

SENATE RESOLUTION

8628

By Senators Cleveland, Billig, Carlyle, Conway, Darneille, Das, Fortunato, Hasegawa, Holy, Honeyford, Hunt, Keiser, King, Padden, Pedersen, Robinson, Short, Wellman, Wilson, C., and Wilson, L.

1 WHEREAS, Al Bauer, Jr. was born on a homestead in Fergus County,  
2 Montana, on June 6, 1928, and moved to La Center, Washington, in  
3 1936, to farm and in 1942 moved the farm to Salmon Creek; and

4 WHEREAS, Al Bauer would drop out of high school and enlist in the  
5 United States Navy in 1948 and serve during the Korean Conflict until  
6 1954; and

7 WHEREAS, Al Bauer returned to Clark County to earn his G.E.D. and  
8 multiple college and graduate degrees while continuing the family  
9 tradition of farming and ranching on the family homestead and even  
10 riding some rodeos (including in the Los Angeles Coliseum); and

11 WHEREAS, Al Bauer had a distinguished career as a public school  
12 teacher of social studies and history in the Vancouver School  
13 District primarily at Columbia River High School which shortly after  
14 and during Al Bauer's service sent six current or former Columbia  
15 River students or faculty to the state Legislature; and

16 WHEREAS, Al Bauer was first elected to the State House of  
17 Representatives from Clark County in 1970, where he served for 10  
18 years before being elected to the State Senate in 1980 where he  
19 served until his retirement in 2000 never having lost an election;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Al Bauer was selected by his colleagues to serve in  
22 several leadership capacities including Chair of the House Education

1 Committee, Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, Chair of the  
2 Senate Higher Education Committee, and others; and

3 WHEREAS, Al Bauer's legislative accomplishments were  
4 extraordinary — from authoring the original Learning Assistance  
5 Program to assist younger school children with basic skills, a  
6 program that now benefits from more than \$1.4 billion per  
7 biennium, to being the primary force behind the establishment of  
8 the WSU branch campus in Clark County, to authoring legislation  
9 placing Mother Joseph in the National Statuary Hall, to writing  
10 the original sales tax exemption for manufacturers that resulted  
11 in a dramatic high-tech expansion in the state, to authoring the  
12 3609 Commission on Education that increased coordination of  
13 education delivery across all levels, to authoring legislation  
14 requiring increased insulation in new construction, legislation  
15 that has saved the need to build many new energy facilities; and

16 WHEREAS, The overarching hallmark of Al Bauer's  
17 distinguished legislative career was his character and integrity  
18 and his occasional folksy sayings such as: "We cannot be eating  
19 our seed corn here;" and

20 WHEREAS, Al Bauer passed away in his sleep on April 21,  
21 2021;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
23 Senate salute Al Bauer, sailor, farmer, rancher, rodeo  
24 competitor, teacher, and legislator, and send its deepest  
25 condolences to his family and to the entire community mourning  
26 his loss; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
28 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Al's  
29 daughter, Nancy Spies, to share with his family, including his  
30 "adopted" son, Denny Heck.

31 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,  
32 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
33 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8628,  
34 adopted by the Senate  
35 April 25, 2021

- 1 BRAD HENDRICKSON
- 2 Secretary of the Senate