

SENATE RESOLUTION

8624

By Senators Holy, Billig, Hasegawa, Hunt, Padden, Wellman, and Wilson, L.

1 WHEREAS, Gonzaga University in Spokane established its men's
2 basketball program in 1943, with that first team achieving a 22-4
3 record; and

4 WHEREAS, Gonzaga's main claim to fame in men's basketball for
5 many years was that NBA Hall of Fame guard John Stockton played for
6 the Bulldogs in the early 1980s; and

7 WHEREAS, The Bulldogs first qualified for the National Collegiate
8 Athletic Association men's basketball championship tournament in the
9 1994-95 season, losing in the opening round; and

10 WHEREAS, The Bulldogs, under coach Dan Monson, became the
11 darlings of the 1999 NCAA tourney by reaching the West Regional
12 final, where they fell to eventual national champion Connecticut; and

13 WHEREAS, That 1998-99 team sparked a love affair with Gonzaga
14 men's basketball for so many fans stretching from Spokane throughout
15 the state of Washington and beyond; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1999 Bulldogs assistant coach Mark Few was promoted
17 to head coach; and

18 WHEREAS, Under head coach Mark Few, the "Zags," as the team is
19 also known, have qualified for the NCAA men's basketball championship
20 tournament 21 straight seasons; captured 20 West Coast Conference
21 titles and won the WCC tournament 17 times; and

22 WHEREAS, The 2016-17 Bulldogs was seeded number one in the West
23 Region and not only reached the Final Four, but played for the

1 national championship, losing to North Carolina, also a number-
2 one seed, by only six points; and

3 WHEREAS, The 2019-20 Zags had a 31-2 record and ranked
4 second in The Associated Press national poll when the NCAA
5 tournament was abruptly canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic,
6 prematurely ending what could have been a national-championship
7 season for the Zags; and

8 WHEREAS, The 2020-21 Gonzaga Bulldogs picked up where they
9 left off last season, finishing their regular season undefeated
10 and capturing the West Coast Conference regular-season and
11 conference-tourney titles; and

12 WHEREAS, The Zags continued their dominance in the 2021 NCAA
13 tournament, routing Norfolk State 98-55 in the first round;
14 topping Oklahoma 87-71 in the second round; defeating Creighton
15 83-65 in the Sweet 16 round and then beating Southern California
16 85-66 in the West Regional final to reach their second Final
17 Four in five years; and

18 WHEREAS, At this year's Final Four in Indianapolis, the Zags
19 defeated UCLA in the national semifinals 93-90 in overtime on a
20 buzzer-beater by guard Jalen Suggs that will be talked about for
21 years to come before losing 86-70 in the national title game to
22 an outstanding Baylor team to finish the season with a 31-1
23 record; and

24 WHEREAS, The Zags were led by their "Big Three" of forward
25 Corey Kispert, center Drew Timme and guard Jalen Suggs, who all
26 were named to various All-America teams this season;

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
28 Senate honor and congratulate the Gonzaga University men's
29 basketball team, including its players and coaches, on finishing
30 second in the NCAA men's basketball tournament, going undefeated
31 until the national championship game while playing a fun and
32 exciting style of basketball, and for making its many fans
33 throughout Washington and beyond very proud. Go Zags!

34 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,
35 do hereby certify that this is a true and
36 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8624,
37 adopted by the Senate

1 April 20, 2021

2 BRAD HENDRICKSON

3 Secretary of the Senate