

SENATE RESOLUTION

8617

By Senators Pedersen, Frockt, Liiias, Carlyle, and Walsh

1 WHEREAS, William L. Downing has retired following 28 years of
2 distinguished service as a judge on the King County Superior Court
3 bench; and

4 WHEREAS, Before embarking on a career in law, Judge Downing
5 graduated from Vassar College, worked in a psychiatric hospital as a
6 conscientious objector during the Vietnam War, and made a living
7 working on fishing boats in Bellingham, Washington; and

8 WHEREAS, While at Vassar, Judge Downing met his wife, Laura;
9 after graduating, the two moved to Seattle where they raised their
10 son and have lived ever since; and

11 WHEREAS, Following graduation from the University of Washington
12 School of Law, Judge Downing served as a King County prosecutor for
13 11 years, during which time he successfully argued a case to convict
14 the perpetrators of the 1983 Wah Mee massacre; and

15 WHEREAS, Judge Downing was appointed to the bench in 1989, and
16 has presided over several prominent civil and criminal cases during
17 his tenure; and

18 WHEREAS, Over the course of his career, Judge Downing has
19 cultivated a reputation among colleagues for fairness, honesty,
20 rigor, and impartiality; and

21 WHEREAS, In addition to his outstanding reputation as a legal
22 professional, Judge Downing will leave a legacy of mentorship and was

1 known for his service of assisting students arguing mock cases
2 before fellow judges and attorneys;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize
4 King County Superior Court Judge William L. Downing for his
5 outstanding career in public service of the law, during which he
6 acted with empathy, integrity, and wit for the benefit of the
7 citizens of King County and Washington State; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
9 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to
10 William L. Downing and his family.

11 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
12 do hereby certify that this is a true and
13 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8617,
14 adopted by the Senate
15 February 23, 2017

16 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
17 Secretary of the Senate