Pacific Avenue and Taylor Way in the City of Tacoma as the  
28 Philip Martin Lelli Memorial Highway to honor his dedication and  
29 service as a longshoreman, activist, and advocate for the betterment  
30 of the Port of Tacoma and the State of Washington.

31       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
32 transmitted to the Honorable Lynn Peterson, Secretary of  
33 Transportation, the Washington State Transportation Commission, and  
34 the Washington State Department of Transportation.

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