

SENATE RESOLUTION

8685

By Senators Baumgartner, Schoesler, Honeyford, Bailey, Kohl-Welles, Dansel, Hargrove, Pearson, Parlette, Nelson, Fraser, Litzow, Dammeier, Frockt, Brown, Hewitt, Angel, Benton, Warnick, Braun, McCoy, Hasegawa, Padden, Miloscia, Roach, Chase, King, Hatfield, Liiias, Rolfes, Keiser, Jayapal, McAuliffe, Hobbs, Darneille, Mullet, Cleveland, Pedersen, Ranker, Billig, O'Ban, Fain, Ericksen, Rivers, Becker, Hill, Sheldon, and Habib

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Elson S. Floyd became the 10th president of
2 Washington State University in 2007, after 29 years in higher
3 education and presidencies at two other universities; and

4 WHEREAS, President Floyd epitomized the belief of his hardworking
5 parents, particularly his mother, that education is the ticket to a
6 better life, with his academic performance leading to scholarships at
7 the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in his home state;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, President Floyd earned a bachelor of arts degree in
10 political science, a master of education degree in adult education,
11 and a doctorate in higher and adult education at the University of
12 North Carolina before embarking on a career that included leadership
13 posts at Eastern Washington University and the Washington State
14 Higher Education Coordinating Board; and

15 WHEREAS, President Floyd was highly sought after for leadership
16 positions at higher education institutions around the nation until he
17 and his wife, Carmento, finally came back "home" to Washington eight
18 years ago for what he called "the best job in the country"—that of
19 leading Washington State University; and

20 WHEREAS, In Pullman, the man who became known affectionately
21 as President "E Flo" recognized and acknowledged that there is
22 something special about Washington State University and something

1 even more special about being a Cougar, a quality that endeared
2 himself to students and staff; and

3 WHEREAS, As an administrator, President Floyd expertly
4 steered Washington State University through some of the most
5 difficult financial times ever faced by the university, all
6 while strengthening its academic programs, enhancing its
7 reputation, and resolving to meet new levels of excellence; and

8 WHEREAS, President Floyd worked to eliminate boundaries to
9 higher education, even when the barrier was a mountain range,
10 expanding Washington State University's footprint beyond Pullman
11 to reach every corner of the state—from Spokane and the Tri-
12 Cities, to Vancouver and Everett—and increasing enrollment to
13 record highs, including a record high number of students from
14 diverse backgrounds; and

15 WHEREAS, President Floyd's tenure included many substantial
16 accomplishments that will serve as lasting legacies for
17 Washington State University, including the installation of the
18 Edward R. Murrow College of Communication, the completion of the
19 Ste. Michelle Wine Estates Wine Science Center, the opening of
20 the Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health, and
21 increasing research funding by an astounding 57.5 percent; and

22 WHEREAS, President Floyd's final contribution to Washington
23 State University would prove to be his tireless and successful
24 advocacy in Olympia for a change in the law that limited
25 Washington to one medical school; and

26 WHEREAS, President Floyd undertook this initiative out of
27 the belief that his adopted state would be better if more
28 students could stay in Washington to attend medical school and
29 have opportunities to learn and practice east of the Cascades,
30 benefiting smaller communities where medical professionals are
31 scarce; and

32 WHEREAS, It is now apparent that in recent months President
33 Floyd served his beloved Cougar nation tirelessly while battling
34 the disease that claimed his life so unexpectedly on June 20,
35 2015, just over two weeks after he took medical leave; and

36 WHEREAS, There would be no more fitting tribute to President
37 Floyd, his unwavering vision for Washington State University,

1 and his exceptional leadership than to name the future
2 Washington State University medical school the "Elson S. Floyd
3 Medical Center"; and

4 WHEREAS, Even more importantly, President Floyd's devotion
5 to his cherished wife Carmento, his children, his parents, and
6 even his brothers will serve as his lasting personal legacy; and

7 WHEREAS, Great accomplishments aside, all who knew President
8 Floyd knew him to be a genuine and kind man of strong faith who
9 spoke his mind and treated those around him with the same
10 respect and care, regardless of whether they were students,
11 university staff, elected officials, or influential business
12 leaders;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That with great sadness the
14 Washington State Senate honor and remember the life and legacy
15 of Dr. Elson S. Floyd, Washington State University president and
16 dedicated public servant and leader, who will be missed by his
17 family, friends, students, and colleagues more than words and a
18 shout of "GO COUGS!" in his honor can convey; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
20 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to
21 President Floyd's wife, Carmento Floyd; his two children,
22 Jessica and Kenneth; and his mother, Dorothy.

23 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
24 do hereby certify that this is a true and
25 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8685,
26 adopted by the Senate
27 June 25, 2015

28 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
29 Secretary of the Senate