

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2020-4681, by Representative Dufault

1 WHEREAS, It is the policy of the Washington State Legislature to
2 recognize excellence in all fields of endeavor; and

3 WHEREAS, Mike Leita emigrated to the United States from Italy
4 with his father when he was only six years old and settled in the
5 Yakima area where he was raised; and

6 WHEREAS, Mike Leita was educated through the local public school
7 system, graduating from Eisenhower High School in Yakima; and

8 WHEREAS, Mike Leita attended Washington State University,
9 graduating in 1969 with a degree in marketing; and

10 WHEREAS, Mike Leita returned to Yakima and followed in his
11 father's footsteps, taking over his family's road construction
12 business; and

13 WHEREAS, With the slogan "New Leadership," Mike Leita was elected
14 in November 2004 to serve as Yakima County Commissioner and served
15 four four-year terms; and

16 WHEREAS, Mike Leita became known as a "fearless leader" who
17 helped get the county's finances in order, guiding the county out of
18 challenges from a jail contract with King County that had been
19 negotiated before he took office; and

20 WHEREAS, Mike Leita led the county through difficult financial
21 times, implementing "zero-based budgeting" in his first year of
22 office, which required every department and every program to prove
23 itself every year and set in place a "priorities of government"

1 system with county officials identifying the most important programs
2 to fully fund; and reducing, consolidating, or eliminating programs
3 that were not working for the good of the taxpayers; and

4 WHEREAS, Mike Leita modeled his proven leadership style from the
5 James Freeman Clarke quote: "A politician thinks of the next
6 election. A statesman, of the next generation"; and

7 WHEREAS, Mike Leita and his wife, DeAnn, have been married for
8 forty-seven years and are blessed with a son, Todd, and a daughter,
9 Traci, and four grandchildren; and

10 WHEREAS, Mike Leita is the embodiment of the American Dream,
11 coming to Yakima from humble beginnings, working hard to become
12 successful, and giving back to his community through public service;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, After fifteen years as a dedicated Yakima County
15 Commissioner, Mike Leita retired from office in January to spend more
16 time with his beloved family;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
18 recognize Mike Leita for his outstanding achievements and
19 contributions to the citizens of Yakima County and Washington state;
20 and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be
22 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of
23 Representatives to Mike Leita and his family.

24
25 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
26 Resolution 4681 adopted by the House of Representatives

27 March 11, 2020
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Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk