

SENATE RESOLUTION

8717

By Senator Schoesler

1 WHEREAS, Bill Chaves went to Saint Thomas University, earning a
2 degree in Sports Administration before eventually earning two
3 master's degrees, one in Health, Physical Education, and Leisure, and
4 a second one in Sports Management; and

5 WHEREAS, After serving as Sports Information Director at
6 Quinnipiac University, Assistant Athletic Director at University of
7 Massachusetts — Amherst, the Northeastern University's Director of
8 External Affairs for the athletic department, and Associate Athletic
9 Director for External Affairs at Baylor University; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2007, Mr. Bill Chaves took over leadership of the
11 Athletic Department of Eastern Washington University and, under that
12 leadership, the entire Eagle family experienced the magical 2010
13 football season where the Eastern Washington University Eagles won
14 the Division 1 FCS National Championship; and

15 WHEREAS, During his time as Athletic Director, the University has
16 enjoyed unparalleled success on and off the field and has become
17 known as a department where student-athletes, coaches, assistants and
18 all involved are considered and treated as "family"; and

19 WHEREAS, During Mr. Chaves 10 years at EWU he was twice awarded
20 the National Athletic Director of the Year Award and served on
21 numerous Big Sky Conference and National Collegiate Athletic
22 Association committees, including the prestigious NCAA Division I
23 Council and as chair of the NCAA Administration Cabinet; and

1 WHEREAS, Chaves also provided the initial idea for an
2 intimidating red football field, now known as the Inferno, which
3 became an icon for the university and gave Eastern the first red
4 turf in America; and

5 WHEREAS, Aside from fostering athletic greatness, Chaves has
6 also placed a high importance on academic achievement, as
7 Eastern in 2010 won its first Big Sky Conference Presidents' Cup
8 award for athletic success, graduation rates, and overall grade
9 point average, and Eastern quickly jumped to the top of the
10 Presidents' Cup academic standings with an average grade point
11 average of 3.24; and

12 WHEREAS, Eastern also won the Presidents' Cup in 2015 and
13 2016 and the 297 students currently involved in Eastern
14 athletics now hold an average GPA of 3.37; and

15 WHEREAS, Student-athletes at Eastern have earned numerous
16 Big Sky Player of the Year and National honors during Chaves'
17 time at EWU, and Chaves has hired several coaches who have gone
18 on to be individually recognized for their achievement and
19 dedication to Eastern sports and student-athletes; and

20 WHEREAS, Chaves has started numerous fundraising initiatives
21 to keep up with other Division I schools, and most recently was
22 able to install new videoboards in Roos Field and Reese Court,
23 and has upgraded seating options in Reese Court and locker rooms
24 for the university's 14 athletic programs; and

25 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Chaves, Eastern has added a
26 new Student-Athlete Academic Success Center at the EWU Special
27 Events Pavilion, provided a new throwing area for the track and
28 field program, and improved the strength and conditioning
29 center; and

30 WHEREAS, The Eagle Athletic Fund reached a record milestone
31 of over 2,000 members, and Chaves has negotiated media
32 agreements for Eastern radio and TV broadcasts, as well as
33 third-party sponsorship sales agreements that help support EWU
34 athletics; and

35 WHEREAS, Chaves has helped fund Eastern athletics through
36 scheduling football games against several NCAA Football Bowl
37 Subdivision schools, including Washington, Washington State,
38 Oregon, and Oregon State, which marks the first time in over a

1 century that Eastern has played its in-state rivals on the
2 gridiron;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate honor Bill
4 Chaves and his family for their dedication to the Eastern
5 Washington University community, collegiate academics, and the
6 future of Washington sports; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
8 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Bill
9 Chaves and the Eastern Washington University Athletics
10 Department.

11 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,
12 do hereby certify that this is a true and
13 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8717,
14 adopted by the Senate
15 February 22, 2018

16 BRAD HENDRICKSON
17 Secretary of the Senate