

**SENATE RESOLUTION
8638**

By Senators Franklin, Spanel, Sheldon, B., Rasmussen, Kohl-Welles and Johnson

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a serious medical condition that afflicts nearly four million Americans; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, an estimated ten percent of the population has Alzheimer's disease by the age of 65, and nearly half of the elderly population suffer from it by the age of 85; and

WHEREAS, Since it was first diagnosed by German doctor Alois Alzheimer in 1906, Alzheimer's disease has shown to be more prominent in females than males; and

WHEREAS, There is no cure for Alzheimer's disease, which affects the parts of the brain that control thought, memory and language; and

WHEREAS, Vascular diseases such as high blood pressure, atherosclerosis, and strokes are key suspects of Alzheimer's disease and are able to prime the brain to develop the clinical symptoms for developing Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease patients require varying degrees of extensive care depending on the stages of their disease, which can range from simple forgetfulness, to wandering and disillusions; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that as many as fifty percent of individuals in United States nursing homes suffer from Alzheimer's disease, and that the financial hardships to families caring for Alzheimer's patients is approximately \$50,000 annually; and

WHEREAS, This disease affects persons of all social and economic backgrounds including former United States President Ronald Reagan, statesman Winston Churchill, actress Rita Hayworth, novelist E.B. White, entertainer Frank Sinatra, and automotive pioneer Henry Ford.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate does hereby recognize the suffering of the victims of Alzheimer's disease, a devastating condition also known as the long good-bye,— and the hardships on the families of those with Alzheimer's disease, which will only become more prominent as the baby boomer population continues to age; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Alzheimer's Association of America.

I, Tony M. Cook, Secretary of the Senate,

do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of Senate Resolution 8638, adopted by the Senate April 10, 2001.

TONY M. COOK
Secretary of the Senate