

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2017-4624, by Representative Kirby

1 WHEREAS, Melanie Dressel was born to Bob and Phyllis LaPlant on
2 September 2, 1952, in Colville, Washington; and

3 WHEREAS, She learned the importance of family, hard work, and
4 community while working in her family's jewelry shop; and

5 WHEREAS, After graduating from Colville High School, she attended
6 the University of Washington and graduated with a degree in Political
7 Science; and

8 WHEREAS, Her family values took her off of a path towards
9 politics and into the world of banking; and

10 WHEREAS, She raised two boys with her best friend and husband,
11 Robert (Bob) Dressel Jr., and despite their busy schedules, the
12 family had dinner together every night; and

13 WHEREAS, She was a compassionate and strong leader that rose
14 above stereotypes that limited women in the banking industry; and

15 WHEREAS, Female representation in business and entrepreneurship
16 was important to her, and she mentored several aspiring female
17 entrepreneurs; and

18 WHEREAS, As the CEO of Columbia Bank, she led the bank during its
19 growth into the second largest Washington-based banking company by
20 market value; and

21 WHEREAS, She cared about each and every employee and the
22 importance of community was felt by those who worked with her; and

1 WHEREAS, Melanie's mission in life was to support the welfare of
2 others through her philanthropy and volunteer work; and

3 WHEREAS, Melanie served as Chair of the Boards of Mary Bridge
4 Children's Foundation, Bellarmine Preparatory School, and Tacoma/
5 Pierce County Chamber of Commerce; and

6 WHEREAS, Melanie further volunteered her time and served on the
7 boards and executive committees for various organizations, including
8 the Tacoma Art Museum and the United Way of Pierce County; and

9 WHEREAS, Melanie was a pillar in her community and the rock of
10 her family; and

11 WHEREAS, Melanie Dressel passed away unexpectedly at the age of
12 64 leaving behind her husband, two sons, two daughters-in-law, and
13 two grandchildren;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House
15 of Representatives honor the life and accomplishments of Melanie
16 Dressel; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend
18 Melanie's dedication to her family, her entrepreneurial spirit, and
19 her philanthropic pursuits; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
21 acknowledge Melanie's contributions to the city of Tacoma, Pierce
22 County, and the State of Washington.

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24 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
25 Resolution 4624 adopted by the House of Representatives

26 March 10, 2017
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Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk