

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.2007-4625, by Representatives Morris, Quall and Hankins

WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature recognizes the many years of service provided by Kenneth C. Hansen, Chairman of the Samish Tribe, who passed away July 26, 2006, following an extended illness due to diabetes-related complications; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth C. Hansen fought a 26-year battle for federal re-recognition for the Samish Tribe, Hansen carried on the fight for tribal sovereignty and self-determination. Hansen's conflicts were fought in courthouses, statehouses, Congress, and the media; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth C. Hansen used his political savvy and eloquent speech to bring attention to tribal issues, such as environmental pollution and the infant mortality crisis; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth C. Hansen was nationally recognized as a driving force for Native American rights. Having been considered an expert in tribal economic development, he secured grant funding for the benefit of Native American nations throughout the coastal region; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth C. Hansen was instrumental in the Samish Nation's federal recognition in 1996, and led efforts to maintain the tribe's native language and hoped to see a resurgence of tribal orator; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth C. Hansen was a skilled statesman and inspirational leader; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth C. Hansen served as a role model for native youth in how to effectively engage their neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth C. Hansen's legacy of courage and perseverance encourages us all to always fight for what we know is right; and

WHEREAS, We all mourn the loss of Kenneth C. Hansen and will miss his contributions not only to the Samish Tribe, but to the entire state of Washington;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the service, devotion, and caring of Kenneth Charles Hansen and extend its deepest condolences to his family, his tribe, and his many friends; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to the family of Kenneth Charles Hansen.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
Resolution 4625 adopted by the House of Representatives
April 4, 2007

Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk