

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2025-4630, by Representative Leavitt

1 WHEREAS, Gerard "Gary" Urbas has served his nation and the state
2 of Washington with honor and distinction as both a highly regarded
3 leader in the Armed Forces and a dedicated employee of the state's
4 Emergency Management Division; and

5 WHEREAS, His tenure at the Emergency Management Division,
6 specifically with the department's Public Assistance Program,
7 included improved success in getting Federal Emergency Management
8 Agency disaster declarations when Washingtonians needed help; and

9 WHEREAS, These efforts brought approximately \$5 billion of relief
10 for Washingtonians; and

11 WHEREAS, His knowledge, expertise, and forward thinking has been
12 recognized by the state Department of Health, which credits Gary for
13 helping the Department of Health become a model for the nation during
14 the COVID-19 pandemic; and

15 WHEREAS, His vision and guidance helped the state successfully
16 use the Public Assistance Program to support COVID-19 testing sites,
17 vaccination efforts, and noncongregate sheltering and secure \$1.2
18 billion to reimburse response costs; and

19 WHEREAS, After turning over the program to his successor, he
20 continued to work as a state Public Assistance reservist to provide
21 disaster recovery and Federal Emergency Management Agency project
22 support; and

1 WHEREAS, He has helped support small and large organizations so
2 communities can maintain the critical infrastructure recovery and
3 response capabilities they desperately need;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
5 hereby congratulate Gerard "Gary" Urbas on a stellar career in
6 service to his state and nation; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we honor Mr. Urbas for his
8 commitment to the welfare and safety of Washington residents and
9 recognize his accomplishments as a source of pride and inspiration
10 for the entire state; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we commend Mr. Urbas for his
12 excellent service and leadership, conducting himself with care and
13 distinction; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor
15 and extend the warmest appreciation to Mr. Urbas and his family, who
16 sacrificed time with each other, so that the state of Washington
17 could benefit from his expertise and judgment.

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