

SENATE RESOLUTION

8649

By Senators O'Ban, Zeiger, Becker, Conway, Darneille, Randall, Fortunato, and Wellman

1 WHEREAS, William W. Philip, an esteemed resident of Lakewood,  
2 civic leader, and philanthropist, has earned the title of "Mr.  
3 Tacoma" for his work in the transformation of the City of Tacoma; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Philip began his mission by spearheading an effort  
5 to raise one million dollars to locate the new University of  
6 Washington branch campus in downtown Tacoma, with his own  
7 contribution being the first one ever given to the new university  
8 branch; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Philip successfully raised the money and offered it  
10 to University of Washington's president on the condition that the  
11 school be located in downtown Tacoma; and

12 WHEREAS, After securing the funds, Mr. Philip orchestrated the  
13 purchase of the land required to build the campus; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Philip served on the University of Washington Tacoma  
15 Advisory Board in support of both graduate and transfer students,  
16 while continuing to generate more philanthropic collaboration; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1993, Mr. Philip helped found Columbia Bank and  
18 located its headquarters in Tacoma, where its success continues to  
19 drive economic progress in the community in the form of the services  
20 the bank provides as well as employment; and

21 WHEREAS, In his quest to revitalize the City of Tacoma, Mr.  
22 Philip and a colleague purchased the property on the west side of  
23 Pacific Avenue between 13th and 15th Streets to demolish the broken

1 down old taverns and hotel that catered to drug and other  
2 illicit activity, cleaning up the area and reducing crime; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Philip approached the Corner Stone Corporation  
4 in Seattle to look at Tacoma for investments, which brought the  
5 Murano Hotel and the Financial Building to the City of Tacoma;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Philip was instrumental in keeping the  
8 Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma to preserve our  
9 history; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Philip has been awarded two honorary degrees  
11 for his contributions to our community, one from the University  
12 of Washington and one from the University of Puget Sound; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Philip continues to be an active supporter and  
14 advocate for the school he help found and its students by  
15 serving as the honorary chair of the University of Washington  
16 Tacoma fundraising campaign, which raises money for  
17 scholarships; and

18 WHEREAS, The university he so diligently fought for has  
19 transformed the neighborhood in which it resides and the lives  
20 of thousands since its inception, contributing significantly to  
21 the economic and academic well-being of the community;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
23 Senate honor and recognize Mr. William W. Philip, known as "Mr.  
24 Tacoma," for his tireless and selfless contributions to our  
25 community and the state of Washington.

26 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,  
27 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
28 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8649,  
29 adopted by the Senate  
30 April 22, 2019

31 BRAD HENDRICKSON  
32 Secretary of the Senate