

SENATE RESOLUTION

8707

By Senators Ericksen, Baumgartner, Benton, Rolfes, Billig, Mullet, Padden, Ranker, McAuliffe, and Fraser

1 WHEREAS, It is the policy of the Washington State Legislature to
2 recognize and honor the contribution of individuals who demonstrate
3 excellence among their peers and inspire others in their community;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Don Murdzia, of Bellingham, has been an influential
6 umpire and referee to over 30 schools throughout Washington and
7 beyond; and

8 WHEREAS, Don's long-standing passion as an athlete, umpire, and
9 referee of three sports allows us to celebrate the outstanding effort
10 of such a passionate individual; and

11 WHEREAS, A graduate of Ferndale High School, Don lettered in
12 baseball, basketball, football, and track and field in his senior
13 year; and

14 WHEREAS, Don's passion for sports caught the eye of Milt
15 Clothier, affording him the opportunity to become an umpire in 1959;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Don expanded his officiating career in 1963, refereeing
18 for both football and basketball after being recruited by Frank
19 "Moose" Zurlene; and

20 WHEREAS, Don received The Dave Duvall Meritorious Service Award
21 in 1977 for outstanding service to the Northwest Interscholastic
22 Activities Association for his extensive time and effort in promoting
23 extracurricular activities from within the association; and

1 WHEREAS, Don's exceptional skills as an umpire earned him
2 the CJ Mitchell Umpire Service Award in the Washington State
3 Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2001; and

4 WHEREAS, Don's career as an umpire reaches further than
5 Washington State to such places as Australia and Cooperstown,
6 New York, home of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, At 76 years old, Don continues to umpire baseball
9 and plans a return to football despite a hip revision surgery in
10 September of 2015; and

11 WHEREAS, Don has distinguished himself from his peers with
12 over 8,200 games, and counting, as an umpire and referee; and

13 WHEREAS, After a 53 year basketball career, Don has retired
14 in order to, in his words, "smell the roses" and play golf with
15 his sons and grandchildren;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
17 Senate recognize and honor Don Murdzia for his tremendous
18 passion, dedication, and devotion towards the sports which
19 continue to shape and inspire our youth in Washington State; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
21 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Don
22 Murdzia, Ferndale High School, the Washington State Baseball
23 Coaches Hall of Fame, and the Whatcom Skagit Island Football
24 Officials Association.

25 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
26 do hereby certify that this is a true and
27 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8707,
28 adopted by the Senate
29 February 17, 2016

30 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
31 Secretary of the Senate