

SENATE RESOLUTION  
8669

By Senators Zarelli, Carlson and Fraser

WHEREAS, The first Monday through Sunday in May is recognized by the United States government and around the world as Public Service Recognition Week; and

WHEREAS, During this week, public employees teach citizens about the many ways in which government serves the people and how government services make life better for all of us; and

WHEREAS, This year, Despina Varkados will complete 45 years as a dedicated employee of the Washington School for the Deaf; and

WHEREAS, Despina has been energetic, caring, professional, and inspirational since the day in 1957 when she began teaching at the School for the Deaf; and

WHEREAS, She stands as an example to all by not only earning a bachelor's degree in Deaf Education from Lewis and Clark College and a Master's in Education from the University of Portland, but also keeping abreast of the many changes in educational practices over the years; and

WHEREAS, She worked tirelessly as a preschool, middle school, and high school language arts teacher while selflessly raising three children; and

WHEREAS, She single-handedly opened and led the school's Outreach Program from 1980 to 2000; and

WHEREAS, She has been an invaluable asset to the deaf school as the public relations/community service coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Despina has been an outstanding leader as the President and Vice-President of the Teachers' Organization and contributing member of the Parent Staff Organization; and

WHEREAS, She has made a significant impact on at least three generations of deaf families who have passed through the school during her tenure and all remember her as a wonderful teacher and role model; and

WHEREAS, She has learned and shown through her actions the importance of staff mentoring and sharing her wisdom and experience with those around her; and

WHEREAS, More than anything, she loves her students and their families and has never slowed her pace when it comes to doing all she can to help them;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize Despina Varkados for her outstanding longevity and unwavering service to the Washington School for the Deaf and to the State of Washington; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all state employees look to Despina Varkados as a shining example of public service during the 2003 Public Service Recognition Day on May 7, 2003.

I, Milton H. Doumit, Jr., Secretary of the Senate,  
do hereby certify that this is a true and  
correct copy of Senate Resolution 8669,  
adopted by the Senate  
April 18, 2003

MILTON H. DOUMIT, JR.  
Secretary of the Senate