

SENATE RESOLUTION

8648

By Senators Keiser, Nelson, Palumbo, Hunt, Zeiger, McCoy, Conway, Rivers, Miloscia,
and Fain

1 WHEREAS, On June 21, 1947, Tacoma resident Harold Dahl and his
2 son allegedly sighted six flying discs over Puget Sound near Vashon-
3 Maury Island, an event now commonly known as "The Maury Island
4 Incident"; and

5 WHEREAS, On June 22, 1947, Mr. Dahl alleges he was warned not to
6 talk about what he saw by a man dressed in a black suit; and

7 WHEREAS, On June 24, 1947, pilot Kenneth Arnold alleges he saw
8 nine unidentified flying objects ("UFO's") near Mt. Rainier; and

9 WHEREAS, These controversial sightings helped launch a pop
10 culture phenomenon of UFO sightings across the United States during
11 the summer of 1947, which became known as "The Summer of the
12 Saucers"; and

13 WHEREAS, On August 8, 1947, two weeks after the Washington
14 sightings, a UFO is alleged to have crashed outside Roswell, New
15 Mexico, and this alleged crash has since become the most well-known
16 alleged UFO incident in history; and

17 WHEREAS, On August 1, 1947, Army Air Corp Intelligence Officers
18 Capt. William L. Davidson and 1st Lt. Frank M. Brown, who interviewed
19 Harold Dahl about his sighting, lost their lives when the B-25 Bomber
20 they were piloting crashed outside of Kelso, Washington; and

21 WHEREAS, Following the tragic deaths of Davidson and Brown,
22 Harold Dahl publicly claimed his sighting at Maury Island was a hoax;
23 and

1 WHEREAS, Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of
2 Investigation conducted an investigation of the deaths of
3 Davidson and Brown and ultimately concluded that Dahl did not
4 recant his story but that his claim of hoax was itself a
5 fabrication to avoid further public attention and ridicule; and

6 WHEREAS, The FBI's conclusions and Dahl's secret were sealed
7 for fifty years; and

8 WHEREAS, The Maury Island Incident and its surrounding
9 circumstances have made immeasurable contributions to Washington
10 State's cultural heritage and to popular culture worldwide,
11 including most recently the 2014 award-winning motion picture
12 "The Maury Island Incident," and the 2015 web series "The Maury
13 Island Incident," produced in conjunction with the Washington
14 FilmWorks Innovation Lab and Motion Picture Competitiveness
15 Program; and

16 WHEREAS, On April 1, 2017, the 3rd Annual Burien UFO
17 Festival will be held in the newest hipster hangout of downtown
18 Olde Burien with wide community participation and good humor;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, On the seventieth anniversary of the seminal UFO
21 sightings events, the Washington State sightings should be
22 recognized for both their prominence and primacy in the modern
23 era of UFO popular culture;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
25 Senate pause to acknowledge the seventieth anniversary of the
26 June 21, 1947, Maury Island Incident; the 1947 "Summer of the
27 Saucers" popular culture phenomenon launched worldwide by these
28 controversial events; and the first reference to the characters
29 now popularly known as "men in black"; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
31 recognize and honor the heroism and service of Army Air Corp
32 Intelligence Officers Capt. William L. Davidson and 1st Lt.
33 Frank M. Brown, who lost their lives following their
34 investigation of the Maury Island Incident when their airplane
35 crashed outside of Kelso, Washington, on August 1, 1947; and

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
37 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the
38 Air Force Historical Research Agency, to the Vashon-Maury Island

1 Heritage Association, to the Des Moines Historical Society, to
2 the Highline Historical Society, to the Burien Historical
3 Society, to the Longview-Kelso Historical Society, and to the
4 Washington State Historical Museum.

5 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
6 do hereby certify that this is a true and
7 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8648,
8 adopted by the Senate
9 April 18, 2017

10 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
11 Secretary of the Senate