

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2019-4603, by Representative Dufault

1 WHEREAS, It is the policy of the Washington State Legislature to
2 recognize excellence in all fields of endeavor; and

3 WHEREAS, Melvin Stottlemyre Sr. grew up in Mabton, Washington,
4 pitched in American Legion Baseball, and attended Mabton High School
5 and Yakima Valley Community College; and

6 WHEREAS, A scout for the New York Yankees discovered Stottlemyre
7 pitching for Yakima's baseball team and signed him to a contract on
8 June 10, 1961; and

9 WHEREAS, After playing in several minor leagues, Stottlemyre was
10 called up in midseason 1964 to help the Yankees win their fifth
11 consecutive pennant; and

12 WHEREAS, Melvin Stottlemyre Sr. won 164 games in 11 seasons with
13 the Yankees and made five All-Star teams, and had three 20-win
14 seasons for the Yankees and led the majors in complete games and
15 innings in 1965; and

16 WHEREAS, Melvin Stottlemyre Sr. was also the pitching coach for
17 the New York Mets team that won the World Series in 1986, coached for
18 the Houston Astros, and later added four more World Series rings as
19 Joe Torre's pitching coach with the Yankees; and

20 WHEREAS, Melvin Stottlemyre Sr. met his wife, Jean, while growing
21 up in Mabton, and they had three sons, Todd, Mel Jr., and Jason; and

1 WHEREAS, Stottlemyre's two sons, Todd and Mel Jr., followed their
2 father by becoming major league pitchers, but tragically, Jason was
3 stricken with leukemia in 1981 and died at the age of 11; and

4 WHEREAS, Melvin Stottlemyre Sr. was diagnosed with multiple
5 myeloma (bone-marrow cancer) in 1999, and bravely, but quietly,
6 fought the disease for decades and never discussed it or complained,
7 and smiled, even when he wasn't feeling well; and

8 WHEREAS, Melvin Stottlemyre Sr. co-authored an autobiography
9 entitled "Pride and Pinstripes" in 2007; and

10 WHEREAS, Melvin Stottlemyre Sr. served as Mariners pitching coach
11 in 2008 and was called "one of the great gentlemen of our game" by
12 Mariners President/CEO Kevin Mather; and

13 WHEREAS, Melvin Stottlemyre Sr. was inducted into the Washington
14 State American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame in 2012; and

15 WHEREAS, In June 2015, Stottlemyre was enshrined in Monument
16 Park, an open-air museum at Yankee Stadium that is the Who's Who of
17 America's most famed professional sports franchise; and

18 WHEREAS, Melvin Stottlemyre Sr. lived his final years in
19 Sammamish with his beloved wife of 55 years, but left this earth and
20 his many thousands of fans on January 13, 2019;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
22 of the state of Washington posthumously recognize Melvin Stottlemyre
23 Sr. for his outstanding achievements and contributions to the world
24 of baseball, and expresses its appreciation and gratitude to our
25 native Washington baseball pitching coach and legend; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be
27 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of
28 Representatives to the family of Melvin Stottlemyre Sr. in his memory
29 and honor.

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31 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
32 Resolution 4603 adopted by the House of Representatives
33 January 30, 2019
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