

SENATE RESOLUTION

8693

By Senators Hasegawa and Fraser

1 WHEREAS, Aviation pioneer Wong Tsoo became a naval cadet at age
2 12 in his native country of China and traveled to England in 1909 at
3 age 16 to advance his naval studies before going on to the
4 Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study aeronautics; and

5 WHEREAS, Upon becoming one of the first graduates of MIT's
6 aeronautics program, Wong Tsoo was hired as an engineer directly by
7 Bill Boeing in 1916 at his newly incorporated "Pacific Aero Products
8 Company" in Seattle, the predecessor to what would later become the
9 Boeing Company; and

10 WHEREAS, Wong Tsoo extensively redesigned the company's Model C
11 seaplane, a biplane trainer that had been passed over by the United
12 States Navy until the government's World War I order for 56 of his
13 redesigned aircraft established Boeing as a profitable production
14 company; and

15 WHEREAS, Without Wong Tsoo's careful eye for detail on the Model
16 C project it is uncertain if the Boeing Company would have become the
17 corporate giant that it is today, employing more than 80,000 people
18 in Washington and about 164,000 worldwide; and

19 WHEREAS, Wong Tsoo returned to China in 1917 to become who many
20 consider to be the "father of aviation" in China, with a hand in
21 designing about 30 planes and rising to the position of chief
22 secretary of the China National Aviation Corporation and professor of

1 aviation at the National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan before
2 his death in 1965; and

3 WHEREAS, Wong Tsoo's legacy has been passed on through his
4 students, many of whom went on to distinguished careers with
5 some of the largest aerospace companies in the world; and

6 WHEREAS, United States aviation history may have largely
7 forgotten the pioneering contributions of Wong Tsoo if not for
8 the extensive research efforts of Key Donn, a Senior System
9 Architect at Boeing and past president of the Boeing Asian-
10 American Professional Association; and

11 WHEREAS, Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Donn, a permanent
12 display paying tribute to Wong Tsoo is now in the historical
13 "Red Barn" section of the Museum of Flight in Seattle;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
15 Senate honor the 100th anniversary of Wong Tsoo's short, but
16 remarkable, tenure with Boeing as its first engineer and his
17 lifetime of achievements to the aviation industry as a whole;
18 and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
20 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the
21 Museum of Flight and to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office
22 in Seattle for further transmission to the National Cheng Kung
23 University Museum in Tainan, Taiwan.

24 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
25 do hereby certify that this is a true and
26 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8693,
27 adopted by the Senate
28 January 25, 2016

29 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
30 Secretary of the Senate