

SENATE RESOLUTION

8689

By Senators Darneille, Conway, Nelson, Kuderer, Cleveland, Dhingra, Rolfes, Wellman, Chase, and Saldaña

1 WHEREAS, Judith (Judie) Fortier was born on October 24, 1948, in
2 Tacoma, Washington; she was known as a forceful, giving, and open-
3 hearted woman; and

4 WHEREAS, Judie was the daughter of a Union organizer and a public
5 school music teacher; and

6 WHEREAS, Judie grew up in South Tacoma where she attended
7 Arlington Elementary School and was spirited and outspoken from a
8 young age until the end of her days; and

9 WHEREAS, As a defender of human and women's rights, Judie became
10 the coordinator in the Women's Rights Division of the Human Rights
11 Department for the City of Tacoma from 1974 through 2004; and

12 WHEREAS, Judie Fortier led the women's movement in Tacoma, and
13 supported women's movements around the world; and Judie was tireless
14 in her work to advance causes affecting women; and

15 WHEREAS, Judie Fortier voiced the rallying cry against some of
16 the major challenges of our lives, including domestic violence,
17 harassment, sexual assault, gun violence, the mass deportation
18 policies that rip families apart, sexual exploitation, trafficking,
19 and rape; and

20 WHEREAS, The women's movement has changed the course of history;
21 and fierce women like Judie Fortier have been leaders in this
22 constant battle speaking up and speaking out, often unseen and

1 uncelebrated, but none have affected a community like Tacoma quite
2 like Judie has; and

3 WHEREAS, Judie recognized that 1 in 3 women worldwide have
4 experienced violence in their lifetime and she was committed to
5 raising awareness and changing public policy that affects these
6 women; and

7 WHEREAS, Judie was a warrior for many causes from health access
8 for all women and girls particularly those affected by breast cancer;
9 economic equality, racial justice, to LGBTQ rights, and was an early
10 advocate for gender equality in Title IX protections and the
11 ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; and

12 WHEREAS, Judie once said: "You can't be what you can't see," and
13 was dedicated to encouraging the next generation of women leaders;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Judie was a mentor who never tired of telling women and
16 girls to recognize their power and challenged them to change the
17 world; she fought for equality in sports, education, business,
18 community and nonprofit leadership, and in public service, especially
19 working to elect women to public office; and

20 WHEREAS, Judith Fortier passed away on January 5, 2018, leaving
21 an enormous sense of loss among her friends, her neighbors, her
22 community, and the women's movement in Tacoma and across the country
23 and beyond; and

24 WHEREAS, In her final tweet on November 29, 2017, Judie Fortier
25 wrote: "Your life is better because of the millions of women who
26 believe in you and the leadership of people like Secretary Clinton,
27 Maya Angelou, Delores Huerta, Ramona Bennett, and others"; and

28 WHEREAS, Our lives are better because Judie Fortier changed our
29 lives;

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
31 celebrate and honor Judith Fortier the woman, the mentor, the friend;
32 acknowledge her invaluable contributions; and recognize her
33 dedication, tenacity, passion, and sacrifice to give strength to
34 women for generations to come.

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