

SENATE RESOLUTION

8627

By Senators O'Ban, Conway, and Hobbs

1           WHEREAS, Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) has a legacy of  
2 significance to the United States and to the world that brings honor  
3 and pride to the entire state of Washington; and

4           WHEREAS, Camp Lewis, as it was then known, began construction in  
5 May of 1917 under the direction of Captain David L. Stone; who, in  
6 less than 90 days, created one thousand seven hundred fifty-seven  
7 buildings as well as four hundred twenty-two other structures with  
8 light and heat, exhibiting the "can do" spirit that inhabits the  
9 exploits of JBLM to this day; and

10           WHEREAS, In 1927, just to the north of Camp Lewis, Pierce County  
11 residents established an airfield of the highest quality; in 1939,  
12 that airfield was transferred to the United States Government and  
13 would later become McChord Field; and

14           WHEREAS, On February 1, 2010, Camp Lewis, later known as Fort  
15 Lewis, and McChord Field, later known as McChord Air Force Base,  
16 consolidated facilities and became Joint Base Lewis-McChord; and

17           WHEREAS, The first recruits to Camp Lewis became the "Ninety-  
18 First Division" or the "Wild West Division," which served in numerous  
19 battles in World War I, including the Meuse-Argonne offensive and the  
20 Battle of Flanders, and captured more than 2,200 German soldiers; and

21           WHEREAS, In 1940, McChord Field was the General Headquarters of  
22 the Air Force Northwest District; and

1           WHEREAS, With the outbreak of World War II, Colonel Dwight  
2 David Eisenhower, who later became President of the United  
3 States, was assigned to Fort Lewis as commander to the 15th  
4 Infantry Regiment and while there was promoted and placed in  
5 command of the entire pacific coast defense; and

6           WHEREAS, The first military group to arrive at McChord Field  
7 was the 17th Bombardment Group that patrolled the west coast for  
8 enemy submarines after the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl  
9 Harbor and destroyed an imperial Japanese submarine near the  
10 mouth of the Columbia River on December 24, 1941; and

11           WHEREAS, Colonel James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle came to McChord  
12 and selected ten aircrew members to participate in the  
13 courageous 1942 Doolittle Raid on Tokyo, which was the first  
14 American strike against the homeland of imperial Japan after the  
15 attack on Pearl Harbor; and

16           WHEREAS, During World War II, Fort Lewis contributed and  
17 deployed many divisions that were essential to the war effort,  
18 and McChord Field continued to play a strategic, vital, and  
19 heroic role until the close of World War II; and

20           WHEREAS, Both institutions were essential for the war  
21 efforts that followed, including the Korean War, the Vietnam  
22 War, and the Cold War; and

23           WHEREAS, In 1972, Fort Lewis was given the task of making up  
24 a volunteer Army; for this, the 9th Infantry Division was  
25 reactivated and became the first volunteer division in the  
26 United States Army; and

27           WHEREAS, During the Reagan administration, Fort Lewis was  
28 selected to be the testing ground for molding the Army into a  
29 highly skilled, efficient fighting machine with lighter  
30 mobilized units capable of rapid deployment; and

31           WHEREAS, Fort Lewis and McChord played a strategic role in  
32 the First Gulf War; Operation Desert Storm; and, following the  
33 September 11, 2001, terror attacks, played a key role in  
34 Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and to  
35 homeland security; and

36           WHEREAS, In 2004, Task Force Olympia was activated to deploy  
37 units into Iraq, including reserves, National Guards, Marines,  
38 Australian officers, and several subordinate units including the

1 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division and the  
2 1st Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division; and

3 WHEREAS, McChord Field, individually and as a part of JBLM,  
4 has an honorable and lifesaving record of humanitarian relief;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, JBLM represents thirty percent of the Pierce County  
7 economy; is its largest employer, and is the second largest  
8 employer in the state; and has a 6.1 billion dollar impact on  
9 our economy; and

10 WHEREAS, JBLM is among the largest and most important bases  
11 in the United States, and currently supports over one hundred  
12 twenty-five thousand military retirees and more than thirty-two  
13 thousand family members who live both on and off base and enjoy  
14 Washington as their home; and

15 WHEREAS, The remarkable deeds of the men and women who have  
16 served at JBLM are too numerous to recount, and many have never  
17 been told due to the full measure of sacrifice given to the  
18 cause of freedom; and

19 WHEREAS, The gratitude the world owes them for their role in  
20 securing liberty is beyond measure;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
22 Senate recognize the 100th anniversary of JBLM, which began in  
23 1917 with land gifted for use as a permanent army post to the  
24 federal government by the citizens of Pierce County, which would  
25 in return give the United States and the world support and  
26 protection in our darkest hours so that we might live free.

27 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,  
28 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
29 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8627,  
30 adopted by the Senate  
31 March 3, 2017

32 HUNTER G. GOODMAN  
33 Secretary of the Senate