HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2025-4603, by Representative Steele

WHEREAS, Viki Downey's career in aquatic safety and instruction 1 2 spanned from 1965 through 2024; and 3 WHEREAS, Viki began lifeguarding at the remarkable young age of 4 11; and WHEREAS, At age 30, Viki was hired at a pool where she continued 5 6 lifeguarding and assisted with therapy swim sessions; and 7 WHEREAS, At age 34, Viki was selected to lead the therapy swim 8 program, while also instructing water aerobics, teaching swim 9 lessons, and serving as a lifeguard; and 10 WHEREAS, Viki became the pool's Aquatic Supervisor at age 38, further demonstrating her leadership and devotion to community health 11 12 and safety; and 13 WHEREAS, Viki was hired by the Manson Park and Recreation in 1998, 14 District where she established and developed the 15 lifeguarding program and served as Aquatic Supervisor until her retirement in 2024; and 16 17 WHEREAS, During her first year in 1998 at Manson Bay Park, Viki

17 WHEREAS, During her first year in 1998 at Manson Bay Park, Viki 18 performed 14 rescues, a testament to her vigilance and commitment to 19 public safety; and

20 WHEREAS, In 2011, Viki started a free swim lesson program for 21 individuals ages four to 100, teaching 398 lessons the first year, 22 483 the second year, and over 500 lessons each consecutive year until 23 2020, when COVID-19 restrictions were in place; and

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1 WHEREAS, Viki Downey and Judy Phelps formed the Lake Chelan Swim 2 Foundation, continuously fundraising to ensure the ongoing success of 3 the free swim lesson program; and

4 WHEREAS, Viki has tirelessly provided water safety instruction 5 and accident prevention to the Lake Chelan Valley, earning her a 6 well-deserved reputation as a community legend; and

7 WHEREAS, Starting in 2010, Viki led a group of community members 8 each year to participate in "The World's Largest Swim Lesson," an 9 event recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2018, Viki inspired the community further with the 11 inception of the 1st Annual Viki Downey Polar Bear Plunge fundraiser; 12 and

13 WHEREAS, Viki's retirement in 2024 from her position as Aquatic 14 Supervisor for the Manson Park and Recreation District marks the 15 culmination of nearly six decades of dedicated service to aquatic 16 programs and community well-being;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor and commend Viki Downey for her outstanding contributions to water safety, community health, and education, and extend best wishes for a fulfilling and well-earned retirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to Viki Downey and the Manson Park and Recreation District in appreciation of Viki's exemplary career and enduring impact on the health and safety of Washington State's communities.

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I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of Resolution 4603 adopted by the House of Representatives January 21, 2025

Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk