

SENATE RESOLUTION

8699

By Senators Braun, Conway, Liias, and Wagoner

1 WHEREAS, Washington state recognizes important contributions made
2 to the development of the state by early settlers and pioneers; and

3 WHEREAS, The people of Centralia and this state are celebrating
4 the 200th birthday of the African-American pioneer George Washington;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The young George Washington and his adoptive parents,
7 Anna and James Cochran, repeatedly struggled against racial
8 discrimination in the east, and made the dangerous trek across the
9 Oregon Trail to settle in what was then the Oregon Territory; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Washington settled along the Chehalis River in 1852,
11 running a pole ferry across the Chehalis River and hosting travelers
12 along the major road through the new territory; and

13 WHEREAS, He and his wife, Mary Jane, founded the town now known
14 as Centralia in 1875, donated to churches, gave his city a public
15 square, and fostered not just a town but a community; and

16 WHEREAS, He was a man of great Christian faith and provided aid
17 to fellow settlers who had fallen onto hard times, which fostered his
18 reputation as a caring neighbor, an astute businessman, a savvy
19 farmer, and a man of generosity; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Washington further developed his area of residence
21 by providing affordable building lots at fair prices to incoming
22 settlers; and

1 WHEREAS, When Centralia struggled economically during the
2 Panic of 1893, Mr. Washington used his personal wealth to
3 support his friends and neighbors with a generous and open
4 heart, in keeping with his personal motto of "peace and plenty";
5 and

6 WHEREAS, He has no living descendants, but the aid and
7 mentorship he provided to his community made him a father in
8 spirit to all residents of Centralia; and

9 WHEREAS, His compassion, generosity, and steadfast nature
10 shaped the town of Centralia throughout his life and even after
11 his death; and

12 WHEREAS, The people of Centralia are honoring their pioneer
13 founder in his bicentennial year with activities, celebrations,
14 and the dedication on August 11, 2018, of a new bronze statue in
15 his honor;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
17 Senate honors George Washington in his bicentennial year as an
18 important figure in Northwest history; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Senate acknowledge the
20 legacy of Mr. Washington, whose efforts have created a culture
21 of neighborliness in his community; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
23 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the
24 City Council of Centralia and the Lewis County Board of County
25 Commissioners.

26 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,
27 do hereby certify that this is a true and
28 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8699,
29 adopted by the Senate
30 February 27, 2018

31 BRAD HENDRICKSON
32 Secretary of the Senate