

SENATE RESOLUTION

8699

By Senator Billig

1           WHEREAS, In the fall of 1964, a sophomore named Don Kardong  
2 started running for his Seattle Prep cross country team to stay in  
3 shape for basketball season; and

4           WHEREAS, After realizing his running talent outpaced his skills  
5 on the hardwood, Kardong would go on to run for Stanford, competing  
6 on the track against legends Steve Prefontaine and Frank Shorter; and

7           WHEREAS, After graduating from Stanford, Kardong ran his first  
8 marathon in 1972 in a time of 2:18:06; and

9           WHEREAS, In 1976, Kardong finished third in the U.S. Olympic  
10 Marathon Trials and went on to finish fourth in the 1976 Montreal  
11 Olympics, with a personal best time of 2:11:16; and

12           WHEREAS, In 1974, Kardong moved to Spokane to teach at Loma Vista  
13 Elementary School and in 1977 opened "The Human Race" - the city's  
14 first specialty running store; and

15           WHEREAS, When Kardong returned to Spokane after winning the 1976  
16 Peachtree Road Race in Atlanta, he mentioned to a newspaper reporter  
17 that Spokane would be a great place for a big road race; and

18           WHEREAS, In the spring of 1977, the Lilac Bloomsday Run was born  
19 with more than one thousand participants, surprising Kardong and  
20 other organizers who expected a smaller turnout and printed only five  
21 hundred entry forms; and

22           WHEREAS, Kardong's Bloomsday event would become Spokane's  
23 signature sporting event and one of largest road races in the world,

1 attracting more than sixty thousand runners of all levels and  
2 abilities by the early 1990s; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2004, Kardong would take the reins of Bloomsday  
4 once again as Race Director, a title he would hold until last  
5 year when he announced his retirement; and

6 WHEREAS, Kardong's long career as a writer opened up new  
7 running possibilities, including an 11-hour Rim-to-Rim double  
8 crossing of the Grand Canyon and a memorable account of running  
9 around Mount St. Helens; and

10 WHEREAS, Kardong's passion for running and willingness to  
11 share it with others in numerous venues has inspired countless  
12 people in Spokane and beyond to live healthier lives and  
13 discover their own love of running;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize  
15 the multifaceted career of Don Kardong and the contributions he  
16 has made to the community of Spokane and across the country.

17 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,  
18 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
19 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8699,  
20 adopted by the Senate  
21 March 2, 2020

22 BRAD HENDRICKSON  
23 Secretary of the Senate