

SENATE RESOLUTION

8675

By Senator Hobbs

1           WHEREAS, Keith Cotton first began his long and valued service to  
2 the state in 2001 as an intern in the Washington State Department of  
3 Transportation in the planning office where he helped launch the  
4 first editions of the Gray Notebook, the national standard for  
5 performance reporting by a state agency; and

6           WHEREAS, Keith met his wife Megan while working in the  
7 Environmental Services Office in 2003, where he collaborated with  
8 others to assist in mitigating the environmental impacts associated  
9 with improving and preserving the state highway system; and

10           WHEREAS, Keith brought his talents (and his houseplants) to the  
11 Public Transportation Division in 2005, which would become his WSDOT  
12 home for the next fourteen years, the Public Transportation Division;  
13 and

14           WHEREAS, Keith's vision, diligence, and sense of innovation  
15 helped WSDOT develop and implement several projects while managing  
16 the state Commute Trip Reduction Program, a program that kept over  
17 34,500 cars off of Puget Sound area streets and highways to help  
18 reduce congestion between 2017 and 2018 and saves more than four  
19 million gallons of fuel each year; and

20           WHEREAS, Keith's consistency of character, sense of humor,  
21 humility, and empathy for others made him an employee that his  
22 bosses, coworkers, and direct reports would run through walls for if  
23 asked to; and

1           WHEREAS, Keith established a sense of community through  
2 organizing events and outings within the public transportation  
3 division at WSDOT and beyond through his athleticism and  
4 leadership in putting together some of the most dominant  
5 softball and dodge ball teams the department has ever fielded;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, Keith learned that he had a brain tumor the size of  
8 a lemon in January of 2013 and responded by fighting his cancer  
9 with determination and great ferocity to realize dreams and  
10 goals he had made with Megan; and

11           WHEREAS, Keith and Megan had a beautiful daughter named  
12 Grace in 2015 and a handsome son named William in 2018; and

13           WHEREAS, Keith was a lifelong fan of his beloved Chicago  
14 Cubs and was able to attend the 2016 World Series in person and  
15 was able to fly his "W" flag with pride after the Cubs won their  
16 first World Series since 1908; and

17           WHEREAS, Keith raised thousands of dollars for brain cancer  
18 research and clinical trials through his participation in the  
19 Seattle Brain Cancer Walk with friends, family, and fellow  
20 employees; and

21           WHEREAS, Keith Carroll Cotton passed away on November 9,  
22 2019, and left behind a legacy as a fighter, a devoted father  
23 and husband, an amazing friend, and a standout employee for the  
24 Washington State Department of Transportation;

25           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate of the state  
26 of Washington recognize and laud the important contributions of  
27 former WSDOT employee Keith Cotton, and offer our most heartfelt  
28 condolences to Keith's family and many friends.

29 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,  
30 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
31 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8675,  
32 adopted by the Senate  
33 February 10, 2020

34 BRAD HENDRICKSON  
35 Secretary of the Senate