

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2022-4664, by Representatives Dufault, Corry, Santos, Dent, Eslick, Schmick, Chandler, Walsh, Chase, Walen, Mosbrucker, Barkis, Hoff, Young, Ybarra, Chambers, Goehner, Klicker, Volz, Caldier, Jacobsen, Wilcox, Kretz, McEntire, Klippert, McCaslin, Cody, Stokesbary, and Springer

1 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives, on behalf of the people,
2 recognize and honor Bruce Morris Smith, for his lifetime of civic and
3 philanthropic contributions to the Yakima Valley and Washington
4 State; and

5 WHEREAS, Bruce was born in Yakima, Washington, on April 6, 1959,
6 and made his mark at each school he attended, including Franklin
7 Junior High School, where he was elected student body president; A.C.
8 Davis High School, where he was named Yakima School District's
9 Student of the Year in 1977 and where he and current Yakima Mayor
10 Janice Richards were voted Most Likely to Succeed; and Gonzaga
11 University, where he was the youngest and longest-serving editor of
12 the Gonzaga Bulletin student newspaper; and

13 WHEREAS, Colonel Bruce Smith (newspaper honorific) founded Yakima
14 Valley Publishing on his kitchen table and turned its flagship
15 product, the Yakima Valley Business Times, into the most
16 authoritative and trusted source of Yakima Valley news and
17 information for over 25 years; and

18 WHEREAS, Bruce was first appointed to and then elected by his
19 friends and neighbors in East Valley and Moxee to serve on the East
20 Valley School Board; and

21 WHEREAS, Bruce accepted appointments to chair or serve on various
22 Yakima city and county commissions and blue-ribbon panels, including
23 first chairman of the Yakima Mayor's Youth Task Force, member of

1 Yakima City Transit Commission (revived insolvent transit system);
2 cochair of Yakima County Jail Commission (revived insolvent jail
3 project); member of Yakima County Facilities Committee, cochair of
4 Yakima County Quality of Life Committee, cochair of Yakima City
5 Performance Audit Committee, and chair of the Yakima City Downtown
6 Area Redevelopment Committee, where he helped create the popular
7 Yakima Farmer's Market; and

8 WHEREAS, Bruce also volunteered his time and expertise in service
9 of numerous Washington state boards and organizations, including as a
10 member of Enterprise Washington's board of directors, member of Group
11 Health's Eastern Washington advisory board, chair of National
12 Federation of Independent Business' state leadership council, member
13 of Washington Policy Center's Eastern Washington advisory board,
14 member of Central Washington Homebuilders Association's board, co-
15 founder and chair of Forward Yakima Initiative, and co-founder of
16 what became the Jennifer Dunn Leadership Institute; and

17 WHEREAS, Bruce has shaped generations of elected officials in
18 Yakima County; and

19 WHEREAS, Bruce has kept local print media in Yakima County alive,
20 thriving and profitable while nearly all others have failed through
21 his business acumen and unmatched reputation for character, honor,
22 and trustworthiness; and

23 WHEREAS, Bruce has mentored and helped dozens of Yakima young
24 people from the wrong side of the tracks become the best versions of
25 themselves, including former drug dealers, gang members, and many
26 others; and

27 WHEREAS, Bruce surprised his dear friend, former state
28 representative Charles Ross, by coordinating a special early
29 swearing-in ceremony with Washington State Supreme Court Justice Mary
30 Fairhurst, Bruce's long-time friend from their days together at
31 Gonzaga University; and

32 WHEREAS, Bruce, an avid poker player, has hosted with his close
33 friend, Gerardo "Jerry" Arias, thousands of hours of gaming
34 entertainment in his private poker room and has won a Texas Hold Em
35 tournament at the old Horseshoe Casino in Las Vegas where the World
36 Series of Poker used to be held; and

37 WHEREAS, For all his public accomplishments, Bruce is most loved,
38 admired, and supported by his wife, Ginger, and their four children,
39 Rob, Amber, David, and Lindsey, along with grandchildren, Faith,

1 Khale, and Taylor, and countless "adopted" and "honorary" family
2 members in need of temporary, or even a permanent, home or family;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of
4 Representatives, on behalf of the people of the State of Washington,
5 recognize and honor the lifetime contributions of Bruce Morris Smith;
6 and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
8 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of
9 Representatives to Bruce Smith and his family.

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