

SENATE RESOLUTION

8635

By Senators Angel, O'Ban, Wilson, Warnick, Schoesler, Brown, Walsh, Braun, Becker, Short, Rossi, Fortunato, Bailey, and Fain

1 WHEREAS, Melanie J. Dressel was born in Colville, Washington
2 where her father owned a jewelry store and was Chief of the volunteer
3 fire department; and

4 WHEREAS, Melanie attended the University of Washington, and
5 graduated with a political science degree; and

6 WHEREAS, After graduating, Melanie went to work at the Bank of
7 California in Tacoma, where she worked for 14 years; and later moved
8 to Puget Sound National Bank, where she directed the private banking
9 division; and

10 WHEREAS, Melanie was part of the original team that founded
11 Columbia Bank in 1993; and, in 1997, Melanie was promoted to
12 Executive Vice President of retail banking where she directed the
13 bank's branch network and its operations, investments, private
14 banking, and marketing/communications divisions; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2000, Melanie was appointed as Columbia Bank's
16 President; and, in 2003, Melanie became Columbia Bank's Chief
17 Executive Officer; and

18 WHEREAS, Under Melanie's leadership, Columbia Bank grew from one
19 branch to over one hundred forty branches in Washington, Oregon, and
20 Idaho; and

21 WHEREAS, In 2011, Melanie was honored as Community Banker of the
22 Year by *American Banker Magazine* and has been named one of "The
23 Most Powerful Women in Banking" by the magazine seven times; and

1 WHEREAS, Melanie served on several boards, including the Boards
2 of Puget Sound Energy (Chair), Executive Council for a Greater Tacoma
3 (past Chair), Washington Bankers Association (past Chair), Washington
4 Roundtable, and the Washington State Historical Society; and

5 WHEREAS, Melanie also served on the American Bankers Council, the
6 ABA Grassroots Committee, the Bellarmine Benefactors' Trust, and was
7 a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco's Community
8 Depository Institutions Advisory Council (CDIAC); and

9 WHEREAS, At home, Melanie showed her devotion to her family by
10 sending weekly cookie packages to her family, and by flying to
11 California on weekends to watch her son play football for Humboldt
12 State University; and

13 WHEREAS, Despite her many commitments, Melanie always found time
14 to make full Sunday dinners for her family, where she enjoyed playing
15 with her grandkids; and

16 WHEREAS, Melanie is survived by her husband, Bob; adult sons,
17 Robert and Brent; and two grandchildren;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
19 honor Ms. Melanie J. Dressel and remember her successful career and
20 devotion to her family.

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