

SENATE RESOLUTION
8695

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Swecker, Haugen, Murray, Sheldon, Chase, Kline, Harper, Eide, Fraser, Shin, Rolfes, Regala, Keiser, and Conway

WHEREAS, People of all ethnic and cultural heritage live in Washington State, sharing their traditions, histories, and cultures with the citizens of our state; and

WHEREAS, The State of Washington recognizes the great cultural contributions made by the many generations and individuals of Norwegian descent residing in our state, particularly in Ballard; and

WHEREAS, Since 1889, the greater Seattle area and beyond have joined in celebrating Norway's Constitution Day on the 17th of May by hosting a 17th of May, or "Syttende Mai," Festival and parade in Ballard to honor the day in 1814 when Norway declared its independence by signing its constitution; and

WHEREAS, The Ballard May 17th parade is one of the largest ethnic parades in the United States and the largest May 17th parade outside of Oslo, Norway; and

WHEREAS, On the 17th of May the Ballard community will join together to participate in a wide range of cultural festivities and events in celebration of all that is Norwegian;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate honor Norway's Constitution Day, May 17, 2012, and encourage all citizens of Washington State to join in celebrating the culture and heritage of Norway; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Norwegian 17th of May Committee and to the Nordic Heritage Museum.