

SENATE RESOLUTION

8707

By Senators Fain, O'Ban, Short, Fortunato, King, Brown, Rivers, Braun, Miloscia, Wagoner, Zeiger, Bailey, Honeyford, and Padden

1           WHEREAS, One hundred years ago a small nation of one million  
2 people achieved freedom in the aftermath of World War I, establishing  
3 the Republic of Estonia; and

4           WHEREAS, Estonia's founders stepped forward on February 24, 1918,  
5 to assert their country's independence and commitment to a government  
6 based on justice, democracy, and the rights of the individual; and

7           WHEREAS, This newly established Republic fought a War of  
8 Independence for the next two years against the forces of the Soviet  
9 Union; and

10           WHEREAS, Twenty-two years later Soviet tyranny again imposed  
11 itself on Estonia and denied the Estonian people their just right of  
12 national self-determination; and

13           WHEREAS, In the intervening years, the United States refused to  
14 recognize the forcible incorporation of Estonia into the Soviet  
15 Union; and

16           WHEREAS, Tens of thousands of Estonians fled their homeland and  
17 the resulting communist regime and immigrated to Washington where  
18 they have been for decades and contribute to the rich history and  
19 culture of our state; and

20           WHEREAS, An enduring belief in freedom for all people unites  
21 Americans everywhere in celebrating this centennial anniversary; and

1       WHEREAS, We mark this anniversary of Estonian independence with a  
2 renewed hope that the blessings of liberty will continue to flourish  
3 in a free and prosperous Estonia;

4       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate  
5 recognize February 24, 2018, as Estonian Independence Day.

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