

**SENATE RESOLUTION**  
**8657**

*By Senators Rasmussen , Snyder, Winsley, Regala, Franklin, Kastama, Swecker, Shin, Roach, McCaslin, Oke, Johnson, Kohl-Welles, Benton, Brown, Carlson, Constantine, Costa, Deccio, Eide, Fairley, Finkbeiner, Fraser, Gardner, Hale, Hargrove, Haugen, Hewitt, Hochstatter, Honeyford, Horn, Jacobsen, Kline, Long, McAuliffe, McDonald, Morton, Parlette, Patterson, Prentice, Rossi, Sheahan, Sheldon, B., Sheldon, T., Spanel, Stevens, Thibaudeau, West, Zarelli*

*WHEREAS, The Washington State Senate takes honor in recognizing residents who have dedicated their life to service; and*

*WHEREAS, Helmut Brownie– Braunsteiner of Tacoma, has been a leader and a volunteer throughout his life, demonstrating the difference one person can make in so many others' lives; and*

*WHEREAS, Brownie was born in Austria in 1926 and was forced into the Hitler Youth Organization until the Nazis discovered his mother was Jewish; and*

*WHEREAS, Brownie escaped to America with his family in October of 1939; and*

*WHEREAS, In 1944, Brownie began his 27 year career in the Army, serving in World War II, Korea and Vietnam; and*

*WHEREAS, Because he spoke fluent German, Brownie acted as an interpreter-translator at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials in 1945, and in 1961 he tutored former President John F. Kennedy in Berlin on the exact pronunciation of JFK's famous phrase of unity, Ich bin ein Berliner;– and*

*WHEREAS, Brownie turned to volunteerism because, as a patriotic person thankful to enjoy the fruits of American freedom, he felt he owed the United States a favor; and*

*WHEREAS, For thirty years, Brownie has been a full-time volunteer for veterans organizations, coordinating Veterans of Foreign Wars volunteers for the VA Hospital at American Lake and chairing the Pierce County Veterans Advisory Council; and*

*WHEREAS, In 1987, Brownie helped found Fife's Veterans Independent Enterprises of Washington, which rehabilitates homeless drug- or alcohol-dependent vets “ housing them in its own facilities and placing them in jobs in its workshop; and*

*WHEREAS, After developing diabetes, Brownie has volunteered countless hours with the Diabetes Association of Pierce County; and*

*WHEREAS, The Diabetes Association of Pierce County, established in 1978, is a local nonprofit organization that has screened 96,825 people for diabetes at no charge “ and Brownie has conducted ninety percent of those screenings; and*

*WHEREAS, Brownie tries to help people detect diabetes in time to prevent severe complications “ going so far as to check if they've been to a doctor about their condition three weeks after the test; and*

*WHEREAS, Brownie, who recently celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday, was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer a few months ago, and has been given four to six months to live;*

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate does hereby recognize the outstanding contributions, selfless volunteerism, patriotism and endless devotion made by Brownie Braunsteiner to the people of Washington and the United States; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted immediately from the Secretary of the Senate to Helmut Brownie– Braunsteiner and his family, the Diabetes Association of Pierce County and the Veterans Independent Enterprises of Washington.*

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

*do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of Senate Resolution 8657, adopted by the Senate April 6, 2001.*

**TONY M. COOK**  
*Secretary of the Senate*